

A LOOK AT THE BOOK 1 TIMOTHY

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Background

Acts implies that Paul was released at the end of two years in Rome because his accusers never arrived. Therefore it is likely that Paul was released and returned to ministry. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus while he went on to Macedonia.

Paul had chosen Timothy to accompany him at the beginning of the second missionary journey. By the time of this letter he has become a respected leader, often left in difficult situations to represent Paul. He had been left in Ephesus to help the church.

This letter was motivated by the presence of false teachers who denied the resurrection.

Also it appears that because of his youth, and perhaps illness, Timothy was hesitant to face the responsibilities of ministry which had been given to Him.

Purpose and theme

Paul wrote the book as a guide for Timothy's ministry at Ephesus. It contains personal instruction for Timothy concerning the exercise of his ministry. He wanted to encourage him to use the authority which had been given to him to fulfill his ministry.

The book contains specific directions concerning various areas of church life which Timothy was to teach in the church. However, it is not intended to be a manual for church government.

Organization

The book is divided into three sections.

First, Paul reminds Timothy of the commission he has been given to correct those teaching false doctrines (1).

Next he gives instructions concerning the proper conduct of the church (2-3:13).

Finally he gives instructions concerning Timothy's own life and ministry (3:14-6:21).

What lessons does this book teach us for daily living in the 21st century?

What are the implications of this letter for dealing with those who teach false doctrine?

What are the implications of this letter for worship in the local church?

What are the implications of this letter for leadership?

What are the implications of this letter for depression?

What are the implications of this letter for dealing with materialism?

Any other implications that you observe?

1 TIMOTHY

"Guard what has been entrusted to you"

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COMMISSION GIVEN TO TIMOTHY 1		INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CHURCH 2-3			INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMOTHY 4-6:21				
Occasion for the commission	Purpose of the commission	Concerning Worship	Concerning leadership	Reason for the instructions	Concerning preservation of doctrine	Concerning responsibility of minister	Concerning his duty toward others	Concerning godliness and materialism	Concluding comments 6:20-21
1:1-17	1:18-20	2:1-15	3:1-13	3:14-16	4:1-5	4:6-16	5:1-6:2	6:3-19	
Greeting 1:1-2	That he might fight well 18-19a	Role of prayer 2:1-8	Concerning overseers 3:1-7	His absence 3:14	Source of false doctrine 4:1-2	To teach sound doctrine 4:6	Respect for others 5:1-2	Danger of the profit motive 6:3-5	Concluding exhortation 6:20-21
Teaching of false doctrine 1:3-4		Its purpose 1-4	Their privilege 1			To reject myths 4:7a	Toward widows 5:3-16	Advantage of godliness with contentment 6:6-10	Priority of his ministry 6:20a
Goal of sound doctrine 1:5		Its mediator 5-7	Their qualifications 2-7				Mature widows 3-10	Value of contentment 6-8	Danger of false doctrine 6:20b-21a
Misinformed teachers of the law 1:6-11	That he might avoid shipwreck 19b-20	Its prerequisites 8		Their responsibility for conduct 3:15a	Content of false doctrine 4:3	To train self to be godly 4:7b-11	Younger widows 11-16	Danger of greed 9-10	
Ignorance concerning the law 1:6-7		Role of women 2:9-15	Concerning deacons 3:8-13				To set an example 4:12	Toward elders 5:17-25	Charge to pursue godliness 6:11-16
Proper use of the law 1:8-11		Dress 9-10	Their qualifications 8-12				Payment 17-18		
Example of their ignorance 1:12-17		Activity 11-15	Their reward 13	Their responsibility for upholding truth 3:15b-16	Response to false doctrine 4:4-5	To use gifts in ministry 4:13-15	Accusations 19-21	Warning about materialism 6:17-19	
Paul's former ignorance 1:12-13		Description 11-12				To watch life and doctrine 4:16	Ordination 22-25	Proper attitude 17	
God's grace revealed 1:14-17		Reason 13-15					Toward slaves 6:1-2	Proper investment 18	
								Proper purpose 19	