

1 Timothy

Introduction, Background, and Argument

1. Title and Destination

- 1.1 ΠΙΠΟΣ ΤΙΜΟΘΕΟΝ Α - “First to Timothy”
- 1.2 Timothy was a native of Lystra (16:1-3) who had a Greek father and a Jewish mother (16:1).
- 1.3 He had been taught the OT by His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim 1:5; 3:15).
- 1.4 He was converted during Paul’s first missionary journey in Lystra (Acts 14:6-23; 1 Tim 1:2, 18).
- 1.5 He was taken with Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:3).
- 1.6 He was circumcised by Paul for easier access to Jews (Acts 16:3).
- 1.7 He was a traveling companion and protege of Paul (Acts 16:1-17:16; 1 Thess 3:1-2; Acts 18:5; 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor 1:1, 19; Rom 16:21; 20:1-5; Phil 1:1; 2:19; Col 1:1; Phlm 1).
- 1.8 Paul left him at Ephesus as his representative to handle matters on his behalf (1:3).

2. Authorship

- 2.1 External evidences
 - 2.1.1 Ignatius
 - 2.1.2 Polycarp
 - 2.1.3 Justin Martyr
 - 2.1.4 Clement of Alexandria
 - 2.1.5 Tertullian
 - 2.1.6 Irenaeus
 - 2.1.7 Clement of Rome
 - 2.1.8 Muratorian Canon
- 2.2 Internal evidences
 - 2.2.1 Paul identifies himself as author (1:1)
 - 2.2.2 Autobiographical info about author is consistent with Paul
 - 2.2.2.1 Low estimate of self (1:15; 1 Cor 15:9; Eph 3:8)
 - 2.2.2.2 Former persecutor of church (1:13)
 - 2.2.2.3 Timothy is his son (1:2, 18; Acts 14:6-23; 16:1-3)

3. Date

- 3.1 Since the events of Acts do not record beyond Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome, we do not have a certain chronology of Paul’s movements.
- 3.2 Paul was released from his first imprisonment in Rome in AD62.
- 3.3 He sent Timothy to Philippi to convey the good news of his release (Phil 2:19-23).

- 3.4 He went to Asia Minor and visited churches such as Ephesus and Colosse (Phlm 22).
- 3.5 Timothy rejoined Paul in Ephesus and Paul instructed him to remain there as his representative while he was in Macedonia (1:3)
- 3.6 He probably wrote 1 Timothy from Philippi or some other undisclosed location in Macedonia (1:3).
- 3.7 The date could be anywhere from AD63-66, but probably earlier around AD63-64.

4. Occasion

Paul had left Timothy at Ephesus as his representative. At the time the church at Ephesus met in a number of house churches (1 Cor 16:19; Acts 20:20). Timothy was not one of the elders in these house churches, but he was given authority by Paul. However, accomplishing anything seemed out of reach for Timothy since he was a youth (4:12). Thus, he wanted to leave and join Paul in his pioneering missionary work. However, Paul encouraged Timothy to remain at Ephesus to deal with the false teachers that had crept in and become a threat to the godliness of the congregation (1:3-10; Col 2). It was important that Timothy finish his assignment and solidify the church by setting forth the example, training the people in godly roles and developing godly leadership.

5. Purpose(s) of Writing

Paul wrote to instruct Timothy to remain in Ephesus and deal with the false teaching, instruct groups in the church on how to conduct themselves, to teach sound doctrine, to promote godliness, and to develop godly leadership. The book is practical and encouraging advice on how to lead the church when there is false teaching already present and future apostasy on the horizon.

6. Argument

Men of God must flee the love of money and the seductiveness of speculative controversies and fight the good fight of faith by taking hold of eternal life so the church will follow their good example of godliness.

7. Theme(s)

- 7.1 Godliness in the church and in the leadership of the local church.
- 7.2 There are seven sub-themes
 - 7.2.1 The prominent place of prayer in the church.
 - 7.2.2 The godly role of women in the church.
 - 7.2.3 The qualifications of elders and deacons of the church.
 - 7.2.4 The importance of sound doctrine in the church.
 - 7.2.5 The importance of Timothy setting godly example.
 - 7.2.6 The rules concerning widows in the church.

7.2.7 The charge to the wealthy in the church.

8. Outline

- 8.1 Salutation
- 8.2 Instruction to remain godly in Ephesus (1)
- 8.3 Instruction concerning godly roles in the local church (2-3)
- 8.4 Instruction concerning godly teaching in the local church (4)
- 8.5 Instruction concerning godliness within the church (5-6)
- 8.6 Benediction

9. Uniquenesses

- 9.1 The book is the first of Paul's saying, "it is a trustworthy statement" (1:15; 3:1; 4:5)
- 9.2 The book is very concerned with godliness (2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11)
- 9.3 The book contains more statements about elders and deacons than any other NT book (3:1-13; 5:17-25).
- 9.4 The book places a great emphasis on the pastor leading by godly example (4:6-16; 6:1-16; 20-21).
- 9.5 The book deals more with widows support than any other book (5:1-16).
- 9.6 The book deals extensively with how to handle false teachers (1:3-11; 18-20; 4:1-5, 6-16).
- 9.7 The book is one of five written to Ephesus (Ephesians, 1 Timothy, 1, 2, 3 John, Revelation).

10. Controversial Passages

- 10.1 1 Tim 3:2, "husband of one wife."

11. Keys to 1 Timothy

- 11.1 Key Word(s): Godliness
- 11.2 Key Verse(s): 1 Timothy 3:14–15 "I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 16By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory."
- 1 Timothy 4:16 "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."
- 1 Timothy 6:13–16 "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14that you keep

the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”

11.3 Key Idea: Pastors must set the example for the congregation by living godly lives, handling false teachers, explaining everyone’s role in the assembly, and installing mature leadership.