

Bible Study Introduction

The Books of 1st and 2nd Timothy

The books of 1st and 2nd Timothy are biblical manuals on how to manage the ministries of the local church, and how to prepare the church to address internal and external challenges. It is commonly believed that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle (letter) to Timothy to encourage him to remain faithful, and to teach and preach sound doctrine to the believers at Ephesus.

Author: Critical scholars agree that Paul wrote this epistle to Timothy. While there are those who refute Pauline authorship; Paul identifies himself as the author in 1st Tim. 1:1, and in 2nd Tim. 1:1.

Date: A.D. 63

Survey of 1st Timothy: The two letters to Timothy and the one written to Titus are Pastoral Epistles. Pastoral epistles concern themselves with the church administration. 1st Timothy has a double purpose: To provide guidance in the problems of church administration, and to oppose false teaching in the church. 1st Timothy offers suggestions for worship, provides qualifications for both bishops (pastors) and deacons. The book provides instructions to church leaders in regards to the following: false teaching, care of the membership, how to minister to widows, slaves, and women in worship.

Please note the charges Paul gives to Timothy. (1: 18, 5:21, & 6:13, 6:20, & 2nd Tim. 4:1).

Note the charges Timothy are to give to the church. (1:3, 5:7, 6:17)

Background information on Timothy

- The name Timothy means honoring God or precious to God.
- Timothy's mother was Jewish while his father was of Greek descent.
- Timothy's mother and grandmother raised him to believe in God. (Eunice & Lois)
- Timothy was Paul's son in the faith.
- Timothy was the Pastor of the church at Ephesus.

Outline: 1st Timothy

I. Introduction: (1:1-2)

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| II. Charge concerning sound doctrine. | (1: 3-20) |
| A. Teaching sound doctrine. | (1 :3-11) |
| B. Thankfulness for God's grace and mercy. | (1 :12-17) |
| C. Timothy's responsibility. | (1: 18-20) |
| III. Instructions concerning the church. | (2: 1-3:13) |
| A. The practice of prayer. | (2: 1-8) |
| B. Instructions for women in worship. | (2: 9-15) |

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- C. Qualifications for church officers. (3: 1-13)
 - 1. Bishops. (3: 1-7)
 - 2. Deacons. (3: 8-13)

- IV. **Advice to Timothy.** (3: 14-4:16)
 - A. Purpose for writing. (3:14-16)
 - B. The Spirit's warning of apostasy. (4: 1-6)
 - C. The exercise of godliness. (4: 7-16)

- V. **Instructions for members.** (5: 1-6: 19)
 - A. Maintain proper relationships. (5: 1-2)
 - B. Concerning widows. (5: 3-16)
 - C. Concerning elders. (5: 17-25)
 - D. Concerning servants. (6: 1-2)
 - E. Concerning greed. (6: 3-10)
 - F. Concerning men of God. (6: 11-16)
 - G. Concerning the rich. (6: 17-19)

- VI. **Concluding charge.** (6: 20-21)