

1 TIMOTHY INTRODUCTION

First & Second Timothy, AND the book of Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles by Bible students. They are the only letters Paul wrote to individuals exclusively - He wrote Philemon to Philemon AND others...

In contrast to the letters to the Thessalonians, which were the first books of the New Testament written, these letters are Paul's last.

He is old and broken in body... He has suffered greatly at the hands of Jews and Gentiles alike. He has been imprisoned, stoned, betrayed, starved, and yet he is full of joy. He writes the Second letter to young Timothy from the prison cell in Rome - a ghastly, dark, dank putrefying place where he will ask for warm clothing to be brought to him.

Paul writes this letter to a young man he calls his "Son in the faith..." He will use this same term of endearment with his writing to Titus.

Who was Timothy? Timothy was a young man who probably helped save Paul's life after the Apostle was left for dead under a pile of rocks that the religious leaders had hurled at him in Timothy's hometown of Lystra.

We read of Paul's experience in Timothy's hometown of Lystra in Acts 14. Let's start there this morning...

- Paul and Barnabas are preaching in Iconium... People are getting saved... People are being healed... But V4 says...

4 But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. 5 And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, 6 they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region.

- So, they begin to preach again... People are getting saved... People are being healed... But then...

19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead. :20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, **(No doubt that Timothy's grandmother: Lois and Timothy's Mother: Eunice & probably Timothy were there..)** he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

- Imagine a young boy, Timothy, watching these events... Listening to this preacher... Seeing the hateful acts of the religious leaders... Hearing the prayers of his mother & grandmother for the Apostle... Taking it all in and making decisions in his own heart about God... and about Paul...
- Can you imagine that the Apostle would ever go back to Lystra? He does... And there he meets the young man Timothy in Acts 16. The Apostle recognizes the call of God on his life and very much wants Timothy to join him on his missionary journey...
- But, Paul asks Timothy to submit to a very difficult request before they go...

Acts 16 - **1** Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. **2** He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. **3** Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. **4** And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. **5** So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

I see two VERY obedient people here: Timothy, of course who starts his ministry with a limp....

AND - His Mother, Eunice, who no doubt wanted to circumcise her baby son but yielded to her Greek husband.

- To those of you who are unequally yoked - Learn from Eunice. Not every letter of the law must be a point of contention with your unbelieving spouse....
- AND to those of you not yet married - DO NOT BECOME unequally yoked.
- **2Corinthians 6:14** - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Years later, Paul asks Timothy to stay in Ephesus and to establish the Church there. The Ephesian Church was a difficult situation however and the Apostle will send a second letter of encouragement and exhortation to his young protégé.

Paul will "Charge" or give five commandments as it were to Timothy in his first letter: Let's look at them before we go verse by verse through this epistle...

FIVE CHARGES TO TIMOTHY:

Chapter 1 - Stick to Doctrine...

- A. **1 Timothy 1:1-7** - Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, **(I see trouble ahead...)** 2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they **teach no other doctrine**, 4 nor give heed to **fables and endless genealogies**, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.
- a. Gill describes these other doctrines as: "Old wives' fables, or Jewish fables, the traditions of the elders; anything that was not true; or if it was, yet idle, vain, trifling, and unprofitable..."
 - b. The Rabbis had and STILL have a million of these silly stories that they taught as if they were scripture... They are NOT!
 - c. They may be true.... Or at least not outright lies, but they are not words from God... Paul calls it idle talk!"
- B. Paul will continue in chapter one to encourage young Timothy to "wage the good warfare" against tradition over doctrine...

Chapters 2 & 3 - The worship service

- A. The Ephesian church was a bit out of order when it came to the worship services...
- B. 1 Timothy 2:1-8 - Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 I desire therefore that

the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

- a. Worship services are no time for public debates....
 - b. Worship services are to be times of prayer, thanksgiving to God, and worshipping HIM!
- C. In the remainder of chapters 2 & 3 the Apostle will give careful direction to:
- a. Women - Behave and appear in modesty... 2:9-15
 - b. Elders - Have your personal and family lives in control... 3:1-7
 - c. Deacons - Have YOUR personal and family lives in control... 3:8-13
 - d. Lastly - Conduct in the services should be ONLY to glorify God as Paul describes the majesty of the Lord in verse 16:
 - e. **1 Timothy 3:16** - And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, Received up in glory.
 - f. This is enough to ponder the whole of your lives, the Apostle says.... Stick to this truth, and little else!

Chapter 4 - Paul's charge concerning false teachers

- A. Paul doesn't get hateful regarding the older men who were hurting the church with their traditions and fables...
- a. He tells Timothy that the best defense is a good offense...
 - b. He tells Timothy to teach well, and the false teachers will be defeated by the truth!
- B. **1 Timothy 4:1-6** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **3** forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; **5** for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. **6** If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a **good minister of Jesus Christ**, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.
- C. Paul goes on in chapter 4 to encourage Timothy to not let youthful thinking or behavior cause anyone to be able to despise his youth!
- a. In two words.....
 - b. Behave yourself!

His fourth charge...

Chapter 5 - Be disciplined in church discipline...

- A. Paul cautions the young pastor to treat the older guys like you would your dad...
 - a. Treat the older ladies like you would your mother...
 - b. Treat the younger guys as if they were your own brothers...
 - c. And, treat the young women like your own sisters... Be pure among them Timothy!
- B. Paul will spend some time in chapter five talking about widows...
 - a. **1 Timothy 5:3-5** - Honor widows who are really widows. **4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. **5** Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.
 - b. Paul tells the church to take care of their own families first...
 - c. **V8** - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- C. Paul continues in this chapter instructing the church to take good care of their ministers...
 - a. Pay them well...
 - b. Don't make them struggle to make ends meet...
 - c. Don't let people gossip about them... Protect them and their reputations.

Chapter 6 - Paul's last charge is to Timothy himself...

- A. Verses 13-16 - I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, **15** which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.
- B. Paul will also address employees and how to be a good one in this chapter...
- C. He will address the:
 - a. Proud...

- b. The wealthy believers...
- c. The ones who love to argue about worthless issues...
- d. AND, those who are never happy or content with what God has provided...
- e. The Apostle will utter these immortal words: " For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*..."

First Timothy is a preacher's manual. In it are the basic and simple ingredients of what a good New Testament Church is to be...

A house of prayer...

A place of help for the needy....

A classroom of doctrine - void of foolish arguing and traditions...

And run and operated by people whose lives and families are in order...

The Church is to be without prejudice...

full of mercy...

and taken with the mystery of godliness...

Taken with pondering: why God would love us SO much...

This, Calvary Chapel is a book about us.....