1 Timothy

AUTHOR: Paul
TIME WRITTEN: A. D. 62 or 63 from Macedonia
POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
- 54th Book in the Bible
- 15th book in the New Testament
- 10th of 21 epistle books
- 11th of Paul's 13 books
- 53 have preceded it. 12 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 6
VERSES: 113
WORDS: 2,269
KEY WORD: Leadership Manual for Church Organization
TWO KEY PASSAGES:

1. **1 Timothy 3:15-16** - "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
   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."
2. **1 Timothy 6:11-12** - "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
   12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

KEY CHAPTER: 1 Timothy 3
OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 1 TIMOTHY:

1. Paul, the aged and experienced apostle, writes to the young evangelist Timothy who is facing a heavy burden of responsibility in the church at Ephesus.
   a. The task is challenging:
      1. False doctrine must be erased.
      2. Public worship must be safeguarded.
      3. Mature leadership must be developed.
   b. Timothy must be on his guard lest his youthfulness become a liability, rather than an asset, to the gospel.
   c. There are two major things he must be careful to avoid:
      1. False teachers .
      2. Greedy motives.

d. There are things he must pursue:
   1. Righteousness
   2. Godliness
   3. Faith
   4. Love
   5. Perseverance
   6. Gentleness that befits a man of God

2. Some reconstruction of Paul's life is necessary at this point.
   a. Pauline authorship of the "Pastoral Epistles" requires:
      1. Paul's release form his Roman imprisonment. Acts 28
      2. The continuation of his missionary endeavors.
      3. His imprisonment for a second time in Rome.
   b. Unfortunately, the order of events can only be reconstructed form hints, because there is no concurrent history paralleling Acts to chronicle the last years of the apostle's life and work.
   c. As he anticipated in Philippians 1:19; 25-26; 2:24, Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment
      1. It is possible that his Jewish accusers decided not to appear at his trial before Caesar.
      2. In fulfillment of his promise to the Philippians (Philippians 2:19-23), he sends Timothy to Philippi to relate the good news.
      3. Paul himself went to Ephesus (in spite of his earlier expectations in Acts 20:38) and to other Asian churches like Colosse **Philemon 23** - "But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you."
      4. When Timothy rejoined him in Ephesus, Paul instructed his assistant to "remain in Ephesus" (1:30 while he journeyed to Macedonia.
      5. When he saw that he might be delayed in macedonia, Paul wrote 1 Timothy, perhaps from Philippi (3;14-15)
      6. After he saw Timothy in Ephesus , the apostle journeyed to the island of Crete where, after a period of ministry, he left Titus to continue to work. Titus 1:5
      7. In Corinth, Paul decided to write a letter to Titus because Zenas and Apollos were making a journey that would take them by way of Crete . Titus 3:13
      8. He instructed Titus to join him in Nicopolis after the arrival of his replacement in Crete, Artemas or Tychicus. Titus 3:12
      9. If Paul went to Sapin as he had planned (Romans 15:24-28), Paul probably departed withTitus for that western province after his winter in Nicopolis.
         a. Early church tradition holds that Paul did go to Spain.

b. Before the end of the first century, Clement of Rome said that Paul reached the limits of the west." 1 Clement 5:7
c. Since Paul was writing from Rome, he evidently had Spainin mind.
d. Paul may have been in Spain from 64 to 66 A.D.

10. He returned to Greece and Asia—Corinth, Miletus, and Troas (2 Timothy 4:13-15)—and may have been arrested in Troas where he left his valuable books and parchments that are mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:13-15.

4. By this time Christianity had become an illegal religion in the empire (the burning of Rome took place in 64 A.D.
   a. Paul's enemies were now able to successfully accuse him.
   b. He was imprisoned in 67 A.D. and wrote 2 Timothy from his Roman cell after his first defense before the imperial court. 2 Timothy 1:8, 17; 2:9; 4:16-17
   c. He was delivered from condemnation, but he had no hope of release and expected to be executed. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
   d. He urged Timothy to come before that happened. 2 Timothy 4:9, 21
   e. According to tradition, the apostle Paul was beheaded west of Rome on the Ostain Way.
5. Thus, Paul wrote 1 Timothy from Macedonia in A.D. 62 or 63 while Timothy was serving as Paul's representative in Ephesus and perhaps in other congregations in the province of Asia.
6. Timothy was to:
   a. Appoint elders.
   b. Combat false doctrines.
   c. Be an example to others.
   d. Exercise his spiritual gifts.
   e. "Fight the good fight of faith."
7. Timothy was to be ready to deal with matters of:
   a. False teaching
   b. Organization
   c. Discipline
   d. Proclamation of the Scriptures
   e. Poverty
   f. Wealth
   g. The roles of various groups
8. Negatively, he was to refute error. 1:7-11: 6:3-5
   Positively, he was to teach truth. 4:13-16; 6:2; 17-18

SUMMARY OF 1 TIMOTHY

INTRODUCTION:

A. Paul's last three recorded letters, written near the end of his full and fruitful life, were addressed to his authorized representatives Timothy and Titus.
   1. These were the only letters Paul wrote exclusively to individuals (Philemon was addressed primarily to its namesake, but also to others), and they were designed to exhort and encourage Timothy and Titus in their ministry of solidifying the churches in Ephesus and Crete.
   2. In the eighteenth century these epistles became known as the Pastoral Epistles.

B. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul seeks to guide his younger and less experienced assistant in his weighty responsibility as the overseer of the work at Ephesus and other Asian cities.
   1. He writes, in effect, a challenge to Timothy to fulfill the task before him:
      a. Combating false teaching with sound doctrine.
      b. Developing qualified leadership.
      c. Teaching God's Word.
      d. Encouraging proper Christian conduct.

C. There are five major sections in the book.
   1. Paul's Charge Concerning Doctrine. (1)
   2. Paul's Charge Concerning Public Worship. (2-3)
   3. Paul's Charge Concerning False Teachers. (4)
   4. Paul's Charge Concerning Church Discipline. (5)
   5. Paul's Charge Concerning Duties. (6)

PAUL'S CHARGE CONCERNING DOCTRINE. (1)

A. After his greetings (1:1-2), Paul warns Timothy about the growing problem of false doctrines, particularly as they relate to the misuse of the Mosaic Law. 1:3-11).
   1. The aging apostle then recounts his radical conversion to Christ and subsequent calling to the ministry (1:12-17).
   2. Timothy, too, has received a divine calling, and Paul charges him to fulfill it without wavering in doctrine or conduct. (1:18-20)

PAUL'S CHARGE CONCERNING PUBLIC WORSHIP. (2-3)

A. Turning his attention to the church at large, Paul addresses the issues of church worship and leadership.
   1. Public prayer should be a part of worship, and Paul associates this with the role of men in the church. 2:1-8

2. He then turns to the role of women (2:9-15) wherein he emphasizes the importance of the inner quality of godliness.
3. In 3:1-7 Paul list the qualifications of elders.
4. In 3:8-13 Paul lists the qualification of deacons.

PAUL'S CHARGE CONCERNING FALSE TEACHERS. (4)

A. Timothy obviously had difficulties with some of the older men (5:1) who had left the faith.
   1. Paul carefully advises on the issues of:
      a. Marriage
      b. Food
      c. Exercise
   2. The closing charge exhorts Timothy not to neglect the spiritual gift given to him.

PAUL'S CHARGER CONCERNING CHURCH DISCIPLINE. (5)

A. One of the most difficult duties for the young minister is to lead in the exercise of discipline.
   1. Commencing with the general advice of treating all members of the church as family (5:2), Paul concentrates on the two special areas of widows and elders, focusing on Timothy's responsibility and providing practical instruction.

PAUL'S CHARGE CONCERNING DUTIES. (6)

A. In addition, the insidious doctrine was being taught that godliness will eventually result in material blessing.
   1. Paul, in no uncertain terms, states, "from such withdraw yourself" (6:5).
   2. The book closes with an extended charge (6;11-21), which is supplemented by an additional charge that Timothy is to give to the wealthy of this age (6:17-19)