

1 & Timothy and Titus **An Introduction to 1 Timothy**

Paul:

- Paul was actually born as Saul.
- He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia around AD 1–6 in a province in the southeastern corner of modern-day Tarsus, Turkey.
- He was of Benjamite lineage and Hebrew ancestry (Philippians 3:5–6).
- His parents were fervent Jewish nationalists
- Saul's family were Roman citizens but viewed Jerusalem as a truly sacred and holy city (Acts 22:22-29).
- At about the age of thirteen Saul was sent to Palestine to learn from a rabbi named Gamaliel.
- In Acts 5:27–42, Peter delivered his defense of the gospel and of Jesus in front of the Sanhedrin, which Saul would have heard.
- Gamaliel was also present and delivered a message to calm the council and prevent them from stoning Peter (Acts 5:33-39).
- Saul was present at the trial of Stephen (Acts 7:58).
- After Stephen's death, "a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1-3).
- In Acts 9:1–22, Jesus appeared to Saul and Saul was converted.
- As a Roman citizen, he also bore the Latin name of "Paul" (essentially a Latin transliteration of Saul)—in biblical Greek: Παῦλος (*Paulos*), and in Latin: Paulus. After his conversion, he began using his Greek/Roman name, Paul.
- Paul immediately went into the synagogues and proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 9:20) and his life was threatened.
- Paul then spent time in Arabia, Damascus, Jerusalem, Syria, and his native Cilicia.
- Barnabas enlisted his help to teach those in the church in Antioch (Acts 11:25), the very Christians driven out of Judea by the persecution that arose after Stephen's death founded this church (Acts 11:19–21).
- Paul took three missionary journeys.
- He wrote many of the New Testament books: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus
- The book of Acts gives us a historical look at Paul's pre-Christian life and Christian ministry.
- It is assumed that Paul died a martyr's death in the mid-to-late AD 60s in Rome.

The Life of the Apostle Paul

A.D. 6 Born a Roman citizen to Jewish parents in Tarsus (in modern eastern Turkey)
c. 20–30 Studies Torah in Jerusalem with Gamaliel; becomes a Pharisee

c. **30–33** Persecutes followers of Jesus of Nazareth in Jerusalem and Judea

Conversion

c. **33–36** Converted on the way to Damascus; spends three years in Arabia; returns to Damascus to preach Jesus as Messiah

c. **36** Flees Damascus because of persecution; visits Jerusalem and meets with the apostles

36–44 Preaches in Tarsus and surrounding region

44–46 Invited by Barnabas to teach in Antioch

46 With Barnabas visits Jerusalem to bring a famine relief offering

Mission Trips

47–48 First missionary journey with Barnabas, to Cyprus and Galatia

49 At the Council of Jerusalem, Paul argues successfully that Gentile Christians need not follow Jewish law; returns to Antioch; confronts Peter over question of Jewish law

49–52 Second missionary journey with Silas, through Asia Minor and Greece; settles in Corinth; writes letters to Thessalonians

52 Visits Jerusalem and Antioch briefly; begins third missionary journey

52–55 Stays in Ephesus; writes the letters to Galatians and Corinthians

55–57 Travels through Greece and possibly Illyricum (modern Yugoslavia); writes letter to Romans

Paul's Arrest & Death

57–59 Returns to Jerusalem and arrested; imprisoned at Caesarea

59–60 Appears before Festus and appeals to Caesar; voyage to Rome

60–62 Under house arrest at Rome; writes letters to Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon

62–64 Released; journeys to Spain?; writes letters to Timothy and Titus

64 Returns to Rome; martyred

Maps of Paul's Missionary Journeys

Timothy:

- Timothy, the recipient of the two New Testament letters bearing his name
- He was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother.
- He joined Paul during one of Paul's later missionary journeys. Paul addresses Timothy as "my true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2).
- He was probably no older than late teens/early twenties when he joined Paul but had already distinguished himself as faithful, and the elders noticed him.
- He probably heard and responded to the gospel when Paul came through the area of Derbe and Lystra on his first missionary journey, but we don't know for sure.
- Timothy served as Paul's representative to several churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19), and he was later a pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3).
- Timothy is also mentioned as being with Paul when Paul wrote several New Testament letters: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon.

- Paul says Timothy had a “genuine faith,” the same as that which lived in his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:1–5).
- Eunice and Lois prepared Timothy’s heart to accept Christ by teaching Timothy the Old Testament Scriptures and preparing him “from infancy” to recognize the Messiah when He appeared (2 Timothy 3:15). When Paul came preaching Christ, all three accepted his teaching and committed their lives to the Savior.
- In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, he gave him instructions and advice for leading the church. He also exhorted Timothy not to let others look down upon him due to his youth, but to set an example for other believers "in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).
- Paul told Timothy to be devoted to reading Scripture, exhorting, and teaching, and to not neglect the gift that he had been given.
- Paul also counseled Timothy to keep a close watch on himself, to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:11–12).
- It seems that Timothy had a chronic illness that required some attention (1 Timothy 5:23). Paul counseled him on a change of diet to aid the relief of his condition.
- In his second letter to Timothy, Paul warned Timothy about the false teachers that he would encounter and tells him to continue in the things he has learned because he knows the character of those he learned them from, namely Paul himself and his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 3:14–15).
- Paul also told Timothy, to "do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Books:

First and Second Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they are written to pastoral proteges of the Apostle Paul. They provide practical advice to young pastors (shepherds) from an aging mentor. Their primary duties were to implement leadership, defend sound doctrine and maintain discipline in order for the gospel to maintain its purity and not be disparaged in the community.

All three of the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) deal with the same subject: the local church. Paul has already expounded the doctrines of the church universal and the ministry of the saints in Christ's body in his other epistles. In those, he also gives some direction concerning life in the local churches. Now, in the Pastorals, he expounds on the effective operation of the local church as a microcosm of the universal church. In these epistles, the "church" refers to the gathered people.

- First Timothy deals with two aspects of the subject of order in the local church: the life of the church, and the leadership of the church.
- In his epistle to Titus, Paul elaborates on the leadership of the church.
- In 2 Timothy, he elaborated on the life of the church.
- First Timothy is more general and fundamental.
- Titus expounds how to set the church in order, and
- 2 Timothy expounds the leader's personal responsibility.

- In 1 Timothy, Paul teaches that the function of the "local church" is to proclaim God's truth in the world.
- He also teaches that the function of the "church leaders" (Timothy and the church elders) is to expound God's truth in the church.
- The purpose for which the church exists is the proclamation of God's truth in the world, and the purpose for which the leaders of the church exist is the exposition of God's truth in the church.

Timothy pastored in Ephesus and Titus pastored in Crete. Each epistle must be treated as they were written, individual letters to particular pastors serving in different circumstances.

More than a decade before writing this letter, Paul met Timothy in the city of Lystra, in Asia Minor, where Timothy and his family may have become Christians. Timothy was known and respected by the Christians of his home church.

Acts 4:6-23 - Read

Acts 16:1-4 – Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers¹ at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Impressed by Timothy, and recommended by the church, Paul recruited Timothy to be his travelling companion as he continued his second missionary journey. Paul had recently lost his first ministry associate, Barnabas, (Acts 15:36-41) and Timothy undoubtedly provided encouragement to the Apostle.

- On the second missionary journey, he worked with Paul in Troas, Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica, Athens and Corinth.
- On the third missionary trip, he worked with Paul in Ephesus.
- From there, Paul sent Timothy to Macedonia (Acts 19:22) where the Apostle later joined him (Acts 19:22).
- From there, they travelled to Corinth (Romans 16:21).
- On the return trip through Macedonia, Timothy accompanied Paul as far as Troas (Acts 20:3-6).
- Later, Timothy was in Rome with Paul (Col 1:1; Phil 3:1; Phil 1:1).

Dating the Letter: The book of Acts ends with Paul sitting in a Roman prison awaiting his audience with the Roman emperor. But this book dates beyond that time frame. Where was Paul when he wrote 1 Timothy?

Paul had expected to be vindicated and was released from prison around AD 62 (Philippians 2:24). His release enabled him to travel to Ephesus and leave Timothy there as the pastor of that church (1 Tim 1:3). Paul then travelled to Macedonia (1:3) where he heard from Timothy, who wanted to leave Ephesus, which prompted the letter in AD 63.

The Importance of the Letter: 1 Timothy offers the most descriptive instructions for church leadership and organization in the Bible. Among other things, this book teaches us how to conduct worship, select leaders and effect church discipline.

"As the first-century churches increased in number, questions of church order, soundness in the faith, and discipline arose. The apostles themselves dealt with these questions, but the

approaching end of the apostolic period made necessary authoritative teaching about faith and order for the future guidance of the churches. This teaching is revealed in the Pastoral Epistles."

– Charles Williams, *A Commentary on the Pauline Epistles*, 433.

The Context: When Paul met the Ephesian elders toward the end of his third missionary journey, he warned them about false teachers (Acts 29:29-30) and Timothy later faced that situation (1:6; 6:21; 2 Tim 2:18). Evidently, Hymenaeus and Alexander were two wolves (1:20) but there were others as well (1:3-11; 4:1-5; 6:3-10).

Outline of First Timothy

I. Salutation 1:1-2

II. Timothy's mission in Ephesus 1:3-20

- a) The task Timothy faced 1:3-11
- b) Exhortations to be faithful 1:12-20

- 1. A positive encouragement 1:12-17
- 2. A negative warning 1:18-20

III. Instructions concerning the life of the local church 2:1—4:5

- a) The priority of prayer for people's salvation 2:1-7
- b) The primary responsibilities of the men and the women in church meetings 2:8-15
- c) The qualifications for church leaders 3:1-13

- 1. Qualifications for elders 3:1-7
- 2. Qualifications for deacons 3:8-13

- d) The nature of the local church 3:14-16
- e) The problem of apostasy in the church 4:1-5

III. Instructions concerning leadership of the local church 4:6—5:25

- a) The leader's personal life and public ministry 4:6-16
- b) Basic principles of effective interpersonal relationships 5:1-2
- c) How to deal with widows and elders 5:3-25

- 1. Provisions for widows 5:3-16
- 2. The discipline and selection of elders 5:17-25

V. Instructions for groups within the church 6:1-19

- a) Slaves 6:1-2
- b) False teachers 6:3-10
- c) Those committed to Christ 6:11-16
- d) The wealthy 6:17-19

VI. Concluding charge and benediction 6:20-21





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Paul journeys to Cyprus and throughout Galatia



