

1 Timothy

Introduction: This letter was written to Timothy in A.D. 64 or 65, after Paul's first imprisonment in Rome. Paul was apparently released from prison for several years, during which time he revisited many churches in Asia and Macedonia. When Paul and Timothy returned to Ephesus, they found widespread false teaching in the church. Paul had warned the Ephesian elders to be on guard against the false teachers who would inevitably come after he had left. (*Life Application Bible*, p. 1862)

“Timothy was born in Lystra of a Greek father and of a Jewish mother, he was brought up in the Jewish faith and was taught the Scriptures from childhood. Paul made him an understudy in his second journey (Acts 16:1–3), and Timothy remained with him ever after. He shared in the evangelization of Macedonia and Achaia and aided Paul during the three years of preaching at Ephesus, where he became thoroughly acquainted with the city and with the needs of the local church.” (Merrill C. Tenney, *New Testament Survey*, p. 334)

Purpose

1 Timothy provides a glimpse of life inside a fledgling, first-century church. Paul writes to address a young pastor, Timothy, who must handle a series of issues, which threatened the health of this church.

1 Timothy 1:1-10

Memory Verse: 1 Tim 1:5 “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith

Begin with prayer. Ask the Lord to speak to you through His Holy Spirit. Use your Bible for the answers.

Day 1 *Discover the information*-Read all of 1 Timothy, chapter 1.

Read 1 Tim 1: 1-2

1. Who is the author of this book? How does he describe himself? vs 1
2. An apostle is one who is sent, a messenger. Read Acts 1:2; Rom 1:1; 2 Co 12:11-12; Eph 2:20. List some things you learn about apostles.
3. How does Paul describe Timothy? vs 2 What do you think he means by this? (see also 1 Co 4:17 and Phil 2:19-22)
4. Using a dictionary or other resource, define *grace* and *mercy*.

Day 2 Read 1 Tim 1:3-5

1. What does Paul urge Timothy to do? vs 3,4 Why?
2. What is the goal of instruction? vs 5
3. There are a few Greek words for love used in the New Testament. The word used here is “*agape*” meaning brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence. It is also used in John 3:16, 1 Cor 13:4-8, 13; I John 3:16-17. What are some qualities of *agape* love?
4. What is the purpose of our God-given conscience? See Rom 2:14-15; 2 Cor 1:12; 1 Peter 3:16

5. Write out your memory verse (1Tim 1:5) here. Practice reciting it a few times each day.

Day 3 Read 1 Tim 1:6-10

1. Paul mentions “certain men” in verse 3 and then again “some men” in vs. 6,7. What were they turning to? What were they aspiring to and how were they not qualified?

2. In verse 8, Paul tells us that the Law is good. Look up the following verses in Psalm 119 and list the benefits of God’s Word.

~Psalm 119:9-11

~Psalm 119:18

~Psalm 119:104-105

~Psalm 119:142-144

3. Compare the sins mentioned in vs 9-10 God’s commands in Deut 5:16-21?

Deut 5:16-21	1 Timothy 1:9,10

Day 4 Read 1 Tim 1:8 and Psalm 19: 7-13

1. In Psalm19:7-9, David uses some synonyms for God’s Word, list them below.

2. What adjectives does David use to describe the character of God’s Word?

3. What effects can the Word of God have on our lives? (Ps 19:7-9)

4. How does David describe the value of God's Word? (vs 10) Why does he consider it to be so valuable? (vs 11)

5. Think of an example of how you have been warned, rewarded or changed through Scripture and write it out below. Take time to thank God for the transforming power of His Word.

Day 5 Personal Application

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21).

1. What part of the lesson stood out most to you and why?

2. What area of your life has been most affected by what you've learned this week?

3. After praying to God for conviction and insight, what concrete changes do you feel you should make this week?

4. What exactly will you do differently this week than last week—get specific and be realistic!

5. Is there someone you know who needs to hear the truths you have learned this week? Will you pray and ask the Lord for boldness and love to share it with that individual?

Be prepared to share the memory verse with your group.