

Paul's 1st Letter to

Timothy

Chapter 3

Officers of the Church

New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

7 Churches

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation



"Prison Epistles"

Major Doctrinal Epistles

New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Pastoral

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3, John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

Divinely Authorized

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable
for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction
in righteousness.

What's right
What's not right
How to get right
How stay right

2 Timothy 3:16

Theopneustos God-breathed

Organization of the Epistles

1st Timothy:

- 1) Faith of the church; doctrine
- 2) Order of the church
- 3) Officers of the church
- 4) Apostasy that was coming
- 5-6) Duties of the officers

2nd Timothy:

- 1) Afflictions of the church
- 2) Activity of the church
- 3-4) Allegiance of the church

Paul's Background

- Paul was arrested in Jerusalem about the year 57 AD, and was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years
Acts 21:19 - 26:32
- Paul's voyage to Rome to be tried before Caesar started about September, 59 AD. After a shipwreck and a three-month wait on Malta, he arrived in Rome about February, 60 AD
Acts 27-28
- There he lived in his own rented house and had liberty to minister.
- *Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, and Philemon* were written during this first Roman captivity.

Paul's Background

- Paul was acquitted of the charges against him and released.
 - During the two years that followed, he ministered in various places and wrote 1 Timothy and Titus.
- About 65 AD. Paul was arrested again, and this time put into a dungeon.
 - It was then that he wrote 2 Timothy, his last letter.

Timothy's Background

- Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Jewish mother **Acts 16:1**
 - No mention is made of his father being a Christian, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both known for their sincere faith **2 Tim 1:5**
- Timothy was no doubt living at Lystra when Paul visited that city on his first missionary journey **Acts 14:6; 16:1**
- He had earned a good reputation **Acts 16:2-5**
 - Paul had probably not led him to Christ, but he probably had ordained the young minister, and had great confidence in him **2 Tim 1:5,6; 3:15**

Timothy's Background

- At any rate Timothy already knew and believed the Old Testament Scriptures, thanks to his mother and grandmother, and Paul took him on as a promising protégé. **2 Tim 3:15**
 - Timothy's promise for the ministry was recognized early **1 Tim 1:18; 4:14; 2 Tim 4:5**
 - Apparently certain prophetic utterances confirmed Timothy's appointment **1 Tim 1:18; cf. 4:14**
- Paul became like a spiritual father to the young man, referring to him as
 - “my true son in the faith” **1 Tim 1:2**
 - and “my dear son” **2 Tim 1:2; Phil 2:22**

Timothy's Background

- Thus, Paul took him on as a companion and he became one of the apostle's most trustworthy fellow-laborers

Rom 16:21; 1 Cor 16:10; Phil 2:19-23; 1 Thes 3:2

- He also became Paul's faithful representative and messenger

Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17; 2 Cor 1:19; Phil 2:19; 1 Thes 3:2, 6

- Six of Paul's epistles include Timothy in the salutations

2 Cor 1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:1; Phn 1

Timothy's Background

- Timothy had become so dear to Paul that in the apostle's last message was a touching appeal for Timothy to join him in his final days of imprisonment
2 Tim 1:4; 4:9, 21
- After being released from his first Roman imprisonment Paul, with Timothy by his side, evidently revisited some of the churches in Asia, including Ephesus.
- On his departure from Ephesus, Paul left Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation.
- Then, after an interval, Paul wrote Timothy a letter, 1 Timothy, urging him on in that ministry.

Timothy's Nature

- Timothy may have been by nature somewhat passive, timid, retiring, and easily intimidated
2 Tim 1:7
 - Thus Paul repeatedly spurred him into action
1 Tim 1:3; 4:11; 5:7; 6:2; 2 Tim 3:14; 4:2, 5
- Timothy was rather young: Paul's exhortation "let no one despise your youth" *was given 15 years later.*
1 Tim 4:12
- He was to let nothing, including his relative youth stand in the way of his performance of duty
2 Tim 2:1-7; 4:5,12

Timothy's Nature

- Like a good soldier he was to “fight the good fight”
1 Tim 1:18; 6:12
aggressively protecting and propagating the gospel, using the full range of his gifts
1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6
- Yet despite his gifts, and his close association with Paul, Timothy was easily discouraged
- The last time Paul had been with him, he had encouraged him to stay on at Ephesus and finish his work
1 Tim 1:3

Timothy's Physical Problems

- Timothy apparently also had physical problems **1 Tim 5:23**
as well as periods of discouragement, and it appears that some church members were not giving proper respect as God's servant
1 Tim 4:12; 2 Tim 2:6-8

1st Timothy

Chapter 3

Church Government

- **Episcopal form:**
 - one, or several, in charge at the top, typically outside the local church
- **Presbyterian form:**
 - with representatives elected from the membership
- **Congregational form:**
 - the people themselves make the decisions
- All can work well;
all can be characterised by strifes and divisions.

Church Government

- Paul will emphasize that there are two aspects of a spiritual officer:
 - He must be a man of faith, and
 - He must be motivated by love.
- Paul explained the three responsibilities in a local church:
 - 1) Teach sound doctrine vv.1-11
 - 2) Proclaim the Gospel vv.12-17
 - 3) Defend the faith vv.18-20

1st Timothy

Chapter 3

This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1 Timothy 3:1

- Bishop = Gr *episkope* overseer
1 Pet 5:1-3; Acts 20:17, 28
- Elder = Gr *presbuteros*, “old man”;
- Pastor = Gr *poimen* “shepherd”
- In NT: “bishop,” “elder,” and “pastor” were synonymous.
- In the early church, a bishop never had authority over other bishops or elders.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:2

- **Blameless:** “nothing to take hold upon”
“above reproach”
- **Husband** – the role of Pastor/Elder is male
- **... of one wife:** (at a time)
 - Not referring to remarriage after wife’s death: **Gen 2:18**
1Tim 4:3.
- **Vigilant:** “temperate” or “sober.”
“Temperate in all things.”
“Showing grace under pressure”

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:2

- **Sober:** serious attitude; earnest about his work; knows the values of things.
- **Of good behavior:** “orderly.”
Same Greek word is translated in “modest” **1 Tim 2:9**
- **Given to hospitality:** “loving the stranger”

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:2

- **Apt to teach:** A pastor is automatically a teacher and must be a student of the Word
 - Many scholars believe that “pastors and teachers” refer to one person with two functions **Eph 4:11**
- To teach and preach is the primary task of elders
1 Tim 4:6, 11, 13, 16; 5:17; 2 Tim 2:15, 24; Titus 2:1
- Timothy had a gift of teaching **1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6**
- The word also means ‘Teachable’
 - **Ready and willing to learn!**

Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

1 Timothy 3:3

- **Not given to wine:** the word describes a person who sits long with the cup and drinks to excess
 - Paul advised Timothy to use a little wine for health reasons [1 Tim 5:23](#)
 - Total abstinence was not required of believers.
 - Excess is wrong! ([Don't be drunk with wine... Eph 5:18](#))
 - Maybe you should abstain in public to avoid stumbling a brother/'giving appearance'?
 - [Rom 14:21](#) / [1 Thess 5:22](#)

Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

1 Timothy 3:3

- **Not a striker:** “not contentious, not looking for a fight.”
- **Not greedy of filthy lucre:** Pastors should not pursue money
1 Pet 5:2
(more on money in the next session)
- **Patient:** “gentle” is a better translation.
- **Not a brawler:** peacemakers, not troublemakers
- **Not covetous:** you can covet many things other than money: popularity; size of ministry; etc

One that **ruleth** well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1 Timothy 3:4,5

- Ruleth: preside over; govern; “as a loving shepherd” **1 Pet 5:3**
- The church is also part of his “family.”

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:6

- Not a novice: “one newly planted.”
Immaturity can include vulnerability to pride and a serious stumbling.
- “Pride goes before destruction, and haughty spirit before stumbling”
Prov 16:18

Moreover he must have a **good report** of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:7

- A good report:
 - Does he act with integrity & honesty?
 - Does he have a good reputation among the unsaved with whom he does business?
 - Does he manifest a wholesome character in his *ethics*?



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