

I TIMOTHY: INTRODUCTION

1. I Timothy is the first epistle, according to the order of arrangement in the New Testament that is written to an individual.
2. What we know about Timothy:
 - a. Lystra was his home – where Paul was stoned and left outside the city for dead (Acts 16:1-2).
 - b. Timothy's mother was Eunice, a Jewess who was married to a Greek. Along with Timothy's grandmother, Lois, Eunice helped in developing Timothy's faith (2 Tim. 1:5; Acts 16:1).
 - c. On Paul's second preaching tour, Timothy was chosen to accompany Paul (Acts 16:3).
 - d. On this second preacher tour, Timothy was sent back to Thessalonica to help the recently established church. He met Paul in Corinth to report his findings (Acts 17:14, 15; 18:5; 1 Thess. 3:2-6).
 - e. On Paul's third preaching tour, Timothy was sent to Macedonia and Corinth and was with Paul at Troas on his return trip (Acts 19:22; 20:4, 2 Cor. 1:19).
 - f. While in prison in Rome, Paul sent Timothy on a mission to inform and comfort the brethren in Macedonia (Phil. 1:1, 2:19-23; Col. 1:1; Philem. 1).
 - g. At least once, Timothy would also suffer imprisonment (Heb. 13:23).

I. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK

- A. Paul – “Paul, and apostle of Christ Jesus...” (1 Tim. 1:1)

II. DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING THE BOOK

- A. Because the activities referred to in 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus do not relate to the events recorded in Acts, it is assumed that these three epistles were written following Paul's first imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31).
 1. Paul leaves Timothy in Ephesus on his way to Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3). Timothy apparently remains there until the later writing of 2 Timothy (2 Tim. 1:16-18, 4:19, Acts 18:19).
 - a. Only two visits to Ephesus by Paul are recorded in Acts:
 - (1). The first – (Acts 18:19-22), Paul is headed for Syria, not Macedonia.
 - (2). The second – (Acts 19:1-20:1), Paul has already sent Timothy ahead into Macedonia. When Paul leaves, Timothy is already in Macedonia, not Ephesus.
 2. This first epistle to Timothy was probably written in A.D. 65-66 from somewhere in Macedonia.

III. THEME AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- A. Theme: Exhortation to a young evangelist

- B. Purpose:
1. To encourage Timothy to look out for and oppose false teachers (1:3-7, 18-20, 6:3-5, 20-21).
 2. To furnish written credentials that Timothy's course of action had the authority of Christ's apostle – Paul (1:1, 3-4).
 3. To give instructions on how men ought to conduct matters and themselves in the church (3:14-15).
 4. To exhort Timothy to be diligent to his duties as an evangelist (4:6-6:2)

IV. FEATURES OF THE BOOK

- A. A list of *qualifications* of elders and deacons (3:1-7; 8-13)
- B. The necessity of a *good conscience* in serving God.
1. Accompanies a pure heart and unhypocritical faith (1:5).
 2. Lack of it characterizes the false teachers who fall away from the faith (1:19-20, 4:1-2).
 3. It is practical in carrying out the duties of a deacon (3:9)
- C. “*Godliness*” stressed. Occurs 8 times in the epistle. The word conveys the thought of being devout, manifesting piety toward God.
1. Represents our goal and reason for praying for those in power (2:2).
 2. Centered in Christ (3:16).
 3. Our goal in spiritual training (4:7, 6:11).
 4. Its rewards are realized in this life and even into the next (4:8).
 5. With contentment, it represents great gain (6:5, 6).
 6. The product of sound doctrine (6:3)
- D. “*Doxologies*” occur. The word comes from the Greek and means to speak forth praise. Such praise occurs 3 times in this epistle. Paul is breaking out with praise for God's mercy and the inimitable Christ (1:17, 3:16, 6:15).

V. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Timothy charged to uphold the doctrine of faith (1:3-20).
- III. Orderly conduct in the church set forth (2:1-3:16)
- A. Conduct requirements of men and women (2:1-15).
 - B. Qualifications of bishops and deacons (3:1-13)
 - C. The church is support of the delivered faith (3:14-15).
- IV. The prediction that some would fall away from the faith (4:1-5).

- V. Characteristics of the good minister of Christ (4:6-16).
- VI. General admonitions (5:1-6:2)
 - A. Respecting age (5:1-2).
 - B. Responsibility toward widows (5:3-16).
 - C. Responsibility toward elders (5:17-22).
 - D. Medicinal use of wine advised (5:23).
 - E. Understanding the nature of sin and good works (5:24-25).
 - F. Responsibility of servants towards their master (6:1-2).
- VII. Teaching regarding men and riches (6:3-21).