

New Testament Survey

Class 21: 1 Timothy

Author and Date of Composition: Paul, c.62-64 AD. (As discussed last week, objections have been raised in the past two centuries regarding Paul's authorship. These arguments fail to provide sufficient grounds to doubt the historic view, or better explain an alternative source.)

Recipient:

- Timothy was a native of Lystra. Presumably he was converted when Paul visited that city on his first mission (Acts 14:8-23, c.47 AD), but Timothy is not mentioned until he joins Paul during his second mission (Acts 16:1-3, c.51 AD).
- Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father (Acts 16:1). Probably this allowed him a unique ability to operate in both cultures, although his credentials with the Jewish community had to be shored up by circumcision.
- Timothy's mother and grandmother were notable for their "sincere faith" (2 Tim 1:5). These godly women passed on this rich heritage by acquainting him with the Scriptures from an early age (2 Tim 3:15). This should be an encouragement to women whose husbands do not follow Christ, and to single parents everywhere: a commitment to humbly and prayerfully teach your children God's word can bear fruit even if you are working alone or against another parent who opposes you.
- Timothy was one of Paul's closest friends and coworkers. He appears to have been with Paul, or sent on mission by him and in direct contact with him for the remainder of Paul's life. Timothy is mentioned in all but three of Paul's letters (Gal, Eph, Titus), and in Hebrews!

Class Schedule:

11-Feb-24	1 Timothy
18-Feb-24	2 Timothy
25-Feb-24	Titus

Outline of 1 Timothy

Greetings (1:1-2)

Paul's Charge to Timothy: Combat False Teaching (1:3-20)

False teaching identified (vv.3-7)

What the Law is actually for (vv.8-11)

By contrast, Paul's life and ministry under the gospel (1:12-17)

The charge completed (1:18-20)

Organizing the Household of God (2:1-3:15)

Praying for government leaders and the advance of the truth (2:1-7)

Guidelines for men and women (2:8-15)

Qualifications for elders (3:1-7)

Qualifications for deacons (3:8-13)

Purpose statement (3:14-15)

A Good Servant of Christ: Teaching Truth, Combating Error (3:16-4:16)

Doxology: the glory of Christ's incarnation (3:16)

False teachers predicted: They forbid God's good gifts (4:1-5)

Timothy's calling: personal godliness, public teaching (4:6-16)

Guidance for Specific Cases (5:1-6:2)

General guidance (5:1-2)

Guidance for widows: caring for widows in need (5:3-16)

Guidance for elders: compensation and consequences (5:17-25)

Guidance for slaves: serving as a way to honor God (6:1-2)

Guidance Regarding False Teachers and Finances (6:3-21)

Identifying false teachers (6:3-5)

Contentment: protection against the ruin caused by the love of money (6:6-10)

Personal charge to Timothy: labor until the appearing of Jesus (6:11-16)

Guidance for the rich: share your wealth, set your hope in God (6:17-19)

Final encouragement and exhortation to Timothy (6:20-21)