

INTRODUCTION TO 1 TIMOTHY

1. **The person to whom it was written.**

1. To get to know Timothy, we must turn to Acts 16.
 1. Timothy lived in Lystra.
 2. Paul had gone through this city on his first missionary journey (Acts 14).
 3. On the second journey, he met this young man about whom many in the church gave a good report.
 4. Paul saw something in him that caused him to take him with on his journey.
2. He was the son of a Jewish woman and a Gentile father.
 1. He had good teaching in the Old Testament scriptures from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15).
 2. We don't know if his father had been converted to Christ or not.
3. Paul took Timothy and circumcised him so that he could have free course amongst the Jews.
4. Timothy served in many ways with Paul.
 1. He was like a son to Paul (Philippians 2:19-24).
 2. He would stay in or go to cities that needed help (Acts 17:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3).
 3. He served as Paul's emissary (1 Corinthians 16:10-11).
5. It seems that Timothy was chosen by the Holy Spirit to go with Paul (1 Timothy 1:18).
 1. The elders in his home congregation showed their approval of him by their laying hands on him (1 Timothy 4:14).
 2. Paul laid hands on Timothy as well to impart some miraculous gift (2 Timothy 1:6).
6. Timothy was a man on whom Paul could depend.
 1. This shows us that the young can and should be used in the Lord's church.
 2. Despite his age, Timothy was extremely important in the work of Paul.
 3. We should never dismiss someone because of young age.
 4. If he/she shows the ability to do what is right, it does not matter how young or old that person is.

2. **The purpose of the letter.**

1. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul and others to write letters for a purpose, not just to keep up with people.
2. There are at least four purposes in writing this letter:
 1. Paul encouraged Timothy to oppose false teachers (1:3-7, 18-20; 6:3-5, 20-21).
 2. Paul wrote to Timothy to prove to others he had sent Timothy (1:3-4).
 1. Ephesus was the city in which Paul spent the longest amount of located time on a mission trip.

2. For Paul to send Timothy there indicated the amount of trust Paul had in Timothy.
3. This was the eldership to which Paul had said grievous wolves would arise out of them (Acts 20:29-30).
4. This was a serious work in which Timothy was engaged.
3. Paul wrote to let Timothy know how an evangelist should behave in the Lord's church (3:14-15).
4. Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in his efforts as an evangelist (4:6-6:2).
3. There seemed to have been a Gnostic influence in the church at Ephesus.
 1. The Gnostics believed that there were many spiritual beings between God and man but inspiration did not (2:5).
 2. They believed all matter and flesh was evil but inspiration did not (4:3-4; 2:5).
 3. Paul called it a science falsely so called (6:20).
4. We mentioned that Paul wrote to encourage Timothy.
 1. Based on some things that Paul wrote, there many commentators that believed Timothy had tried to get out of going to Ephesus.
 2. He may have used his age as an excuse (4:12).
 3. He may have used his health as an excuse (5:23).
 4. He may have indicated to Paul a desire not to go (4:15-16).
5. Whatever the case may be, we do know that Timothy did what Paul had asked him to do.

3. **The plea of Paul.**

1. Paul gave a charge to Timothy (1:18; 6:20).
2. The charge is found in 1:11 - the gospel.
3. Paul's plea to Timothy was to preach and guard the gospel.
 1. It was not Timothy's to change at his will.
 2. It is the gospel of God and man is not to change it.
4. No doubt but that it was tempting to Timothy to change things so that he would be more accepted at Ephesus.
 1. With the false teachers the way they were, it would have been easier for Timothy to gain acceptance by changing the gospel.
 2. With his health the way it was, it would have been less stressful to do so.
5. Paul pled with Timothy to do what was right.
 1. From 2 Timothy, we see that Timothy faithfully obeyed Paul's plea.
 2. He stood firm in the gospel and taught the truth.
6. We should learn from this that no matter how difficult it may be, we are to stand in and for the truth, never giving ground.
7. No matter what our age may be, we can and must stand for the truth.