

# COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

## PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

I TIMOTHY 1:1-20

WEEK OF MARCH 2 – 7

### Fighting False Doctrine

The apostle Paul wrote 3 letters to two of his sons in the faith, Timothy and Titus. Those letters, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus, are known as the pastoral epistles. Paul referred to Timothy as his “true child in the faith”. Timothy’s mother, Eunice, was a Jewish believer in Christ, and his father was a Greek. Timothy was from the province of Galatia, living in the city of Lystra. Paul led Timothy to Christ during his ministry to Lystra on his first missionary journey. Paul visited Lystra a second time on his second missionary journey, and at that time chose Timothy to accompany him as his disciple and co-laborer. Timothy ministered closely with Paul during that second missionary journey and on his trip to Jerusalem. He was present with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment. Paul frequently sent Timothy as his representative to a number of the churches. Paul wrote the first letter to Timothy while Timothy was serving as the pastor of the church at Ephesus. Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus shortly after he was released from his first Roman imprisonment. Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy from prison during his second Roman imprisonment in about AD 66-67 sometime shortly before Paul's death.

This first letter to Timothy contains much practical instruction. **First Timothy 3:15** contains the theme of this letter: “**I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**” May all of us grow in obedience to God’s Word as we understand how to conduct ourselves in Christ’s church.

#### Read I Timothy 1:1-11:

1. What important theological truths are found in **verse 1**?
2. From **verse 2**, how does Paul refer to Timothy?
3. In Paul’s greeting and salutation in **verse 2**, he refers to grace, mercy, and peace of God. What is the biblical meaning of those terms?
4. After Paul’s release from his first imprisonment in Rome, Timothy and Paul revisit Ephesus. In **verses 3-4**, what instruction does Paul give Timothy before he leaves Timothy in Ephesus and departs for Macedonia?
5. In contrast to the messages of the false teachers described in **verse 4**, how does Paul describe the goal of his instruction in **verse 5**?

6. How are the false teachers described in **verses 6 and 7**?
  
7. The “Law” in **verse 7** refers to the Mosaic Law. The false teachers in Ephesus taught that by keeping certain ceremonies contained in the Law people could earn salvation. How does Paul describe the proper use of the Law in **verses 8-11**? What help do you find in **Galatians 3:23-25**?
  
8. How would you describe the glorious gospel of the blessed God spoken of by Paul in **verse 11**? From the following verses, explain the gospel: **Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10-18; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13; Romans 5:1**. Are there additional passages you would use to describe the gospel?

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to charge him with the responsibility of correcting the church at Ephesus. “A major part of that task involved dealing with the false teachers described in **verses 3-10**. Since these false teachers were presenting their false gospel, Paul gives his testimony to the true one, which he mentioned in **verse 11**. In contrast to the false view of the law as a means of salvation, Paul shows that a proper use of the law brings conviction of sin and the need of grace. [Paul's] testimony in **verses 12-17** is thus an integral part of the epistle. It contrasts the glory of the true gospel with the emptiness of false doctrine.”

MacArthur Commentary 1 Timothy, John MacArthur, pg. 26.

**Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17:**

9. In **verses 12-16**, how does Paul describe God’s work of grace in his life?
  
10. In **verse 17**, what is Paul’s response to God’s work of grace?
  
11. How can we practically respond to that same work of grace in our lives?

**Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20:**

12. In **verses 18-19**, what instruction does Paul give Timothy to address the attack by the false teachers?
  
13. From **verse 19**, what does it mean to keep the faith? What is the connection between keeping the faith and a good conscience?
  
14. What specific actions and commitments will you make to personally fight the good fight, keep the faith and have a good conscience?

“Doctrinal purity must be accompanied by purity of life. There is an inseparable link between truth and morality, between right belief and right behavior.... Sound doctrine and godly living are the twin towers guarding the purity of the church [:].” MacArthur Commentary 1 Timothy, John MacArthur, pg. 45.