

Twelve Lessons

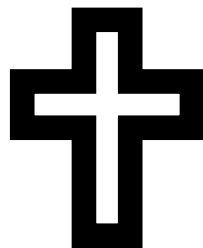
on

I Timothy

Compiled and Written

by

The Staff of Macedonia Baptist College



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

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INTRODUCTION TO I TIMOTHY – LESSON 1

I Timothy 1:1-2 – Key Verse of the Epistle – I Timothy 3:15

Introduction: The two epistles to Timothy and the epistle to Titus are referred to as the “Pastoral Epistles.” The content of these epistles is centered on the organization and administration of the New Testament church. The three epistles were written to address the two young preachers who were put in charge of two local churches. Timothy was sent to the church of Ephesus (I Tim. 1:3), and Titus to the church in Crete (Titus 1:5). For details concerning the origin and history of I Timothy, study pages 487-488 of Wilmington's Guide to the Bible.

Lesson Goals:

1. Define the purpose of the pastoral epistles of I Timothy, II Timothy and Titus as to instruct young pastors on how they are to manage the church.
2. Establish Paul's authority as a man of God qualified to teach on the administration of the church.
3. Emphasize the close relationship Paul had with Timothy showing the principle of discipleship Paul used to develop the young men in his ministry.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Authority – Legal power, or a right to command or to act; as the authority of a prince over subjects, and of parents over children. Power; rule; sway; Concerning Paul it relates to his calling which was given him by God and a privilege of delegated influence. His credentials were given by God. He carried with him God's authority.
2. Commissioned – Furnished with a commission, charge or mandate; empowered; authorized.
3. Abide – To continue permanently or in the same state; to be firm and immovable (Psalms 119:90); to remain, to continue (Acts 27:31; Ecclesiastes 8:15)

Things to Consider:

As the churches were increasing in number, God ordained Paul to instruct the young pastors of the churches on how to conduct the ministry of the local church. I Timothy was written to give Timothy a direct revelation of how the church should be managed under the leadership of the pastor through the authority of God's Word. We, ministers arming with authority, must be lead by the commandment and order of God to be successful at operating the local church. God gave this instruction through a messenger who was already armed with the authority of God's Word.

I. PAUL: A MESSENGER ARMED WITH AUTHORITY – vs. 1

A. Evidence of a Conversion – “Paul”

1. God had changed Paul. A man who mercilessly persecuted the church, now writes to edify and strengthen its leaders. In Acts 8:1-4, Saul is making havoc of the church of Christ, now he is helping it.
2. Paul wanted Timothy and the church to know that this was “Paul” writing and not Saul. He that once tried to extinguish the church is now writing on how to manage the church and keep it strong. II Corinthians 5:17 – “*Therefore If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” Paul wrote II Corinthians 5:17 based on his experience. He was living proof that salvation changes a man's purpose in life. In I Timothy 1:1, Paul just wanted us to know old things were still passing away.
3. We learn from Paul's conversion that a man of God can never be authoritative unless he has a clear and powerful testimony of conversion and a lives a life worthy of a believer.

B. Entrusted with a Commission – “an apostle of Jesus Christ”

1. The term apostle is defined as “a sent one”. Not only had Paul been converted, but he was personally commissioned by the Son of God. In Acts 9:1-8, we see the account of Christ's appearance to Paul.
2. Every man of God must have the origination of his ministry in the commission of Jesus Christ.

C. Established by a Commandment – “by the commandment of God”

1. Commandment or *epitage* is the same word used for authority. *Epitage* means “an injunction, mandate, or command.”
2. Paul wrote this to show Timothy that he had not made himself an apostle. God had given him this awesome responsibility of preaching the gospel. The work Paul was doing was mandatory.
3. This statement denotes the authority in Paul's preaching. He was not sent of his own will, but rather the will of Almighty God.
4. It reveals the sacred importance of preaching the Word. Preaching must be done:

- a. At God's Appointed Time – God ordains men for a specific time of ministry.
 - b. By God's Anointed Man – God has chosen to use individuals and gives them the power of the Spirit.
 - c. In God's Appropriate Manner – The Word of God specifies the qualifications of His servants.
 - d. With God's Acceptable Message – The message is the Word of God.
5. Our preaching must originate with God or it will not get the job done. Paul is telling Timothy to realize that all he has accomplished has been according to the perfect plan of God. Preaching is null and void if it has no authority backing it. Paul's letter to Timothy was backed by the commandment of God.

D. Encouraged through Confidence – *“God our saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.”*

- 1. Divine Intervention
 - a. Paul understood that his opportunity to serve was based solely on the intervention of God.
 - b. It is a great privilege to have a God who cares for us so much that He provided salvation for us.
- 2. Distinct Inclusion – Paul included Timothy in both salvation and service.
 - a. *“God our Saviour”* – This denotes Timothy's acceptance of salvation.
 - b. *“And Lord Jesus Christ”* – This denotes Timothy's submission to Lordship.
 - c. *“Which is our hope”* – This denotes Timothy's expectation of the coming Christ.
- 3. The Driving Incentive
 - a. *“Hope”* is a grand word. It is defined as “the expectation of good, hope; joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.”
 - b. Paul was encouraging Timothy to keep his perspective on the Second Coming of Christ.

II. TIMOTHY: A MINISTER ARMING WITH AUTHORITY – vs. 2

A. Personal Address – *“Unto Timothy”*

- 1. Paul had evidently taken part in the conversion and training of Timothy previously.
- 2. *“My own son”* shows the close relationship between Paul and Timothy. When Paul visited Lystra on his first mission trip, Timothy was saved. Paul "preached Christ" to the occupants of Lystra according to Acts 14:7.
- 3. Timothy possibly witnessed the stoning of Paul at Lystra.

B. Position Attained – *“in the faith”*

- 1. Timothy had lived in such a way as to show evidence of his salvation.
- 2. Paul had sent Timothy to Ephesus because of the confidence he had in his conversion and desire to serve God.

C. Purpose Acknowledged – *“to abide still at Ephesus”*

- 1. Timothy's purpose was to abide in Ephesus to manage the business of the church there.
- 2. Paul is now declaring to him what God has for him to accomplish. Timothy had been obedient to God's will, and now Paul is instructing him on how to manage the church.