

The Book of 1 Timothy

Introduction: This epistle is, in essence, a personal letter to the family of God!

"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:14, 15).

I. PAUL AND THE FAMILY OF GOD.

- A. He was an apostle (1:1).
- B. He was a spiritual father (1:2).
- C. He was a former blasphemer (1:13).
- D. He was a sinner saved by grace (1:14).
- E. He was a pattern and trophy (1:16).
- F. He was a suffering servant (4:10).
- G. He was an exhorter (6:13).
- H. He was, most of all, a preacher.
 - 1. His message--the gospel (1:11).
 - 2. His mission field--the Gentiles (2:7).
 - 3. His master--the Savior (1:12).

II. TIMOTHY AND THE FAMILY OF GOD,

- A. Timothy's personal responsibilities.
 - 1. Stay in Ephesus (1:3).
 - 2. Maintain a good conscience (1:19).
 - 3. Examine yourself (4:16).
 - 4. Examine your doctrine (4:16).
 - 5. Discipline yourself (4:6).
 - 6. Be an example (4:12),
 - 7. Develop your gift (4:14, 15).
 - 8. Take care of your body (5:23).
 - 9. Avoid the love of money (6:10).
 - 10. Pursue after the good (6:11).
 - 11. Be a soldier (1:18; 6:12-14).
 - 12. Be impartial (5:21).
- B. Timothy's public responsibilities.
 - 1. Concerning the pulpit in the church.
 - a. What to honor--the Scriptures of God (4:6, 11, 13).
 - b. What to avoid--the speculations of men (1:4; 6:20).
 - 2. Concerning prayers in the church.
 - a. Pray for all men (2:1-4).
 - b. Pray for all things (4:4, 5).
 - 3. Concerning women in the church.
 - a. Their responsibilities (2:9).
 - b. Their restrictions (2:12, 13, 14).

"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (2:12).

- c. Their redemption (2:15).
- 4. Concerning widows in the church.
 - a. Widows over sixty with no living children are to be honored and provided for (5:3, 5, 9).
 - b. Widows with a family are to be provided for by their families (5:4, 16).
 - c. Young widows (5:6, 11-15).
 - (1) The rule. Let them remarry and raise children.
 - (2) The reason. This will keep them from immorality and idle talk.
- 5. Concerning senior saints in the church (5:1, 2).
- 6. Concerning elders in the church.
 - a. To be carefully chosen.

"Lay hands suddenly on no man..." (5:22).

- b. To be honored (5:17, 18).

- c. To be assumed innocent until proven guilty (5:19).
- 7. Concerning the rich in the church (8:6-10, 17-19).
 - a. Their faith: It is to be placed in God, and not in gold (6:17).
 - b. Their fortune: It is to be shared with others (6:18).
- 8. Concerning servants (6:1, 2).
 - a. Those working for unsaved masters (6:1).
 - b. Those working for saved masters (6:2).

III. CHURCH OFFICERS AND THE FAMILY OF GOD (3:1-13),

A. Qualifications for the office of bishop (3:1-7).

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work" (3:1).

- 1. He must be a male (3:1).
- 2. Without reproach (3:2).
- 3. The husband of one wife (3:2).
- 4. Temperate (3:2).
- 5. Prudent (3:2).
- 6. Respectable (3:2).
- 7. Given to hospitality (3:2).
- 8. Able to teach (3:2).
- 9. Not given to wine (3:3).
- 10. Not pugnacious (3:3).
- 11. Gentle (3:3).
- 12. Uncontentious (3:3).
- 13. Not a lover of money (3:3).
- 14. Must rule his own house well (3:4, 5; 5:8).
- 15. Not a novice or new convert (3:6).
- 16. Must have a good reputation in the unsaved community (3:7).

B. Qualifications for the office of a deacon (3:8-13).

"For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (3:13).

- 1. A man of dignity (3:8).
- 2. Not double-tongued (3:8).
- 3. Not given to wine (3:8)†
- 4. Not a lover of money (3:8).
- 5. Must possess a pure conscience (3:9).
- 6. Not a novice (3:10).
- 7. If married, the husband of a godly wife (3:11)†
- 8. The husband of one wife (3:12).
- 9. Must rule his own house well (3:12).

IV. FALSE TEACHERS AND THE FAMILY OF GOD.

A. Their theology.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth" (4:1, 3).

B. Their tactics

- 1. Arguing (1:4, 6; 4:7).
- 2. Stirring up constant friction (6:4, 5).

C. Their transgressions.

- 1. They use the law in the wrong way (1:7-10).
- 2. They allow their own conscience to be seared (4:2).
- 3. They use the church for personal gain (6:5).
- 4. They oppose the true faith with false theories of science (6:20, 21).

V. THE SAVIOR AND THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Paul offers a brief summary of Christ's work here in this epistle.

A. His incarnation.

"God was manifest in the flesh" (3:16).

B. His purpose.

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1:15). "Who is the Saviour of all men" (4:10).

C. His deity (1:17).

D. His successful ministry (3:16).

E. His suffering and death (2:6; 6:13).

"Who gave himself a ransom for all" (2:6).

F. His resurrection.

"Justified in the Spirit" (a reference to the resurrection; see Rom. 1:4).

G. His ascension.

"Received up into glory" (3:16).

H. His mediatorship (2:5).

I. His return (6:14).

J. His millennial reign.

"Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (6:15).