



The First Epistle To Timothy



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, Outlines, And Review Questions**

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The First Epistle To Timothy

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This study guide was developed in preparation for teaching adult Bible classes.

- ♦ The objectives for each section are usually things I plan to emphasize during the class.
- ♦ I have found that summarizing and outlining helps me to better understand the Word of God. It is a practice I highly recommend to others.
- ♦ I generally delete the answers to the review questions before printing the material and giving it to the students. But that you might know what answers were intended by the questions, I have included them in these guides.

These outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. They are included in **The Executable Outlines Series**, a collection my sermon outlines and Bible study materials. Visit the EO web site (exeout.com) to browse or download more material.

Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style. To God be the glory!

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The First Epistle To Timothy

Introduction

AUTHOR

The apostle **Paul**, as stated in the salutation (**1:1**). The internal evidence certainly supports Paul as the author, especially references to his earlier life (**1:13**), and the close relationship between the author and Timothy (**1:2**; cf. **Ph 2:22**). Early sources in church history that attribute this letter to Paul include: Eusebius (300 A.D.), Origen (250 A.D.), Clement of Alexandria (200 A.D.), Tertullian (200 A.D.), Irenaeus (200 A.D.), the Muratorian Fragment (180 A.D.). References to the epistle are also found in the writings of Theophilus of Antioch (180 A.D.), Justin Martyr (160 A.D.), Polycarp (135 A.D.), and Clement of Rome (90 A.D.).

RECIPIENT

Timothy, Paul's "true son in the faith" (**1:2,18**). We are first introduced to Timothy in **Ac 16:1-3**, where we learn that his mother was Jewish (cf. also **2 Ti 1:5; 3:14-15**) and his father Greek. Well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium, Paul desired that the young disciple travel with him and therefore had him circumcised to accommodate Jews they would seek to evangelize. This began a long relationship of service together in the work of the Lord, in which Timothy served Paul as a son would his father (**Ph 2:19-24**). Such service included not only traveling with Paul, but remaining with new congregations when Paul had to leave suddenly (**Ac 17:13-14**), going back to encourage such congregations (**1 Th 3:1-3**), and serving as Paul's personal emissary (**1 Co 16:10-11; Ph 2:19-24**). He had the honor of joining Paul in the salutation of several epistles written by Paul (**2 Co 1:1; Ph 1:1; Co 1:1; 1 Th 1:1; 2 Th 1:1**), and from such epistles we learn that Timothy had been with Paul during his imprisonment at Rome. Such faithful service helps us to appreciate why Paul would leave him in Ephesus (**1:3**)

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

Some commentators (such as Barnes) believe that Paul may have penned 1st Timothy after his extended stay at Ephesus and departure to Macedonia on his third missionary journey (cf. **Ac 19:1-41; 20:1-3**). This would place its composition around **58-59 A.D.**

The general consensus, though, is that Paul wrote this epistle from **Macedonia**, following his first imprisonment in Rome (cf. **Ac 28:16,30-31**). Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being arrested again and finally put to death by Nero. It is possible to conjecture from several references in his epistles that he went to places like Philippi (**Ph 1:26; 2:24**), Colosse (**Phile 22**), and even Spain (**Ro 15:24,28**). With more certainty his destinations included Ephesus (where he left Timothy, **1 Ti 1:3**), Macedonia (where he wrote 1st Timothy, **1 Ti 1:3**), Crete (where he left Titus, **Ti 1:5**), Miletus (**2 Ti 4:20**), Corinth (**2 Ti 4:20**), and a winter at Nicopolis (**2 Ti 4:20**). Any attempt to determine the exact order of these visits is pure speculation, however. If 1st Timothy was indeed written during this period, the date would be around **63-64 A.D.**

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

Paul had left Timothy behind at Ephesus with an awesome responsibility: to charge some not to teach anything contrary to the “sound doctrine” which was according to the “glorious gospel of the blessed God” (1:3-11). Fulfilling this charge was made difficult by Timothy’s youth and natural timidity (4:11-12; cf. 2 Ti 1:7-8). While Paul hoped to come himself, he writes Timothy to guide him in the meantime (1 Ti 3:14-15). Therefore, Paul writes:

- ♦ To instruct Timothy on how to conduct himself while administering the affairs of the church (3:14-15)
- ♦ To encourage Timothy by providing counsel concerning his own spiritual progress (4:12-16)

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

This letter is addressed to a young evangelist charged with the responsibility of working with a congregation and guiding them in the right way. Everything that is written is designed to aid both him and the congregation in doctrine and conduct. An appropriate theme for this epistle might therefore be:

“SOUND DOCTRINE FOR A CONGREGATION AND ITS PREACHER”

KEY VERSES: 1 Timothy 3:14-15

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

I. CHARGE CONCERNING SOUND DOCTRINE (1:3-20)

A. TEACHING SOUND DOCTRINE (1:3-11)

B. THANKSGIVING FOR THE LORD’S GRACE AND MERCY (1:12-17)

C. TIMOTHY’S RESPONSIBILITY (1:18-20)

II. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE CHURCH (2:1-3:13)

A. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER (2:1-8)

B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOMEN (2:9-15)

C. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS (3:1-13)

1. For bishops (3:1-7)
2. For deacons (3:8-13)

III. ADVICE TO TIMOTHY (3:14-6:19)

A. PAUL'S PURPOSE IN WRITING (3:14-16)

B. REMEMBER THE SPIRIT'S WARNING OF APOSTASY (4:1-6)

C. EXERCISE YOURSELF UNTO GODLINESS (4:7-16)

IV. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH (5:1-6:19)

A. MAINTAIN PROPER RELATIONSHIPS (5:1-2)

B. CONCERNING WIDOWS (5:3-16)

C. CONCERNING ELDERS (5:17-25)

D. CONCERNING SERVANTS (6:1-2)

E. CONCERNING TEACHERS MOTIVATED BY GREED (6:3-10)

F. CONCERNING THE MAN OF GOD HIMSELF (6:11-16)

G. CONCERNING THE RICH (6:17-19)

CONCLUDING CHARGE TO TIMOTHY (6:20-21)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

- 1) **Where do we first read about Timothy?**
- Acts 16:1-3
- 2) **What was the name of his grandmother and mother? (2 Ti 1:5)**
- Lois (grandmother)
- Eunice (mother)
- 3) **How did Paul affectionately regard Timothy? (1:2)**
- As his true son in the faith
- 4) **Where was Timothy when Paul wrote this epistle? (1:3)**

- Ephesus

- 5) What is the general consensus for the time and place that Paul wrote this letter?**
 - After his first Roman imprisonment, sometime around 63-64 A.D.
 - While in Macedonia, shortly after leaving Ephesus

- 6) What twofold purpose does Paul have in writing this epistle?**
 - To instruct Timothy on how to conduct himself while administering the affairs of the church
 - To encourage Timothy by providing counsel concerning his own spiritual progress

- 7) What is the theme of this epistle, as suggested in the introductory material?**
 - Sound doctrine for a congregation and its preacher

- 8) What are the key verses?**
 - 1 Ti 3:14-15

- 9) According to the outline proposed above, what are the main points of this epistle?**
 - Charge concerning sound doctrine
 - General instructions concerning the church
 - Advice to Timothy
 - Instructions concerning members of the church

The First Epistle To Timothy

Chapter One

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To notice two different kinds of teaching: one that gives rise to disputes, and the other which produces godly edification in faith
- 2) To consider what ought to be the goal of all teaching: love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith
- 3) To appreciate the example of Paul's conversion in how longsuffering Christ is to those who believe on Him

SUMMARY

Paul begins this epistle by urging his "true son in the faith" to remain in Ephesus and charge some not to teach other doctrines, nor give heed to fables and genealogies that cause disputes rather than godly edification in faith. The goal of this commandment is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith, from which some have strayed and turned to idle talk in their desire to be teachers of the law. While the law is good when used properly, it is not designed for the righteous person, but for those whose conduct is contrary to "sound doctrine" which is according to the gospel of God committed to Paul's trust (**1-11**).

Speaking of what was committed to Paul's trust sparks an expression of thanksgiving and praise to Christ for counting him faithful and enabling him to be of service. His gratitude is heightened by remembering what he had been prior to receiving the grace and mercy of the Lord. But Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom Paul was chief, and in him Christ shows an example of His longsuffering to those who believe on Him for everlasting life (**12-17**).

Paul then charges Timothy to carry out his responsibility in keeping with prophecies made concerning him. The charge is to "wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience". He is reminded of two men, Hymenaeus and Alexander, who have rejected such things. As a result they had suffered shipwreck concerning the faith and had been turned over to Satan by Paul that they might learn not to blaspheme (**18-20**).

OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION (1-2)

A. THE AUTHOR (1)

1. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (**1a**)
2. By the commandment of God our Savior and Jesus Christ our hope (**1b**)

B. THE RECIPIENT (2)

1. Timothy (2a)
2. Paul's true son in the faith (2b)

C. GREETINGS (2c)

1. Grace, mercy, and peace
2. From God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord

II. TEACHING SOUND DOCTRINE (3-11)

A. PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY (3-7)

1. Remain in Ephesus and charge some... (3a)
 - a. To teach no other doctrine (3b)
 - b. Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies (4a)
 - 1) Which cause disputes (4b)
 - 2) Rather than godly edification which is in faith (4c)
2. The purpose of the commandment is... (5a)
 - a. Love from a pure heart (5b)
 - b. A good conscience (5c)
 - c. Sincere faith (5d)
3. For some have strayed... (6a)
 - a. Having turned aside to idle talk (6b)
 - b. Desiring to be teachers of the law (7a)
 - 1) Not understanding what they say (7b)
 - 2) Nor the things they affirm (7c)

B. THE PROPER USE OF THE LAW (8-11)

1. It is good if one uses it lawfully (8)
2. The law is not made for the righteous (9a)
 - a. But for all sorts of sinners (9b-10a)
 - b. And anything else that is contrary to sound doctrine (10b)
 - 1) According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God (11a)
 - 2) Which was committed to Paul's trust (11b)

III. THANKSGIVING FOR THE LORD'S GRACE AND MERCY (12-17)

A. THANKFUL TO CHRIST JESUS (12-14)

1. For enabling him (12a)
 - a. Because He counted him faithful (12b)
 - b. Putting him into the ministry (12c)
2. Though he had formerly been... (13a)
 - a. A blasphemer (13b)
 - b. A persecutor (13c)
 - c. An insolent man (13d)
...but he obtained mercy because he did it ignorantly in unbelief (13e)

3. The grace of the Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love in Christ Jesus (14)

B. THE MERCY SHOWN TO HIM IS A PATTERN FOR OTHERS (15-17)

1. Christ came to save sinners, and Paul was one of the worst (15)
2. But he received mercy, that Christ might demonstrate His longsuffering to others who believe on Him for everlasting life (16)
3. Paul desires that honor and glory be given forever and ever... (17c)
 - a. To the King eternal, immortal, invisible (17a)
 - b. To God who alone is wise (17b)

IV. TIMOTHY'S RESPONSIBILITY (18-20)

A. TO WAGE THE GOOD WARFARE (18)

1. This is the charge Paul commits to his son Timothy (18a)
2. In accordance to prophecies made concerning him (18b)

B. TO HAVE FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE (19-20)

1. Which some have rejected, and concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck (19)
2. Such as Hymenaeus and Alexander (20a)
 - a. Whom Paul delivered to Satan (20b)
 - b. That they may learn not to blaspheme (20c)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Introduction (1-2)
- Teaching sound doctrine (3-11)
- Thanksgiving for the Lord's grace and mercy (12-17)
- Timothy's responsibility (18-20)

2) How does Paul describe Timothy in his salutation? (2)

- My true son in the faith

3) Where did Paul want Timothy to remain? (3)

- Ephesus

4) What two things did he want Timothy to charge some? (3-4)

- To teach no other doctrine
- Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies

5) Paul's concern is that such teachings would cause disputes rather than what? (4)

- Godly edification which is in faith

6) What was the threefold purpose of this commandment? (5)

- Love from a pure heart

- A good conscience
- A sincere faith

7) What had some turned aside to? Why? (6-7)

- Idle talk
- Because they desired to be teachers of the law

8) When is the law good? Who is the law not made for? (8-9)

- When it is used lawfully
- The righteous person

9) When is something considered “sound doctrine”? (10-11)

- When it is according to “the glorious gospel of the blessed God”

10) Why did Paul thank Christ Jesus? (12)

- Because He enabled him, counting him faithful, and put him into the ministry

11) What had Paul been formerly? Why did he obtain mercy? (13)

- A blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man
- Because he did it ignorantly in unbelief

12) What is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance? (15)

- That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

13) How did Paul view himself? (15)

- As chief of sinners

14) Why did Paul obtain mercy, and Christ show all longsuffering toward him? (16)

- As a pattern to those who believe on Him for everlasting life

15) To whom does Paul ascribe honor and glory? (17)

- To the King eternal, immortal, invisible
- To God who alone is wise

16) What charge does Paul commit to Timothy? What does it involve having? (18-19)

- Wage the good warfare
- Faith and a good conscience

17) Who had made shipwreck concerning the faith? What had Paul done in response? Why? (19-20)

- Hymenaeus and Alexander
- Delivered them to Satan
- That they may learn not to blaspheme

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Chapter Two

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To appreciate the importance and place of prayer, especially in the lives of men
- 2) To notice God's desire for the salvation of all men, therefore offering Christ as a ransom for all, not just a select few
- 3) To understand the proper adornment of women, and their place in the public teaching of the church

SUMMARY

Having reminded Timothy of his charge to remain in Ephesus and “wage the good warfare”, Paul now begins instructing Timothy in matters that involve the church. He starts with a call to prayer, defining for whom and why we should pray. His desire is that men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting (1-8).

Just as men are to pray everywhere, so women are to adorn themselves properly. This involves modest apparel worn with propriety and moderation, but it also includes good works, as is proper for women professing godliness. Also proper is women learning in silence (translated peaceable in verse 2) with all submission. Therefore a woman is not permitted to teach or have authority over a man. Basing this restriction on the relationship of Adam, Eve, and the fall, Paul reminds them they can be saved in their natural role of childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control (9-15).

OUTLINE

I. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER (1-8)

A. THE SCOPE OF PRAYER (1-7)

1. Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks are to be made for all (1)
 - a. For kings and all who are in authority (2a)
 - b. That we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence (2b)
2. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior (3)
 - a. Who desires all men to be saved and know the truth (4)
 - b. For there is one Mediator between God and men (5a)
 - 1) The Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all (5b-6a)
 - 2) To be testified in due time, for which Paul was appointed a preacher and an apostle (6b-7a)
 - a) Paul speaks the truth in Christ and is not lying (7b)
 - b) A teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth (7c)

B. A CALL TO PRAYER (8)

1. For men to pray everywhere (8a)
2. Lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (8b)

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOMEN (9-15)

A. THEIR ADORNMENT (9-10)

1. With modest apparel (9a)
 - a. With propriety and moderation (9b)
 - b. Not with braided hair, gold, pearls, or costly clothing (9c)
2. With good works, which is proper for women professing godliness (10)

B. THEIR SUBMISSION (11-15)

1. To learn in silence with all submission (11)
2. Not permitted to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence (12)
 - a. For Adam was formed first, then Eve (13)
 - b. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression (14)
3. A woman will be saved in childbearing if they continue in...
 - a. Faith
 - b. Love
 - c. Holiness
 - With self-control (15)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- The practice of prayer (1-8)
- Instructions for women (9-15)

2) What four things does Paul exhort be made for all men? (1)

- Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks

3) Who else are we to pray for? Why? (2)

- Kings and all who are in authority
- That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence

4) What does God desire for all men? (4)

- That they be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth

5) Who is the one mediator between God and men? (5)

- The Man Christ Jesus

6) For whom did Jesus give Himself as a ransom? (6)

- For all

7) What did Paul desire that men do? (8)

- Pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting

8) How are women to adorn themselves? (9-10)

- In modest apparel, with propriety and moderation

- Not with braided hair, gold, pearls, or costly clothing

- With good works, as is proper for women professing godliness

9) How were the women to learn? (11)

- In silence (peaceable, cf. 2:3), with all submission

10) What did Paul not permit a woman to do? (12)

- To teach or have authority over a man

11) What two reasons does Paul give for these limitations on women? (13-14)

- Adam was formed first, then Eve

- Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression

12) What are the women encouraged to continue in? (15)

- Faith, love, holiness, with self-control

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Chapter Three

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To examine the qualifications necessary for bishops and deacons
- 2) To appreciate the noble view that Paul has of the church

SUMMARY

In this chapter we find the qualifications necessary for those who would serve as bishops in the local congregation (**1-7**). A similar list is included for those who would be deacons (**8-13**).

Paul then explains the purpose in writing this epistle. Though hoping to come soon, he writes so that Timothy will be well-instructed on how to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church, the pillar and ground of the truth (**14-15**). Mention of “the truth” prompts a summation of “the mystery of godliness” which pertains to the coming of Christ into the world (**16**).

OUTLINE

I. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BISHOPS (1-7)

A. THE NATURE OF THE WORK (1)

1. It is a position, or office (**1a**)
2. It is a good work for a man to desire (**1b**)

B. WHAT A BISHOP MUST BE (2-7)

1. Positive qualifications
 - a. Blameless (**2a**)
 - b. The husband of one wife (**2b**)
 - c. Temperate (**2c**)
 - d. Sober-minded (**2d**)
 - e. Of good behavior (**2e**)
 - f. Hospitable (**2f**)
 - g. Able to teach (**2g**)
 - h. Gentle (**3d**)
 - i. One who rules his own house well (**4a**)
 - 1) Having his children in submission with all reverence (**4b**)
 - 2) For if he can't rule his own house, how will he take care of the church? (**5**)
 - j. A good testimony among those outside (**7a**)
 - 1) Lest he fall into reproach (**7b**)
 - 2) And into the snare of the devil (**7c**)

2. Negative qualifications
 - a. Not given to wine (**3a**)
 - b. Not violent (**3b**)
 - c. Not greedy for money (**3c**)
 - d. Not quarrelsome (**3e**)
 - e. Not covetous (**3f**)
 - f. Not a novice (**6a**)
 - 1) Lest he be puffed up with pride (**6b**)
 - 2) And fall into the same condemnation as the devil (**6c**)

II. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS (8-13)

A. WHAT A DEACON MUST BE (8-12)

1. Positive qualifications
 - a. Reverent (**8a**)
 - b. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience (**9**)
 - c. Proven (**10a**)
 - d. Found blameless (**10b**)
 - e. The husband of one wife (**12a**)
 - f. Ruling his children and house well (**12b**)
2. Negative qualifications
 - a. Not double-tongued (**8b**)
 - b. Not given to much wine (**8c**)
 - c. Not greedy for money (**8d**)
3. Their wives
 - a. Reverent (**11a**)
 - b. Not slanderers (**11b**)
 - c. Temperate (**11c**)
 - d. Faithful in all things (**11d**)

B. THE HONOR OF THEIR WORK (13)

1. Those who serve well obtain a good standing (**13a**)
2. Also great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus (**13b**)

III. PAUL'S PURPOSE IN WRITING (14-16)

A. WHY PAUL IS WRITING THIS EPISTLE (14-15)

1. He hopes to come shortly, but writes in case he is delayed (**14-15a**)
2. That Timothy might know how to conduct himself in the house of God (**15b**)
 - a. Which is the church of the living God (**15c**)
 - b. Which is the pillar and ground of the truth (**15d**)

B. THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS (16)

1. Without controversy, it is great (**16a**)
2. In summation, its key elements are these: God was...
 - a. Manifested in the flesh (**16b**)
 - b. Justified in the Spirit (**16c**)
 - c. Seen by angels (**16d**)

- d. Preached among the Gentiles (16e)
- e. Believed on in the world (16f)
- f. Received up in glory (16g)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- The qualifications for bishops (1-7)
- The qualifications for deacons (8-13)
- Paul's purpose in writing (14-16)

2) How does Paul describe the position of a bishop? (1)

- As a good work

3) What are the positive qualifications required for a bishop? (2-7)

- Blameless, husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, ruling his own house well, a good testimony among those outside

4) What are the negative qualifications required for a bishop? (2-7)

- Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, not quarrelsome, not covetous, not a novice

5) What are the positive qualifications required for a deacon? (8-12)

- Reverent, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience, proven, found blameless, the husband of one wife, ruling his children and house well

6) What are the negative qualifications required for a deacon? (8-12)

- Not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money

7) What are the qualifications for the wives of deacons? (11)

- Reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things

8) What is said of those deacons who have served well? (13)

- They obtain a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus

9) Why did Paul write this epistle? (14-15)

- So that in case his coming was delayed, Timothy would know how to conduct himself

10) What does Paul call the house of God? (15)

- The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth

11) What are the basic facts of the mystery of godliness? (16)

- God was manifested in the flesh
- Justified in the Spirit
- Seen by angels
- Preached among the Gentiles
- Believed on in the world
- Received up in glory

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Chapter Four

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To learn what we can about the apostasy foretold by the Spirit
- 2) To see what sort of things will make one a good minister of Jesus Christ

SUMMARY

Paul begins this chapter with describing how the Spirit has revealed that in latter times there would be an apostasy in which some would depart from the faith. This falling away would come about as people gave heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, leading to their speaking lies in hypocrisy and searing their consciences as with a hot iron. Examples of their false doctrines are given: forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from certain foods. Regarding the latter, Paul makes it clear that all foods are acceptable if they be received with thanksgiving, for they are sanctified by the word of God and prayer (**1-5**).

In the last half of this chapter, we find Paul instructing Timothy on how he can be a good minister of Jesus Christ. By instructing the brethren in matters pertaining to sound doctrine, he will also be nourished himself. But he should also be careful to avoid foolish fables, and rather exercise himself to godliness, which is of more enduring value than bodily exercise (**6-10**).

Though Timothy is young, he should not let anyone despise him for his youth. Instead he must demonstrate the proper example of how a believer should speak and live. With further instruction as to what things to give attention, Paul encourages Timothy that by following these admonitions his progress will be evident to all, and he will save both himself and those who hear him (**11-16**).

OUTLINE

I. THE COMING APOSTASY (1-5)

A. HE DEPARTURE FORETOLD (1-2)

1. Foretold expressly by the Spirit (**1a**)
2. In latter times some will depart from the faith (**1b-2**)
 - a. Giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (**1b**)
 - b. Speaking lies in hypocrisy (**2a**)
 - c. Having consciences seared with a hot iron (**2b**)

B. THE DEPARTURE DESCRIBED (3-5)

1. Some will forbid to marry (**3a**)
2. Some will command abstention from certain foods (**3b**)

- a. Which God created to be received with thanksgiving (3c)
- b. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused (4a)
 - 1) If it is received with thanksgiving (4b)
 - 2) For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer (5)

II. A GOOD SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST (6-16)

A. IN REGARDS TO DOCTRINE (6-7a)

1. Instruct the brethren in regards to such things as the apostasy (6a)
2. You will be a good minister of Jesus Christ (6b)
3. You will be nourished in the words of faith and good doctrine (6c)
4. But reject profane and old wives' fables (7a)

B. IN REGARDS TO GODLINESS (7b-10)

1. Exercise yourself to godliness, for bodily exercise profits a little (7b-8a)
2. But godliness is profitable for all things, having promise...
 - a. Of the life that now is (8b)
 - b. And of that which is to come (8c)
3. Such is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance (9)
4. And to this end we labor and suffer reproach (10a)
 - a. Because we trust in the living God (10b)
 - b. Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe (10c)

C. COUNSEL FOR A YOUNG PREACHER (11-16)

1. Command and teach such things as previously described (11)
2. Let no one despise your youth (12a)
3. Be an example to the believers (12b)
 - a. In word, in conduct, in love
 - b. In spirit, in faith, in purity
4. Give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine (13)
5. Do not neglect the gift in you (14a)
 - a. Given by prophecy (14b)
 - b. With the laying on of hands of the presbytery (14c)
6. In order that your progress may be evident to all...
 - a. Meditate on these things (15a)
 - b. Give yourself entirely to them (15b)
7. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine (16a)
 - a. Continue in them (16b)
 - b. In doing this, you will save both yourself and those who hear you (16b)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- The coming apostasy (1-5)
- A good servant of Jesus Christ (6-16)

- 2) What did the Spirit reveal would happen in latter times? (1)**
 - Some will depart from the faith
- 3) What would such people give heed to? (1)**
 - Deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons
- 4) What would they speak? Why? (2)**
 - Lies in hypocrisy; their consciences would be seared, as with a hot iron
- 5) List two examples of the sort of doctrines they would teach (3)**
 - Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from certain foods
- 6) What foods are acceptable for Christians to eat? What makes them acceptable? (4-5)**
 - Nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving
 - They are sanctified by the word of God and prayer
- 7) What would ensure that Timothy would be a good minister of Jesus Christ? (6)**
 - If he instructed the brethren in these matters
- 8) As a good minister, in what would he be nourished? (6)**
 - In the words of faith and of the good doctrine which he has carefully followed
- 9) What was Timothy to reject? Unto what was he to exercise himself? (7)**
 - Profane and old wives' fables; godliness
- 10) What is the value of godliness? (8)**
 - It has promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come
- 11) What was Timothy not to let anyone despise? (12)**
 - His youth
- 12) In what areas was Timothy to be an example to the believers? (12)**
 - In word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity
- 13) To what three things was Timothy to give attention? (13)**
 - Reading, exhortation, and doctrine
- 14) What was Timothy not to neglect? How was it given to him? (14)**
 - The gift that was in him; by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (elders)
- 15) How could Timothy ensure that his progress would be evident to all? (15)**
 - By meditating on these things, and giving himself entirely to them
- 16) How could Timothy save both himself and those who heard him? (16)**
 - By taking heed to himself and to the doctrine, and continuing in them

The First Epistle To Timothy

Chapter Five

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To appreciate the responsibility we have toward our families, especially widows
- 2) To consider under what circumstances widows may be “taken into the number”
- 3) To note the distinction between the work of the church, and the responsibility of individual Christians
- 4) To review our responsibilities toward those who serve as elders

SUMMARY

This chapter contains Paul’s instructions to Timothy regarding various members of the congregation. He starts with the members in general, counseling Timothy to consider them as family, and exhorting them accordingly (**1-2**). A major section is then devoted to the care of widows, in which some may be “taken into the number”. What this phrase refers to is unclear, but it may involve congregational support on a long-term basis. Only those who are truly widows (as defined in **verse 5**) and who meet certain qualifications (listed in **verse 9-10**) are to be so honored. Younger widows are expected to remarry and have children, while widows with children and grandchildren are to be supported by their own family rather than burden the church (**3-16**).

Several remarks are then made regarding elders (not just older Christians, but those serving as overseers). Elders who rule well are to be worthy of financial support, especially if they are laboring in the word and doctrine. Accusations against an elder are not to be taken seriously unless there be two or three witnesses. Those elders who are sinning need to be publicly rebuked so that the rest may fear (**17-20**).

Paul then gives Timothy a solemn charge to be free from prejudice and partiality as he goes about his duties. He is also to be cautious about those he may commend, being careful to keep himself pure from others’ sins. The chapter concludes with advice for treating Timothy’s stomach ailment, and a reminder that both sins and good works will eventually become evident (**21-25**).

OUTLINE

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE MEMBERS (1-20)

A. EXHORTING THE MEMBERS (1-2)

1. Older men as fathers, younger men as brothers (**1**)
2. Older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity (**2**)

B. HONORING WIDOWS (3-16)

1. Honor those who are truly widows (3)
2. Widows with children or grandchildren should be taken care of by them (4)
 - a. That they may learn to show piety at home and repay their parents
 - b. This is good and acceptable before God
3. Contrast between a true widow and one who is not (5-6)
 - a. A true widow (5)
 - 1) One who is left alone (5a)
 - 2) One who trusts in God (5b)
 - 3) One who continues in supplications night and day (5c)
 - b. The one who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives (6)
4. Command these things that people may be blameless (7)
5. One who does not provide for his own, especially his household... (8)
 - a. Has denied the faith
 - b. Is worse than an unbeliever
6. Regarding the church support of widows (9-16)
 - a. Qualifications for those who can be taken into the number (9-10)
 - 1) Not under sixty years of age
 - 2) The wife of one man
 - 3) Well reported for good works
 - 4) Has brought up children
 - 5) Has lodged strangers
 - 6) Has washed the saints' feet
 - 7) Has relieved the afflicted
 - 8) Has diligently followed every good work
 - b. Reasons to reject younger widows (11-13)
 - 1) When they begin to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry
 - 2) Casting off their first faith, they have condemnation
 - 3) They learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house as busybodies and gossips
 - c. Counsel for younger widows (14-15)
 - 1) To marry, bear children, manage the house
 - 2) To give no opportunity for the adversary to speak reproachfully
 - 3) For some have already have turned aside after Satan
 - d. Those widows with believing children (16)
 - 1) The children should relieve them
 - 2) Do not burden the church, that it may relieve those who are truly widows

C. TREATMENT OF ELDERS (17-20)

1. Those who rule well (17-18)
 - a. They are counted worthy of double honor
 - b. Especially those who labor in word and doctrine
 - c. Scriptural basis for supporting elders:
 - 1) "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain"
 - 2) "The laborer is worthy of his wages"

2. Those who don't rule well (19-20)
 - a. Don't receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses (19)
 - b. Elders who are sinning (20)
 - 1) Should be rebuked in the presence of all
 - 2) So that the rest may fear

II. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS RELATED TO TIMOTHY (21-25)

A. THE CHARGE GIVEN HIM BY PAUL (21)

1. Given before God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels
2. To observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing without partiality

B. WARNINGS AGAINST HASTY RECOMMENDATIONS (22)

1. Don't lay hands hastily on anyone
2. Don't share in other people's sins
3. Keep yourself pure

C. COUNSEL FOR ALLEVIATING HIS STOMACH PROBLEMS (23)

1. No longer drink only water
2. Use a little wine for the sake of the stomach and frequent infirmities

D. REMINDER CONCERNING SIN AND GOOD WORKS (24-25)

1. Some sins are clearly evident, others we learn after the judgment (24)
2. The same is true regarding good works (25)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Instructions concerning the members (1-20)
 - Further instructions related to Timothy (21-25)
- 2) **How was Timothy to exhort the members of the congregation? (1-2)**
 - The older men as fathers, the younger women as brothers, the older women as mothers, the younger women as sisters, in all purity
- 3) **Why are widows with children or grandchildren to be taken care of by them? (4)**
 - So that the children may learn to show piety at home and repay their parents
 - For this is good and acceptable before God
- 4) **Who is truly a widow? (5)**
 - One left alone, who trusts in God, and prays night and day
- 5) **What is said of one who will not provide for his own family? (8)**
 - He has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever

- 6) List the qualifications for a widow to be “taken into the number” (9-10)**
- At least sixty years old
 - The wife of one man
 - Well reported for good works
 - Has brought up children
 - Has lodged strangers
 - Has washed the saints’ feet
 - Has relieved the afflicted
 - Has diligently followed every good work
- 7) What are the younger widows to do? Why? (14)**
- Marry, bear children, manage the house
 - To give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully
- 8) What two groups of widows are NOT to be “taken into the number”? (14,16)**
- Younger widows
 - Widows with believing children who can provide for them
- 9) How should elders who rule well be considered, especially if they labor in word and doctrine? (17)**
- Counted worthy of double honor
- 10) What basis does Paul give for compensating elders? (18)**
- The Old Testament scriptures (**Deu 25:4**)
 - The sayings of Jesus (**Lk 10:7**)
- 11) What is necessary to receive an accusation against an elder? (19)**
- Two or three witnesses
- 12) What should be done with elders who are sinning? (20)**
- Rebuke them in the presence of all, that the rest may fear
- 13) What serious charge was given to Timothy before God, the Lord, and the elect angels? (21)**
- To observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality
- 14) What words of caution does Paul give Timothy? (22)**
- Don’t lay hands on anyone hastily
 - Don’t share in other people’s sins
 - Keep yourself pure
- 15) What advice does Paul give Timothy for his stomach ailments? (23)**
- No longer drink only water
 - But use a little wine
- 16) What is true in regards to both sin and good works? (24-25)**
- Some are clearly evident, and some will not be known until after the judgment day

The First Epistle To Timothy

Chapter Six

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To note the warnings about being obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, wranglings of men, etc.
- 2) To appreciate the counsel given to those who desire to be rich, and to those who are rich
- 3) To consider what the man of God is expected to flee and to pursue

SUMMARY

This final chapter begins with instructions concerning servants and their duties toward their masters, especially toward those masters who believe (1-2). A description then follows of those who might teach otherwise and not consent to the wholesome words of our Lord and His doctrine which is according to godliness (3-5). Mentioning the value of godliness when accompanied by contentment, Paul warns of the need to be content with food and clothing, and the danger facing those who desire to be rich (6-10).

Timothy is then charged to flee such things and to pursue things becoming a man of God. He is encouraged to fight the good fight of faith, and to lay hold on eternal life. He is then solemnly urged by Paul to keep the commandment without spot and blameless until our Lord's appearing, whom Paul describes in the most amazing terms (11-16).

The epistle ends with instructions for Christians who are rich in this world, and with an impassioned plea for Timothy to guard what was committed to his trust, avoiding profane and vain babbling over false doctrine which has led others away from the faith (17-21).

OUTLINE

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING SERVANTS (1-2)

A. HOW THEY SHOULD REGARD THEIR MASTERS (1)

1. As worthy of all honor (1a)
2. So that God and His doctrine might not be blasphemed (1b)

B. HOW THEY SHOULD REGARD BELIEVING MASTERS (2)

1. Not to be despised because they are brethren (2a)
2. But to serve them, remembering that those who are benefited are believers and beloved (2b)

II. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING TEACHERS MOTIVATED BY GREED (3-10)**A. SUCH TEACHERS DESCRIBED (3-5)**

1. Anyone who does not consent to the wholesome words of our Lord, and to the doctrine according to godliness (3)
2. He is proud, knowing nothing (4a)
3. He is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words (4b)
 - a. From which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions (4c)
 - b. From which come useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth (5a)
4. Who supposes that godliness is a means of gain (5b)

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTENTMENT (6-8)

1. Godliness with contentment is great gain (6)
 - a. For we brought nothing into this world (7a)
 - b. And it is certain we can carry nothing out (7b)
2. Thus we should be content with food and clothing (8)

C. THE DANGERS FACING THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BE RICH (9-10)

1. Those who desire to be rich fall...
 - a. Into temptation and a snare (9a)
 - b. Into many foolish and harmful lusts (9b)
 ...which drown men in destruction and perdition (9c)
2. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (10a)
 - a. For which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness (10b)
 - b. And have pierced themselves with many sorrows (10c)

III. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE MAN OF GOD HIMSELF (11-16)**A. GENERAL EXHORTATIONS (11-12)**

1. Flee the things described before, such as the desire to be rich (11a)
2. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love patience, gentleness (11b)
3. Fight the good fight of faith (12a)
4. Lay hold on eternal life (12b)
 - a. To which you were called (12c)
 - b. To which you have confessed the good confession in the presence of many (12d)

B. A SOLEMN CHARGE (13-16)

1. Urged by Paul in the sight of...
 - a. God, who gives life to all things (13a)
 - b. Jesus Christ, who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate (13b)
2. To keep the commandment without spot, blameless until the Lord's appearing (14)
 - a. Which He will manifest in His own time (15a)
 - b. Who is then described as:
 - 1) The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords (15b)
 - 2) He who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no

man has seen or can see (16a)

c. To whom be honor and everlasting power (16b)

IV. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE RICH (17-19)

A. WHAT TO COMMAND THEM (17)

1. Not to be haughty, nor trust in uncertain riches (17a)
2. But to trust in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy (17b)

B. WHAT TO ENCOURAGE THEM (18-19)

1. To do good, to be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share (18)
2. Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life (19)

V. CONCLUDING CHARGE TO TIMOTHY (20-21)

A. A FERVENT PLEA TO TIMOTHY (20-21a)

1. To guard what was committed to his trust (20a)
2. To avoid the profane and vain babbling and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge (20b)
3. For by professing such, some have strayed concerning the faith (21a)

B. A FINAL BENEDICTION: “GRACE BE WITH YOU. AMEN” (21b)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Instructions concerning servants (1-2)
- Instructions concerning teachers motivated by greed (3-10)
- Instructions concerning the man of God himself (11-16)
- Instructions concerning the rich (17-19)
- Concluding charge to Timothy (20-21)

2) How were servants to consider their masters? Why? (1)

- As worthy of all honor
- That the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed

3) What were the servants who had believing masters cautioned against doing? (2)

- Despising them because they are brethren

4) How is one described who does not consent to the words of our Lord, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness? (3-4)

- Proud, knowing nothing, obsessed with disputes and arguments over words

- 5) What is of great gain? (6)**
 - Godliness with contentment

- 6) With what should we be content? (8)**
 - Having food and clothing

- 7) What happens to those who desire to be rich? (9)**
 - They fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts

- 8) What is a root of all kinds of evil? (10)**
 - The love of money

- 9) What have some done in their greediness? (10)**
 - Strayed from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

- 10) What is the man of God to pursue? (11)**
 - Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness

- 11) What is the man of God to fight, and to lay hold of? (12)**
 - He is to fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life

- 12) What did Paul urge Timothy to do? (13-14)**
 - To keep the commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord's appearing

- 13) How does Paul describe our Lord Jesus Christ? (15-16)**
 - The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords
 - Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light

- 14) What was Timothy to command the rich? (17-19)**
 - Not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God
 - To do good, to be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share
 - To store up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life

- 15) What was Timothy to avoid? Why? (20-21)**
 - Profane and vain babbling and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge
 - By professing such things, some have strayed concerning the faith

- 16) What was Paul's final benediction to Timothy in this letter? (21)**
 - Grace be with you