

Study Guide

Atlanta Belvedere SDA Church

AUTHOR/PRESENTER
DR. SAMUEL U. BULGIN

1st Timothy

BLUEPRINTS FOR THE CHURCH



... I am writing these things to you so that... you may know
how one ought to behave in the household of God...
1 Timothy 3:14-15

PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS



INTRODUCTION

This letter or Epistle is one of the three pastoral epistles (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus). It contains instructions and admonitions concerning the work of the Christian leader in the churches. It along with the others might be considered a leader's manual outlining leadership principles for all leaders. Accordingly, leaders should be purposeful, possess leadership qualities, or potential, be patient in practical ways and participate in a collaborative leadership style.

While the letter is addressed to Timothy, the principles apply to members as well. Throughout the book we will find pertinent sayings and instructions for the church. It offers teachings on practical morality, and wise counsel to aid church members to stay in the path of historic Christianity.

THEME

Timothy's role in preserving the true faith and life of the church from false teachings and way of life of heretical teachers. God's role should not be overlooked in this. He is the One who develops leaders who in turn develop other leaders.

False Teaching and Its Refutation

While it is difficult to identify the specific false teaching; there are some observable characteristics:

- Emphasis on myths and genealogies (1:4; 4:7).
 - They seem to be advanced by Jewish individuals – “the circumcision party”.
 - Speculations (1:4).
 - Vain discussion (1:6).
 - Controversies by those who desire to be teachers of the law (1:6-7).
- Salvation by knowledge.

- They stressed knowledge at the expense of faith and moral obedience (6:20).
- The role of Christ (2:5).
- The goodness of the created order and its free use by man (4:4).
- Sin as the root of man's predicament not his entanglement in evil matters (1:8-11; 4:7-8; 6:18).
- The future coming of Jesus to judge the living and the dead (6:14-15).
- The practice of magic through demonic power.
 - Like Pharaoh's magicians, the heretics sought to show their superior powers and attract allegiance to their heresy through demonic power (4:1).
 - Gnosticism combined Jewish and Greek concepts into a system of impressive proportions. The soul is good, and matter is evil hence the soul is imprisoned in the evil matter.
 - God's good provision of marriage, food, drink, were forbidden (4:3; 5:23).

AUTHORSHIP AND DATE

Paul was the author as is clearly stated in the book both directly and indirectly. It may have been written from Rome at the close of his imprisonment there as mentioned in Acts 28:30-31.

The Value of Timothy

It is a handbook on church administration and discipline. It contains valuable information on:

- Loyalty to the truth and the preservation of a good conscience (1:5, 19; 3:9) instead of giving into attractive, erroneous novelties which gratify the senses.
- The spiritual and moral requirements for church officials. Guidelines such as if a man cannot order his own household how will he care for God's church (3:5).

- The Christian leader is to be an example to those he leads (1:6; 4:12-16).
- God created order is good and man should enjoy it (4:3-5).
- Leaders must live by a higher standard than those they lead.
- Leaders must be mentored one on one.
- Leaders must value diversity and confront deviancy.
- Leaders must develop more leaders.
- Leaders must recognize the value of influence. A teacher's behavior will directly affect his influence.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
 - a. Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the royal command of God.
 - b. Christ Jesus is our hope (Psa. 43:5; Col. 1:27; 1 John 3:2-3). We find in Jesus the hope of moral victory and self-conquest, victory over circumstances and victory over death.

Timothy My Son

- A child of a mixed marriage, his mother Jewish, father Greek (Acts 16:1).
- Paul's constant companion (Acts 19:22). Sent as Paul's ambassador to Macedonia.
- Took the collection to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4).
- At Corinth when Paul sent him to Thessalonica, and he was with Paul when Paul wrote his letter to that church (1 Thess. 1:1; 3:2, 6).
- He was there when Paul wrote Philippians (Phil. 1:1; 2:19).
- When he wrote Colossians (Col. 1:1).
- Timothy was the man Paul could trust.

Grace and Mercy and Peace

Grace

1. Outward grace or favor, beauty, winsomeness, sweetness.
2. Generosity – something unearned and undeserved (Rom. 4:4). It is opposed to work (Rom. 11:6).
3. Sheer universality (1 Cor. 1:4; 2 Cor. 8:1; Gal. 1:6; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; Gal. 1:15; Rom. 15:15). Grace is a lovely thing, a free thing, a universal thing.

Peace – a comprehensive form of wellbeing.

Mercy – in Old Testament its lovingkindness. It has the meaning of ‘help in time of need’, “God’s active intervention to help”. “True coming down of the Most High to help”.

BODY (1:3-6:19)

1. Paul, the model of sound teaching and living and Timothy, his true disciple versus the false teachers and their message. (1:3-20).

Error and Heresy (1:3-7)

- Idle tales.
- Endless genealogies.
- Gnostics and Gnosticism.
- Gnosticism has moral and ethical consequences.
 - If matter is evil, the body is evil and the body must be despised and held down (4:3-4).

The Mind of the Heretic

- Driven by the desire for novelty.
- Exalts the mind at the expense of the heart.
- He deals in arguments instead of action.
- Moved by arrogance rather than humility.
- Guilty of dogmatism without knowledge.

The Christian thinker however...

- Is motivated by love.
- Is based on faith.

- His thoughts come from a pure heart.
- His thinking comes from a good conscience.
- He understands faith.

Those who need no law (1:8-11)

Those who are condemned by the law

- The lawless.
- The irreverent.
- The sinner.
- The impious.
- The polluted.
- Those who strike or kill their parents.
- The murderers.
- The fornicators and the homosexuals.
- Slave killers or slave kidnappers.
- Liars.

The Christian message...

- Is sound teaching.
- Is a glorious gospel.
- It is good news which comes from God.
- It comes through man.

The Christian is saved to serve (1:12-17).

Paul thanks God for...

- Choosing him, trusting him, appointing him, empowering him. Our means of conversion – God – self – another Christian person.
- The memory of sin keeps him humble, thankful, striving, encouraging others.

The Summons Which Cannot be Denied (1:18-20)

- Timothy is chosen and he cannot refuse his task. He must be true to his name and his charge.

- He is called to a campaign and the weapon is faith and a good conscience.
- Others have failed because they rejected the guidance of conscience and returned to evil practices and false teachings.

2. Regulations Concerning Public Worship and Church Leaders (2:1-3:13)

- The gospel is universal.
- We are to pray for all men.
 - For those in authority.
 - For a peaceable life.
 - There is one God and Savior/Mediator.

Barriers to Prayer

- Unholy minds/evil practices.
- Anger and doubt.

Men and Women in the Church

- In Jewish culture men came to church to learn and women to listen.
- In Greek culture women were confined to their own quarters. Only their husbands were allowed; but in church Christian women played an active role (Acts 18:26; Phil. 4:2-3; Acts 21:9; Titus 2:3; 2 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 16).

Leaders of the Church (3:1-7)

The Elder, the Bishop Were Appointed.

- Qualifications... (3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9)
 - Formally set aside/consecrated for the office.
 - They were to undergo a period of testing (v. 10).
 - They were paid (1 Tim. 5:18)
 - They were liable to censure (1 Tim. 5:19-22)

- They had a duty to preside over the assembly and of teaching (1 Tim. 5:17).
- They were not to be recent converts.
- They were to succeed in ruling at home (1 Tim 3:5).
- They were to have a good reputation outside the church (1 Tim. 3:7).
- They were to be persons of good character, be sober, hospitable, prudent, able to teach, peaceable.
- They must be willing to serve (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12-13).
- Women who serve should preserve their dignity.

3. Timothy's Responsibility for Teaching the Christian Mystery (truth) and Way of Life (3:14-4:16)

- Privilege and responsibility of life within the church (3:14-15).
- A hymn of the church (3:16).

The Service of God or the Service of Satan (4:1-5)

- Advice of an Envoy of Christ (4:6-10)
 - It tells us how to instruct others, how to face the task of teaching; what to avoid; what to seek; and it shows us the basis of the whole matter.

The Only Way to Silence Criticism (4:11-16)

- Through love, loyalty, and purity.
- Demonstrates these through exposition of Scripture, teaching, exhortation, and prayer.
- The leader is set apart for a special task.

- He must think about the task, concentrate on them, and make progress toward accomplishing them.

4. Timothy's Role in Preserving the Family-like Nature of the Church (5:1-6:2)

- In the relationships of life, we have a duty to reprimand (5:1-2).
 - Show affection and respect, brotherliness, and purity.

Church and Family (5:3-8)

Privilege and Danger of Service (5:9-10)

- Women who serve must be women of discretion, not gaudy.
- Must do all they can to help themselves and not be envious and jealous.

Perils of Idleness (5:11-16)

Rules for Practical Administration (5:17-22)

- Elders are to be properly honored.
- Not be condemned by only one witness.
- Should be rebuked publicly if they persist in open sin.
- Administer the office without partiality.
- Not be too quick to lay hands on anyone.

Advice for Timothy (5:23)

Impossibilities of Ultimate Concealment (5:24-25)

How to be a Solemn Christian (6:1-2)

5. The False Teachers' Love for Money Timothy's and the True Christian Love for God and Good Deeds (6:3-19)

False Teachers and False Teachings (6:3-5)

- Their character is one of conceit, a disturber of the peace, they commercialize religion.

True Contentment a Learned Behavior (6:6-8)

The Peril of the love of Money (6:9-10)

- An unquenchable thirst.
- An illusion.
- Selfishness.
- A desire for security.
- Easily leads into wrong ways of getting it.

A Challenge to Timothy (6:11-16)

- Righteousness.
- Godliness.
- Endurance – victorious endurance, unswerving constancy to faith and piety in spite of adversity.
- Gentleness – the spirit which never blazes into anger for its own wrongs.
- Remember his baptism.
- Remember he made the same confession as Jesus.
- Remember Christ is coming again.
- Remember God above all.

Advice to the Rich (6:17-19)

- Wealth is a not a sin, but it is a great responsibility.

Guard the Faith (6:20-21)

- Timothy “He who trusts God”, “He who honors God”.
- Avoid Controversy – Don’t get mixed up in useless and bitter arguments.
- Avoid rival thesis. “Hairsplitting”.
 - Don’t waste your time on subtle arguments.
- Listen to the unequivocal voice of God rather than the subtle disputations of over-clever minds.

“GRACE BE WITH YOU.”

Atlanta Belvedere Seventh-day Adventist Church

3567 Covington Highway, Decatur GA 30032

404.299.1359

Belvederesdachurch.org

belvederesda@gccsda.com