



**Pastoral Epistles Part 1**  
**First Timothy Chapter One**

**1. Grace, mercy, and peace**

**1 Timothy 1:1, 2**

Paul begins most of his letters with \_\_\_\_\_

However, in the Pastoral Epistles, he inserted the word mercy. These letters were not written to entire congregations of people. They were private letters intended only for Timothy and Titus.

In all three of these letters, Paul was writing to a pastor who felt overwhelmed with things that were happening in his life and ministry. In his first letter to Timothy, he was feeling overwhelmed by the growth that was happening in his church. Timothy was young and pastoring the largest church in the world. It was a very challenging time for him.

Paul was reminding these pastors that there was special mercy available to help them in their time of need.

Several years after the Apostle Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy, the political environment in the Roman Empire changed. People had become violent toward Christians. Christians were being captured, imprisoned, enslaved, and killed. Many left the Christian faith and went back to their old pagan temples.

This tragedy caused pain inside Timothy's church. His heart was broken as he watched his leaders going back into their old ways in order to escape death.

Apparently, Timothy had written a letter to Paul, explaining his fears and hurts while going through this time. Second Timothy is Paul's response to Timothy. He encouraged him to be strong in the Lord. Instead of saying, only "grace and peace", he adds the word "mercy". Not only does Paul do this in First and Second Timothy, but he also does it in his letter to Titus.

Titus found himself in a very difficult circumstance. After Paul started the church on the island of Crete, he left before the church was completely established and set in place. He left Titus to finish the work. The island of Crete was known for a population of criminals and barbaric like people.

## **Titus 1:5**

We see that this was an incredible and overwhelming task for Titus.

In all three of these cases, the readers were facing a serious situation, and needed to be reminded that God's mercy was extended to help them overcome their challenges.

## **2. False teachers and rebellious leaders**

### **1 Timothy 1:3-5**

Definition of TEACH NO OTHER DOCTRINE:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- A doctrine of a different source

The false teachers were teaching a doctrine that was nothing like what Paul taught.

The Greek language gives us the impression the teaching sounded right and the teachers were loved members of the church. They had been a part of the church at Ephesus for a long time.

Because of this, Timothy did not want to bring correction and rebuke these teachers.

The same Greek word is used in Galatians.

### **Galatians 1:6, 7**

These false teachers were not just teaching outright false doctrine. They were teaching truth, but mingling it with other things.

The false doctrine was troubling the Galatian church or bringing confusion.

Paul told Timothy to charge people to not teach fables and endless genealogies.

This is repeated in Second Timothy and in Titus.

What was happening? – There were a group of people who believed in Gnosticism.

They believed and taught things that were in error. These are some of the same things being taught today.

The devil is not creative. What he did in the first century church, he is doing again in the last days.

What were the Gnostic errors that Timothy was confronting? There were many false doctrines taught by the Gnostics. In this syllabus, we are going to give six of these errors that have also reemerged today.

- The Gnostics claimed that Old Testament Scriptures were inferior and were based on old, outdated, and antiquated ideas; therefore, Christians needed to disconnect themselves from the teachings of the Old Testament.

Some teachers today are saying the same thing – that the Old Testament has no relevance for New Testament believers.

- Gnostics proposed that the wrath of the Old Testament God was not to be taken seriously by New Testament believers. They said all forms of present or future judgment were dismissed. Gnostics claimed that the concept of God’s wrath was an imaginary doctrine based on religious thinking that should be discounted as unfitting for a loving God.

Today people teach that, because the wrath of God was poured out on Jesus, there is no more judgment or wrath of God.

- Gnostics believed that flesh – all physical matter – was evil and fading. Only the spirit held significance. So, once a person’s spirit was born again, it really did not matter whether he sinned with the flesh. Because of this they believed there was no need to confess sin after coming to Christ. There was no more need for repentance.
- Gnostics were “antinomian”. This means they were against the law. They believed the Old Testament law had no relevance for Christians. This led to an extreme teaching on grace.
- Gnostics believed that God expressed Himself in various manifestations and that Jesus was simply one of them. This doctrine depreciated Christ, reducing Him to a position as “one among many” divine manifestations.

This has manifested today. Many believe they can find “their own truth”. This is an old Gnostic idea.

Besides the Gnostics, there were also Jews who brought Judaism into Christianity. There were also Gentiles who brought paganism into Christianity.

Timothy was to make sure that these false doctrines were confronted. Paul commanded Timothy to bring correction to the false teaching.

### **1 Timothy 1:6, 7**

#### **1 Timothy 1:6 – King James Version**

*From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;*

Timothy had just stepped into ministry. He had phenomenal growth in his church.

Timothy had to deal with rebellious leaders who were teaching false doctrine, and who did not like the fact that he was young. They did not want to submit to Timothy's authority.

The term used in verse six (vain jangling) is a medical term to denote a bone that has slipped out of joint.

Paul uses this to describe argumentative stubborn leaders with bad attitudes. They are like a bone out of joint.

When a bone is out of joint, it is still in the body, but not properly connected to the body. Therefore, it becomes a source of pain and irritation.

Paul uses this word to describe difficult church members. They are saved in valuable to God. However, they have become a source of irritation to their pastor. The strife that they caused in the church was a distraction that pulled Timothy away from things he needed to be doing.

### **3. The law**

#### **1 Timothy 1:8-11**

The Apostle Paul instructs Timothy how to guard against the Jewish teachers who mingled fables and endless genealogies with the Gospel. They were mixing the law with grace.

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The law is good if a man uses it lawfully. The Jews used it unlawfully, as an engine to divide the church and a cover to the malicious opposition they made to the Gospel of Christ. They presented the law for justification, and so used it unlawfully.

What do we do with the law? We do not set it aside. We use it lawfully for the restraint of sin.

The abuse which some have made of the law does not take away the use of it.

Though we are not under it as under a covenant of works, yet it is good to teach us what is sin and what is duty.

The law is not made for a righteous man. If we could keep the law, righteousness would be by the law. But it is made for wicked people, to restrain them.

#### 4. Paul's faithfulness gave him a place in the ministry

##### 1 Timothy 1:12

Definition of FAITHFUL:

- Reliable – \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The word is used to describe people who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties

Paul was found faithful by Jesus. That means that Paul was consistently good in his performance of his duties. Jesus could trust him.

Because he was found faithful, Jesus did two other things for Paul. He enabled him and He put him into the ministry.

Definition of ENABLED:

- Make strong.
- Endue with strength.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Sharing power and ability
- To impart ability (make able)
- \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of PUTTING ME INTO THE MINISTRY: In the Greek, the first part of this phrase means God regarded or considered Paul in a specified way. He judged Paul.

The word ministry is the same word used for "deacon", which means service.

God looked at Paul's life and made a judgement based on Paul's faithfulness. He judged him worthy of being placed in a position to serve in the ministry.

#### 5. Paul was the chief of sinners.

##### 1 Timothy 1:13-16

Paul said he was the "chief" of sinners.

Definition of CHIEF: \_\_\_\_\_

Paul was chosen by God to set a pattern for all sinners who will believe in Christ and receive everlasting life.

## 6. Characteristics of God

### 1 Timothy 1:17

Definition of ETERNAL:

- Eternal
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Forevermore
- One of a series of ages stretching to infinity
- \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of IMMORTAL:

- Undecaying
- Imperishable
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Incorruptible
- Immortal

Definition of INVISIBLE: Not only unseen, but cannot be seen

## 7. We make war by prophecies

### 1 Timothy 1:18

When Timothy was ordained into ministry, Paul spoke prophecies over him.

After that Timothy entered the ministry and went to war.

Sometimes, to stay in the battle, we need to remind ourselves of what God has spoken to us.

Paul was encouraging Timothy to stir himself up by reminding himself of the prophecies.

Sometimes when receiving a prophecy, you must realize that God is telling you something you may need to help you in the future.

We can wage warfare by the prophecies that have been spoken over us.

In this case, Paul is speaking to Timothy as a pastor.

Definition of BY THEM YOU MAY WAGE THE GOOD WARFARE:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- To lead soldiers to war or to battle as a commander.

## **8. Shipwrecked**

### **1 Timothy 1:19, 20**

Definition of SHIPWRECKED: Shipwreck, crash, smash, or be ruined

Paul named two people who taught false doctrine in the Ephesian church. They were well-known to Timothy and to the Christians in the church at Ephesus.

Hymenaeus is probably the same person mentioned in 2 Timothy. He taught that the resurrection had already passed.

It is impossible to know specifically which Alexander Paul was talking about. Alexander was a common name and appears in a few places in the New Testament.

They were delivered to Satan. This is also mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 5. He encouraged the leadership of the Corinthians church to deliver the man to Satan.

### **1 Corinthians 5:5**

This simply means that the person was excommunicated from the church until they repented of their sin.

In the Corinthian church, the man who was excommunicated from the church repented. This can be seen in 2 Corinthians.

### **2 Corinthians 2:6-8**