



Pastoral Epistles Part 1
Introduction to The Pastoral Epistles & First Timothy

1. Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

Paul's epistles make up the majority of the New Testament.

Three of his epistles are referred to as the Pastoral Epistles because they were specifically written to pastors – Timothy and Titus.

2. Introduction to Timothy

- Most Bible scholars agree that Timothy, a teenager, and his mother were saved when Paul preached the Gospel in Derbe in Acts chapter fourteen.

Acts 14:1-21

- Paul returned to Derbe to preach the Gospel again.

Acts 16:1

This verse in Acts chapter sixteen occurred several years after Acts chapter fourteen, when Timothy and his mother were saved.

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2 Timothy 1:5

Paul was close to the family. He knew the names of Timothy's grandmother and mother.

We learn from this verse that we can pass our faith onto the next generation.

2 Timothy 3:15

When Timothy was a small child, his mother spoke the Scriptures to him. She was not saved, but was a Jew, and spoke scriptures to Timothy.

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Acts 16:2

Definition of WELL SPOKEN OF: This means that the other people in the church had seriously observed Timothy. They were not “guessing” that he was a good person. They had scrutinized his life and come to that conclusion. They gave a good report about Timothy.

- Timothy was a person of good character and willing to be used by God.

Acts 16:3

The Jews would not listen to him or receive him if he was not circumcised.

His father was a Greek. This would not have been a requirement for him.

At the time that Timothy began to travel with Paul, he was somewhere between 16 and 20 years old.

This shows something about his character and his willingness to be used by God.

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Philippians 2:19, 20

This is Paul writing about Timothy. This is many years later in their ministry together.

Definition of LIKE-MINDED: Identical in soul, affection, emotion, and in every aspect of the feelings and convictions of one’s soul

- Timothy genuinely cared for the people. He was thinking about the people, not about himself.

Philippians 2:21

Most people are thinking about themselves, not about others.

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Philippians 2:22

Definition of PROVEN CHARACTER:

- A test to determine the quality or sincerity of a thing.
- The object scrutinized has passed the test, so it can now be viewed as genuine and sincere.
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- The word was also used to describe the process of testing an individual's character to see if he was deemed "fit" for public office.
- The word was used to illustrate the tests that were used to determine real and counterfeit coins.

Nero was famous for making counterfeit coins. He would make them out of bronze.

Coins were determined to be counterfeit by placing them in the fire. The fire would expose that the core was bronze and then you knew you had something fake.

Timothy had been through the fire, and it revealed that he was not fake.

Timothy has passed the test. He is the real deal and people knew it.

- Timothy was a spiritual son to the Apostle Paul.

Philippians 2:22

- Timothy was chosen to be the leader of the church at Ephesus because he had proven himself.

1 Timothy 1:3

This is why Timothy was put in Ephesus. He was proven in the ministry. He was a good person to bring correction to false doctrine and bring order to the church at Ephesus.

Paul sent him here when he heard about the false doctrine being taught. This is the reason for First Timothy. The letter gives instructions from Paul to Timothy about how to accomplish his task at Ephesus.

Timothy began his ministry with Paul as a teenager and then became the pastor of the church at Ephesus. He pastored that church into his later years.

We know that he battled against a spirit of fear because of 2 Timothy 1:7.

We also know that he overcame fear. Church historians tell us that in his eighties, Timothy commanded pagans who were marching through the streets of Ephesus to repent. They killed him.

3. What is the first letter to Timothy about?

Paul begins his letter to Timothy by explaining why he sent Timothy to Ephesus – to confront the corrupt teachers who were teaching false doctrine. Paul even names some of the false teachers and shows how their teaching has brought division to the church. He instructs Timothy how to deal with people who are teaching false doctrine.

Then, Paul gives practical instructions for running the church at Ephesus. He goes through several groups of people in the church, explaining to Timothy how he should interact with them and bring correction to them if necessary. He also corrects bad theology and deals with Christian behavior in society. 1 Timothy and Titus also concern themselves with the qualifications and duties of elders and deacons.