

1&2 Timothy (Colin) Bible Study

Introduction: Background to Timothy's life

Timothy was a native of Lystra in the Roman Province of Galatia (part of present day Turkey). He was the son of a mixed marriage, his father was a Greek and his mother being Jewish. His mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were believers in Jesus Christ. They must have taught him the scriptures, 2Timothy 1:5; 3:15. It seems likely that Timothy was converted through Paul's ministry on his first missionary journey, 1Timothy 1:2. Timothy could well have made much progress as a Christian. When Paul visited Lystra on his second missionary journey he decided to take Timothy along with him and his team, Acts 16:1-3. The local church leaders had given their support in giving Timothy that formal commission, 2Timothy 1:18; 4:14, along with their blessing for Timothy to embark on this ministry. He became a constant, faithful, loyal, reliable and greatly loved companion to Paul. It is shown just how much Paul had such a high regard for Timothy to fulfil God's calling on his life.

Overview of 1Timothy: Paul wrote this letter from Macedonia to Timothy who had a ministry of being an elder in Ephesus. Paul gave Timothy encouragement to fulfil his pastoral and teaching ministry. This pastoral letter was written between Paul's first and second imprisonment in Rome, which is about 64AD. Timothy was told by Paul to stay in Ephesus whilst Paul was in Macedonia at that time.

In Ephesus, there had been a great number of converts to Christianity which was the fruit of Paul's ministry there from about 54-57AD during his third missionary journey. Paul was keen to send this letter to Timothy with much instruction in how to live right and to see the Church in Ephesus built up.

Questions

Read Chapter One

Q1) Why did Paul leave Timothy in Ephesus (v2-7)?

Q2) What is known of Paul's calling from God on his life (v1, 12-17)?

See also 1Tim 2.7, Acts 9.1-28 and Gal 1.11-2.10. Compare your own

experience to that of Paul's in how your life has changed after responding to the gospel.

Q3) What was the purpose of the law (v8-10)? Why is the gospel superior to the law?

See also Galatians 3:16-25.

Q4) What did Paul mean in verse 20, 'Handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme'? See 1Corinthians 5.1-5. What happened to this man? See 2Corinthians 2.1-11. What was the result?

Read Chapter Two

Q1) What did Paul teach on prayer (v1-3, 8)?

Q2) Who should we pray for (v1-3)? See also Jer 29.4-7

Q3) What should all men need to know, whether they respond to God's word or not (v4-6)?

Q4) What instructions did Paul give to Timothy regarding women (v9-15)?

Q5) What role do you think women should take up in the Church in view of what is written in

2:9-15? See also Ephesians 4.7-16 [these 'gifts' to the church can be women] and Acts 21.8

[Philip had four daughters who prophesied]

Read Chapter Three

Q1) What qualities does a man need to function as a bishop (overseer or elder) of the Church (v1-7)? See also Titus 1.5-9.

Q2) How do they compare with those required to be a deacon (v8-13)?

Q3) What was the origin of the office of deacon (Acts 6.1-6)?

Q4) How did Paul give encouragement to Timothy to be able to manage without him being there in Ephesus (v14-15)?

Q5) What has Paul revealed about Jesus (v16)?

Read Chapter Four

Q1) How will some people fall away from the faith (v1-3)?

Q2) Why is every creature of God good (v4,5)? See Lev 11.1-30. Does this refer to unclean animals? What do you think about the plans to replace normal meat in our diets with processed insects?

Q3) Read carefully 4:6-16. What things did Paul tell Timothy to teach and to live by as an example to others?

Q4) What things did Paul show to Timothy that were unacceptable (v6-16)?

Q5) In verse 11, Timothy is told to command and teach. In what circumstances is it right for an elder/ apostle to command something?

Read Chapter Five

Q1) How are we as believers to treat older men and widows (v1-4, 8, 16-22)?

Q2) What is known of godly widows (v5, 7, 9-10)? See Isaiah 1.17, 23. How does God see widows?

Q3) What problems did Paul see regarding the younger widows and how could such problems be dealt with (v6, 11-15)?

Q4) Read carefully 5:22. Does this verse teach us about the kind of man called to public service in the Church? Read again 3:13 & Titus 1:6-9.

Q5) Read Acts 6.1-6, Hebrews 6.1,2 , James 5.14,15 , "Timothy 1.6. What is the significance of laying on of hands?

Q6) What do we know of Timothy's physical health in view of what is mentioned in 5:23?

Q7) Read 5:24-25. How can sins and good works be revealed?

Read Chapter Six

Q1) How should servants treat their masters (v1,2)? See also Ephesians 6:5-8 & Colossians 3:22-25.

Q2) What warning does Paul give to those men who did not follow sound teaching (v3-5)?

Q3) What was Paul's teaching on contentment (V6-8)? Compare with Philippians 4:11.

Q4) What ways can rich believers go astray (v9,10)? See also James 5:1-6.

Q5) Read carefully 6:11-14,20-21. How did Paul exhort Timothy to be a good witness for Jesus Christ?

Q6) How did Paul want Timothy to instruct rich Christians to trust in the living God (v17-19)?

Q7) Have the prophecies in 1Timothy 4.1-3 and 6.14-16 been fulfilled yet?

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Overview of 2Timothy: Paul was now a prisoner in Rome for the second time. He knew his execution was imminent. He was able to write this last letter to encourage Timothy before being put to death in about 67 to 68AD.

Paul was one of many Christians who had been arrested as a criminal, 2Timothy 2:9. There had been a great fire in Rome in 64AD which had been started by Nero, the Roman Emperor. He had hated Christians and had used this event as an excuse to accuse them for setting up this fire in Rome. Multitudes of Christians were arrested in and around Rome and put to death in the most cruel of ways, such as crucifixion, thrown to wild beasts in arenas for entertainment and even tied to stakes in Nero's gardens. Pitch was poured over the bodies of these Christians which were burnt by setting the pitch alight. There were periods of persecution against Christians during the time of the Roman Empire until Constantine's rule in the fourth century when Christianity became the state religion.

Despite all the difficulties Paul experienced he wanted to prepare Timothy to carry on the work of faithfully serving the Lord. W.Wiersbe in his Bible Exposition Commentary of the New Testament, volume two P240 column one, has written: "Paul's great concern was not for himself; it was for Timothy and the success of the Gospel ministry. As in his first letter to Timothy, Paul encouraged his beloved colleague to be faithful. As we have learned, Timothy was timid, suffered from physical ailments, and was tempted to let other people take advantage of him and not assert his authority as a pastor."

Paul had requested Timothy to come and see him before his execution. Whether Timothy did come and see Paul we do not know. Paul had no regrets for what was about to happen to him believing his time to die was in God's time, 2Timothy 4:6-8.

Questions

Read Chapter One

Q1) What do we know of God's calling to Paul in 1:1,11-12?

Q2) How did Paul commend Timothy as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (v2-5)?

Q3) What did Paul exhort Timothy to do to maintain his testimony?

Read 1:6-10, 13-15.

Q4) Is there evidence that Timothy was becoming fearful because of increasing difficulties at this time in the Church (v6-8)?

Q5) Read Phil 4.6,7 ,Isaiah 26.3,4 , 1John 4.18. How does God deal with fear in our lives?

Q6) What has God done for us to become believers in Jesus Christ (v7, 9-10)?

Q7) How much did Paul respect Onesiphorus? Read 1:16-18; 4:19.

Read Chapter Two

Q1) Read carefully 2:1-13. What did Paul teach on suffering?

Q2) Read 2:14-16,19-22,24-26. What things should a Christian be doing to live a godly life?

Q3) What warnings did Paul give to Timothy of things to be avoided (v14-18,22,23,26)?

Q4) What did Paul mean by profane and idle babblings (v16) and foolish and ignorant disputes (v23) and why should they be avoided?

Read Chapter Three

Q1) How many of the qualities listed in verses 2-5 are part of society in the UK today?

Q2) What can we expect to happen to men who reject God in these last days (v1-9, 13)?

Q3) How should true Christians be living in contrast to evil men (v10-12)? See also Ephesians 4:20-32 & Colossians 3:1-25.

Q4) How much should we as believers value the word of God? Read 3:14-17; 2:15.

Q5) Have the prophecies in 3.1-9 and 4.3,4 been fulfilled yet?

Read Chapter Four

Q1) What did Paul exhort to Timothy to do (v1,2 ,5)?

Q2) What did Paul reveal to Timothy regarding many people in their response to God's word (v3,4)? Is this true today?

Q3) What lessons can we learn from Paul who was ready to die (v6-8)?

Q4) What caused the following men to wander from the faith: Phygellus and Hermogenous (2Timothy 1.15),Hymenaeus and Pheletus (2Timothy 2.16-18) and Demas (2 Timothy 4.9)

Miscellaneous Questions on 1 & 2Timothy

Q1) Show the false teachers and prophets and their false teaching exposed in both letters.

See 1Timothy 1:4;19,20; 2Timothy 1:15; 2:16-18,23; 3:8; 4:14-15.

Q2) In the second letter of Paul to Timothy how did he respond to his difficulties being now in prison and knowing he was going to die? See 1:1-5,16-18; 2:7-12; 3:10-12; 4:6-8,17-18.