

A Tour Through the Divine Library  
(1 Timothy)

I. General Introduction to 1 Timothy

-Title and Recipient: “First to Timothy” (1:2)

-Author and Date: the apostle Paul (1:1); written ~ AD 63, not long after release from his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28; 1:3)

-Purpose: to encourage young Timothy and give him the instruction he needed to effectively supervise church life as an apostolic representative (3:14, 15)

-Structure:

- I. Warning Against False Doctrine (ch. 1)
- II. Instruction about Church Life (chs. 2, 3)
  - A. Prayer (ch. 2)
  - B. Roles of Men and Women (ch. 2)
  - C. Leadership (ch. 3)
- III. Timothy’s Life and Ministry (ch. 4)
- IV. Ministry to Various Classes of People (chs. 5, 6)
  - A. Old and Young (ch. 5)
  - B. Widows (ch. 5)
  - C. Elders (ch. 5)
  - D. Slaves and Masters (ch. 6)
  - E. The Wealthy (ch. 6)

II. General Overview of 1 Timothy

-Greeting (1:1, 2); false teachers (1:3-11); Paul’s experience of the power of the gospel (1:12-17); charge to fight the good fight (1:18-20)

-Prayer (2:1-7); roles of men and women (2:8-15); leadership (3:1-13) purpose in writing (3:14, 15); hymn (3:16)

-Warning against apostasy (4:1-5); be a faithful teacher (4:6, 11); disciplined (4:7, 8); good example (4:12); develop gifts (4:14); make progress (4:15); pay attention to life and teaching (4:16)

-Instruction regarding various groups (5:1, 2); widows (5:3-15); elders (5:17-25); slaves and masters (6:1, 2); the wealthy (6:5-19); Conclusion (6:20, 21)

### III. Prominent Themes in 1 Timothy

-God's Character: God is a great King, eternal, immortal, invisible (1:17; 6:13-16), merciful, patient (1:12, 13, 16).

-Sound Doctrine (1:9, 10; 4:6, 11; 5:7; 6:2, 3)

-Corporate Prayer (2:1-8)

-Role of Women in the Church (2:9-15)

-Leadership in the Church (3:1-13)

-Money and Wealth (6:3-19)

### IV. Christ in 1 Timothy

-Savior of sinners (1:15); the one Mediator between God and men (2:5, 6); God manifested in the flesh (3:16); the One who was patient and merciful to Paul in saving him, strengthening him, and setting him apart to apostleship (1:1, 12, 15, 16); the Source of the believer's faith, hope, and love (1:1, 14); the One who is coming again (6:14)

### V. Practical Lessons in 1 Timothy

- 1) Paul's first letter to Timothy highlights the great importance of ecclesiology (doctrine of the church) (3:14, 15).
- 2) Paul's first letter to Timothy assumes the foundational importance of the gospel (1:12-16).