

**Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 25***

**Scripture: *1 Timothy 1:1-11***

**Time, Place, and Purpose of 1 Timothy**

1. This is one of Paul's three pastoral epistles (along with 2 Timothy and Titus). These were letters written to pastors and apostolic representatives. Timothy was Paul's younger brother and partner in ministry who was serving the church in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3). Titus served as pastor in Crete (Tit. 1:5).
2. Paul's first letter to Timothy was written 62-63 A.D.
3. Timothy came from a godly family. He was from Lystra in Asia Minor, the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. His mother Eunice and grandmother Lois (2 Tim. 1:5) taught him the Scripture from infancy (2 Tim. 3:15). By God's grace Timothy was prepared to receive the gospel and be converted when Paul preached at Lystra (Acts 14:6-23; 16:1-3).
4. Timothy had a close relationship with Paul. He was Paul's closest associate and constant traveling companion. He was mentioned in six of Paul's epistles and two of them were written to him. Timothy was Paul's spiritual son in the gospel (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2). He advanced from Paul's student to Paul's associate and apostolic representative.
5. Timothy was young in age and timid in nature, but loyal to Paul, faithful to his calling, and unselfish in ministry. In some ways he was Paul's opposite, but they shared the same love of truth and Christ. The name Timothy means "one who honors God."
6. Paul wrote the first epistle to instruct Timothy about church ministry (3:14-15). The church in Ephesus was dealing with false teaching, so Paul wanted to guide Timothy in his difficult assignment. Paul had warned about dangerous false teachers entering the church when he met with the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:29-30). Other problems in the church included disorder in worship (1 Tim. 2:1-15), the need for qualified leaders (3:1-14), and materialism (6:6-19).
7. Paul had several reasons for writing this letter to Timothy:
  - A. To combat and refute false teaching (1 Tim. 1:3-20)
  - B. To wage a good warfare (1:18)
  - C. To maintain faith and a good conscience (1:19)
  - D. To describe qualifications for church leaders (3:1-13)
  - E. To conduct ministry in a proper manner (3:14-15)
  - F. To be an example for believers (4:12)
  - G. To give attention to himself and his doctrine (4:13-16)
  - H. To avoid greed and pursue godly character (6:3-11)
  - I. To guard the truth as a sacred trust (6:20-21)

8. Paul's first epistle to Timothy mentions several important doctrinal themes:

- A. Function of God's moral law (1 Tim. 1:5-11)
- B. Salvation (1:14-16; 2:4-6)
- C. Attributes of God (1:17)
- D. Fall of man (2:13-14)
- E. Relationship of the church and Biblical truth (3:15)
- F. Person and work of Christ (3:16; 6:15-16)
- G. Second coming of Christ (6:14-15)

### **Outline of 1 Timothy**

I. Dangers of False Doctrine (1 Tim. 1:1-20)

- A. Rebuke the false teachers of the law (1:3-11)
- B. Heed the example of Paul (1:12-20)

II. Directions for Worship and Leadership (2:1—3:16)

- A. Priority of prayer (2:1-8)
- B. Place of women (2:9-15)
- C. Qualifications of pastors (3:1-7)
- D. Qualifications of deacons (3:8-13)
- E. Purpose of the church (3:14-16)

III. Defense against False Teachers (4:1-16)

- A. Description of false teachers (4:1-5)
- B. Instruction for the faithful teacher (4:6-16)

IV. Duties toward Others (5:1-25)

- A. How to treat all people (5:1-2)
- B. How to treat widows (5:3-16)
- C. How to treat elders (5:17-25)

V. Dealing with Material Possessions (6:1-21)

- A. Exhortation to servants (6:1-2)
- B. Exhortation to greedy false teachers (6:3-10)
- C. Exhortation to godliness and faithfulness (6:11-16)
- D. Exhortation to the rich (6:17-19)
- E. Exhortation to guard the truth (6:20-21)

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- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:14-16; 2:4-6)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ of God (1:17)
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ of man (2:13-14)
- E. Relationship of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15)
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