

Lessons From I Timothy

Introduction

(I Ti 1:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. A new series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Last week we finished up II Thessalonians.
 - i. **II Th 3:16-18** “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.”¹
 - b. This week we will begin looking I Timothy.
 - i. **I Ti 1:1-2** “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, 2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”
3. I Timothy is a part of what is commonly called the “Pastoral Epistles.”
 - a. II Timothy and Titus are the other two.
 - b. This title is of course denominational.
 - i. They would more biblically be called the “Preacher Epistles.”
4. Without delay let us examine what we should know going into this great study of I Timothy.

I. The Historicity Of I Timothy

A. The Author

1. God is the author of this letter through the Holy Spirit.
 - i. **II Pt 1:20-21** “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
2. The human agent whom God used, however, was the apostle Paul.
 - i. **I Ti 1:1** “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope”
3. Not until the late 17th century did anyone actually question if Paul was the author.
 - i. It was during this time liberal minded “scholars” started questioning whether or not Paul was the author.
 - ii. However the patristic fathers had no such trouble identify Paul as the author of I Timothy.
 - a. Clement of Rome (30-100 AD)
 - b. Polycarp of Smyrna (115-156 AD)
 - c. Irenaeus (130-200 AD)
 - d. Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD)
 - e. Tertullian (155-223 AD)
4. Thus we can be certain that Paul was the author if this great epistle.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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B. The Date

1. Here is where things get interesting.
 - i. It is unclear when exactly this was written for several reasons all of which reside in whether or not Paul was released after his two years in prison while in Rome.
2. It was most likely written after Paul's house arrest in Rome sometime between 63-68 AD.
 - i. There are several reasons to believe this to be the case.
 - a. First Luke does not limit this.
 1. **Ac 28:30-31** "He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."
 - b. Second when Paul had been in Rome for a year (61) he clearly thought he would be getting out.
 1. **Pl 22** "At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you."
 - c. Third when Paul wrote to the Philippians a year later (62) he wrote concerning his impending trial before Nero and he clearly thought he would be getting out.
 1. **Ph 2:22-24** "I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also."
 - d. Fourth the external evidence clearly seems to indicate that Paul was released and even made it to his planned destination of Spain (**Ro 15:24, 28**).
 1. Clement of Rome wrote to the Corinthians in about 97 AD. In this letter he writes, "...After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the **extreme limit of the west**, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects..." (Notes on I Timothy by WVBS pg. 122-123) (emphasis mine)
 2. The Muratorian Fragment has this written on it, "Luke compiled for 'most excellent Theophilus' what things were done in detail in his presence, as he plainly shows by omitting both the death of Peter and also the departure of Paul from the city, when he departed from Spain." (Ibid)
 3. Eusebius (260-340) wrote, "...Paul spent two years at Rome as a prisoner at large, and preached the word of God without restraint. Then after he made his defense it is said that the apostle was sent again upon the ministry of preaching, and that upon coming to the same city a second time he suffered martyrdom. In this

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imprisonment he wrote his second epistle to Timothy, in which he mentions his first defense and his impending death." (Ibid)

- ii. Thus when one considers all the evidence it seems clear that Paul wrote Timothy after his release from Rome 62AD and before his death by Nero who died on June 8th 68AD.

II. The Context Of I Timothy

A. The recipient

1. This letter clearly indicates it was written to Timothy.
 - i. **I Ti 1:2** "To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."
2. Timothy
 - i. Was converted, it appears, on Paul's first missionary journey.
 - a. **II Ti 2:2; Ac 16:1**
 - ii. Mother was a Christian with a Jewish backgrounds but his father was a Gentile.
 - a. **Ac 16:1**
 - iii. His mother and grandmother taught him God's Word from his youth.
 - a. **II Ti 3:15**
 - iv. Was Paul's "true son in the faith" and was with Paul when he wrote many of the books of the Bible.
 - a. Romans, II Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, and Philemon.

B. The purpose

1. To give instruction and encouragement to Timothy while he was in Ephesus.
 - i. Timothy was a young preacher.
 - a. At this time he would have been in his early to mid-thirties.
 - ii. Timothy was also seemingly timid.
 - a. **I Ti 4:11-12; II Ti 1:7-8**

C. The message

1. The message is twofold.
 - i. The message was to instruct Timothy how to conduct himself.
 - ii. The message was to instruct Timothy how the congregation should conduct itself.

III. The Content Of I Timothy

A. The outlines

1. The condensed outline.²
 - i. Charge Concerning Sound Doctrine (1:3-20)
 - ii. General Instructions Concerning The Church (2:1-3:13)
 - iii. Advice For Timothy (3:14-4:16)
 - iv. Instructions Concerning Members Of The Church (5:1-6:19)

² This outline is take from "The First Epistle To Timothy: Introduction" by Mark Copeland.

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B. Key words

1. Faith/belief (35)
2. Full/All/Every (25)
3. Word (24)
4. God (23)

C. Key passage

1. **I Ti 3:14-15** "I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters as we make our way through this most fantastic letter from Paul to Timothy let us embrace God's Word and hold fast to its instruction.
 - a. Let us be a people of "sound doctrine" with this great book.
2. Question: Are you conducting yourself as you should and helping the congregation to conduct itself as it should?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**