

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE
1 TIMOTHY

January 16, 2019

Answers to Lesson 37– 2 Thessalonians

Purpose

Key to discovering author's purpose is to look at some of the words he frequently used:

Faith / Belief (which have the same root in the Greek) (pistis)

Your faith is growing more and more.

We boast about your perseverance and faith.

Not everyone has faith.

Truth / Deception

They refused to love the truth.

All will be condemned who have not believed the truth.

Do not let anyone deceive you.

Teachings of Paul / Tradition

You believed our testimony to you.

He called you to this through our gospel.

Stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you.

Answer to Prayer

People were persevering and enduring and even growing in faith and love. All this was evidence that the judgment of God was right and (as a result) the people would be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for which they were suffering.

Retribution for the Just and Unjust

Those who do not obey Christ will be punished with an everlasting destruction and banishment from the presence of God. But just as there is negative retribution for the wicked there is also positive justice for the righteous. Christ will be glorified in his holy people (in those who believe). Those who stand firm will share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude to Christ's Revelation

Two things must happen first: That day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed. Before the return of Christ there will be an active rebellion against God. The forces of evil will be led by this man of lawlessness.

Speculation about the Identity of the Man of Lawlessness

Some identified the Antichrist with the pope.

In the 1500s the pope said it was Martin Luther.

Early church thought it was Titus who desecrated and destroyed the temple in 70 AD.

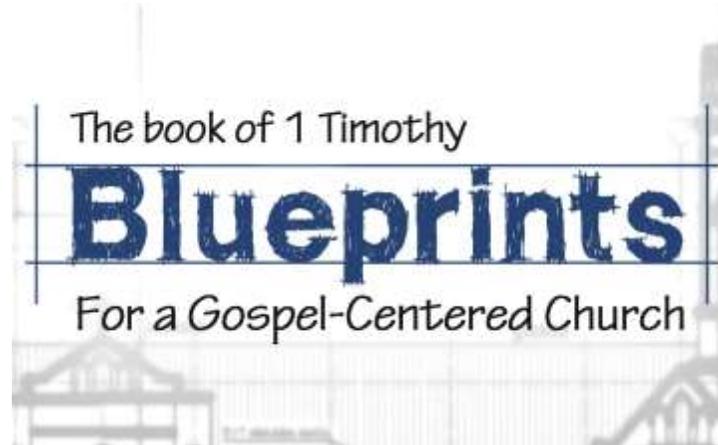
Some even believe that Satan is the restrainer.

Troubling Times

Christians will be present during these troubling times. When we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air it will be with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God.

Expectation of the Church

Paul expected the Thessalonians to attempt to restore those who were idle by refusing to associate with them in close fellowship. The goal was not punishment but restoration. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know the truth about his expectations: He wanted all of them to follow his example, not just in hard work but also in the responsibility he felt in exhorting others to hold fast to the truth.



1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus are all addressed to younger associates of Paul. Scholars treat the three as a distinct group of writings that are called the *Pastoral Epistles*. Paul (although not the author) is portrayed as one who is nearing the end of his apostolic career. He offers warnings and advice to those who will carry on after him. Author addresses the situation of his own time (probably the early second century). Aim is to encourage love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Issues confronted in the *Pastoral Epistles* are the mix of bad doctrine and immoral behavior. Opposition to the gospel threatened to undermine the integrity of the Christian community. Interrelated issues of faith and practice troubled the church internally in the second century +. Central to the well-being of the people of God was sound doctrine. No deviation was allowed so the young leaders were to hold firm to the word as taught to them. They were to deny those who contradicted the truth of the gospel message. In early Christianity faulty theology gave rise to immoral behavior.

Background on Timothy

Paul planted churches around the Mediterranean and converted thousands to Christianity. He needed a trustworthy person to carry on after he died. He chose the zealous young disciple, Timothy, whose name means *honoring God*. Timothy was the product of a mixed marriage. His Greek (Gentile) father is not mentioned by name.

Eunice, his Jewish mother, and Lois, his grandmother, taught him the Scriptures.
Paul picked Timothy as his successor and circumcised him (so he could minister to the Jews).
In 1 and 2 Timothy Paul taught him about church leadership.
Church tradition holds that after the death of Paul he served as bishop of the church in Ephesus.
Around 97 AD a group of pagans celebrated a festival in which they carried idols in the streets.
Timothy met and rebuked them for their idolatry.
They beat him with clubs and he died two days later.

Chapter 1

Author writes to Timothy noting that Timothy is in Ephesus to instruct believers.
He explains the issues that have arisen in Ephesus:
People are focusing on myths and speculations instead of focusing on obedience to God.
Those who want to be teachers of the law misunderstand the purpose of the law.
Paul moves to his central message – the grace of God and the salvation through Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, God was known as merciful and gracious and slow to anger.
God also expected Israel to be faithful and obedient in return.
In the New Testament, Paul combined both concepts to develop the fullness of the gospel.
However, he did not write some theoretical treatise to counter the false doctrines.
Paul talked about the way God changed lives and he used his own life as an example.
Specifically his conversion experience became the focus of the argument.

Saul (before this conversion experience) was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence.
He assisted upon (and approved of) the execution of Stephen.
The post-conversion Paul was someone who rejected violence.
Counter to the former ways, he was empowered and strengthened by Christ for his ministry.
For the author, personal experience defined doctrine when it came to grace and salvation.
God cares specifically about those whom many consider sinners.
Experience of having encountered Jesus Christ and of being saved by him leads to thankfulness.
The word for thankfulness (derived from the Greek) (eucharistia) also means grace (charis).

Chapter 2

Passage in 1 Timothy 2:1-7 consists of two units:
Author requests prayer for those in leadership positions.
Author makes theological statement that there is only one God.
Jesus Christ is the mediator who saved us through his atoning death.

Appeal is to be persistent in prayer.
Author uses four partially equivalent Greek words for prayer (each convey a different nuance).
Deesis (petitions) indicates an appeal for a particular need.
Proseuche is a general word for prayer that frequently occurs in petitions.
Enteuxis (intercessions) captures an urgent and bold request.
Eucharistia (thanksgiving) denotes an expression of gratitude.

Author solicits all imaginable forms of prayer.
They are to be spoken for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions.

Reasons that the prayers are so specific

Hope for a quiet and peaceable life is determined by religious tolerance and political stability. Both are guaranteed by those in leadership positions.

We need to understand it against the backdrop of the Roman Emperor of the last first century. Established in 510 BC, Rome had been a republic governed by two elected consuls. System was in effect for half a millennium but was then changed in two significant ways: Starting with the rule of Julius Caesar, the republic was replaced with the Imperial system. Under this system, one emperor would rule from then on. Rome gradually introduced the apotheosis of the emperor (elevated to the level of the divine).

After his assassination in 27 BC, Julius Caesar was soon proclaimed as holy. He was accepted as one of the gods of the state which allowed for the initiation of his worship. Later in the first century this type of Emperor Cult gradually developed in the whole Empire. The request in 1 Timothy then is to pray *for* kings instead of *to* the kings. It implied that rulers (like everyone else) depended on the guidance and mercy of God. It indirectly implied that these rulers were not divine but human beings. It explains why a theological statement about the oneness of God follows the request of prayer. It challenges the Roman Emperor Cult as well as the Greco-Roman pantheon.

Section concludes with the concepts of salvation and atonement

Jesus gave himself a ransom for all.

Term assumes that humans carry a debt that cannot simply be canceled but must be paid in full.

The death of Jesus on the cross provided new life for humanity.

God appointed Paul to proclaim this good news to the Gentiles.

In the section that follows we learn more about Paul and the role of women.

Leadership Qualifications

1 TIMOTHY
3:1-13



Chapter 3

In Scripture, the terms bishops and elders were interchangeable.

Elders were older, experienced, and trusted men in the early church and could be the head pastor.

Bishops were overseers of the church and it was their job to shepherd the church.

During the 2nd century there is no reference to bishops and elders being the same people.

Elders began to be called priests around the middle of the 3rd century.

Deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos* which is also translated as *servant*.

In the 2nd century church servants visited the sick and helped during worship services.

They brought communion to those who could not attend worship at the churches.

Absence could be from sickness or imprisonment.

3rd century: A reference to them watching the doors to make sure only Christians entered.

Chapter 4

Author begins this chapter with describing how in latter times some will depart from the faith.

Reason is that they will give heed to deceiving spirits and the doctrines of demons.

In the last half of the chapter, he instructs Timothy on how he can be a good minister of Christ.

He is to instruct others in sound doctrine and exercise himself to be godly.

Although young, Timothy should not let anyone despise him for his youth.

He must demonstrate the proper example of how a believer should speak and live.

Author encourages Timothy that his progress will be evident to all.

Chapter 5

In this chapter the author instructs Timothy regarding various members of the congregation.

In general Timothy is to consider them as family and exhort them accordingly.

A major section is devoted to the care of widows for the long-term.

Younger widows are expected to remarry and have children.

Widows with children and grandchildren are to be supported by their own families.

These women are not to be a burden to the church.

Elders who rule well are to be worthy of financial support.

Accusations against an elder are not to be taken seriously unless there are two or three witnesses.

Those elders who are sinning need to be publicly rebuked so that the rest may be afraid.

Author then gives Timothy a solemn charge to be free from prejudice and partiality.

He is to be cautious and keep himself pure from the sins of others.

He turns to the personal and offers advice for treating some stomach ailment that Timothy had.

He reminds Timothy that both sins and good works will eventually become evident.

Chapter 6

Final chapter begins with instructions concerning servants and their duties to their masters.

A description follows of those who might teach otherwise.

Author warns of the need to be content with food and clothing (with what they have).

He lifts up the danger facing those who desire to be rich.

Timothy is then charged to run away from such temptations.

He is to pursue things suitable for a man of God.

He is encouraged to fight the good fight of faith and to lay hold on eternal life.

The letter ends with instructions for Christians who are rich in this world.

He passionately pleads with Timothy to guard what was entrusted to him.

He is to avoid at all costs the profane babbling over false doctrines which led others away.

Assignment for January 23

Complete the Exercises from Lesson 38 on Pages 197-200

Read *2 Timothy* or the portions outlined on Page 200