

# Seven Bible Studies 2017

## Epistles

### August 13: 1 Timothy 1-3 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, August 13 ~ 1 Timothy 1 - 3

Paul is now out of prison visiting the Macedonian people when he wrote this letter. Paul sends Timothy to address concerns regarding the Ephesian church that had arisen since his original letter. Paul's message was being distorted along with Jewish customs being exercised in place of the original message. This letter to Timothy was meant to encourage and influence him on helping correct matters needing addressed until Paul could return to Ephesus himself.

#### Ch 1

Paul urges Timothy to stay on top of those who were spreading false doctrine and irrelevant ideas set to mislead and divert studying from God's word. Paul emphasizes the goal of this command is love, that comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. These current teachers want to teach the law but have no clue what they are even talking about.

Verses 8 - 11 Paul speaks that the law is written for the lawbreakers and that those who are righteously following God's law.

Paul states that he feels it's a great privilege God showed such great mercy and love to allow Paul the honor of showing His word! He states that his former sins were caused through ignorance and unbelief but the love of Christ turned him around.

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." (15-16)

If you believe you have sinned so much that you can't be forgiven, just look at Paul... Christ used him as an example of the most extreme being forgiven and actually being used to deliver His message!! What a great example using Paul, chief among sinners.

Paul finishes the chapter by telling Timothy that he is entrusting him to fulfill the prophecies foretold of him how he will be such a devout brother in teaching Christ's message. Paul makes mention that there have been some, Hymenaeus and Alexander, [as well as Philetus (2 Timothy 2:17)] who have went astray from Christ's message and have been spreading the message that Christ has returned. To them, he had given them over to Satan in hopes they will have a wake-up call like what Paul wishes to happen in 1 Corinthians 5:5, "hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.". Paul hopes that this stern discipline causes them to 'hit rock bottom' so they will get their life back on track in serving God properly.

#### Ch 2

Paul goes into how the worship service should be for us worshipping God. Pray. Pray for all, including those ruling over us so that we can have peaceful lives living for Him.

He mentions, as we all know, God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Verse 5 speaks of there being only one God and one mediator between God and mankind, Christ!! (This scripture helps validate a separation between God and Christ).

Remainder of chapter continues to speak of how men and women should be in worshipping. Verse 11 is widely used to reference woman not teaching over man. I know when I was baptized, I was immediately placed in an older age group where a man was the teacher. Once baptism has taken place I do see it necessary for the young man to be taught by men instead of woman unless it is not possible due to circumstances...

Ch 3

This chapter specifically goes over officers of the church such as elders and deacons. Men should all strive to attain this level of purity, whether or not they should desire the position or not. It's not an easy task to complete by any means but verse 13 puts it well, "Those who have served will gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus." Paul states he desires to soon be with them again but wanted this letter to proceed his arrival in case he was delayed.

### **Comment:**

Butch O'Neal:  
Thank you, Ryan!

### **Comment:**

Ryan Ingle:  
You're more than welcome:)

### **Comment:**

Charles Fry:  
Thank you, Ryan! Important information in this letter!  
Most commentaries do place the time of writing 1 Timothy after the imprisonment at Rome in Acts 28, after the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. However, I believe the time and circumstances of the writing are Paul's departure from Ephesus at the end of Acts 19, and first few verses of Acts 20, when Paul went from Ephesus to Macedonia, before his imprisonment. Then, a few months after writing to Timothy, when Paul was en route to Jerusalem from Macedonia and Achaea, he summoned the elders Timothy had appointed in Ephesus to meet him, as reported in the second half of Acts 20, telling them among other things that he would never see their faces again.

### **Replies:**

Ryan Ingle:  
Thank you for your insight. Paul was a very dedicated spiritual man for God! To know that he was going to give his life for the message he was teaching is very inspirational. I appreciate your understanding here on the timing of this letter!

## **August 20: 1 Timothy 4-6 (Ryan Ingle)**

Sunday, August 20 ~ 1 Timothy 4 - 6

Chapter 4

Paul continues instructing Timothy regarding his visit with the Ephesian people. He instructed Timothy that there will be deceiving spirits in the last days whom will forbid eating certain foods and forbid marriage. It's interesting that just recently the Pope came out with the message that

priest may soon be allowed to marry. There are several religions that forbid eating certain foods but here Paul makes it clear God doesn't forbid the eating of any types of food that are eaten with a thankful spirit.

If Timothy goes by what he had been taught and stays true to Christ's message, he will prove faithful and help those Christians who could easily stray from the message. Don't get caught up in needless stories and keep yourself spiritually exercised as well as a little physical exercised helps:)

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” (4:8)

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

(4:12)

We, as Christians, need to remember that even though we may have young members in our bodies, they can be tremendous examples of even how we should conduct ourselves at times! I have seen many younger members do outstanding jobs in the faith... Be of encouragement and don't look down on them. We don't want to hinder their growth in any way!!

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (15-16)

Very good ending to this chapter on verses we should pounder!!

## Chapter 5

Treat the elderly men and women as you would your parents, and younger men and women as brothers or sisters.

If a widow has children or grandchildren and she is in need of help, it is there responsibility to "step up to the plate" and help her out where possible. This pleases God to see their debt repaid to the widow.

The widow without a family places her faith in God and prays most of the time. These widows I believe it would be the church's responsibility to help them through the church if there are no other avenues of help!

Paul is very clear here of the importance in this matter...“Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

(5:8) I am sure if that family who is trying to do the right thing in helping the widow out can't physically or financially support the widow can ask for help from the church is they earnestly need it.

Widows over sixty who have been a very good and faithful servant of others may be placed in need of help like previously stated. Younger ones are believed to not keep faithful add their desires will get the best of them. They are actually encouraged to remarry to prevent them from talking away from Christ through needless gossiping and busybody activities...

Elders who are doing correct in the Lord and maintaining the flock well should not be hindered from doing their duties. However, if they are running and need corrected, let it be done through two or three witnesses. This reproving should be done before everyone so that the other elders will be reminded to keep themselves faithful and not led astray by sin.

## Chapter 6

Those who are slaves should not slander themselves by not doing well for their masters as this reflects poorly upon their faith. If their master is also of their faith they should show no disrespect to them and should even do more for their masters.

If there are those who teach contrary to our message, from Christ, and do not correct their errors but instead continue in spreading false teachings "they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions" (6:4). They are in it to make money off religious people. But those who are truly in godliness should understand that we came into this world penniless, and will leave this world penniless. As long as you have the essentials like clothing and bread on the table is what matters. Those who desire more can easily be led astray with other desires. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (6:10)

"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (11-12)

Timothy was encouraged to help those who were rich to direct their attention to godliness as their gains will far exceed anything this world has to offer. "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." (6:18)

Good messages for all of us to take in! Paul finishes the letter by telling Timothy to keep the faith and not get caught up in needless chatter.

### **Comment:**

Butch O'Neal:  
Thank you, Ryan!

### **Replies:**

Ryan Ingle:  
You're welcome. Have a blessed LORD'S Day!!

Butch O'Neal:  
You too, my brother!

### **Comment:**

Ginger Hermon:  
Thanks, Ryan! Such important chapters for all Christians in all times. Warnings, instruction and encouragement. "Flee from all of this... pursue righteousness... fight the good fight of faith..."