



## 1 Timothy

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### Lesson 1: Introduction and 1 Timothy 1

Paul met Timothy on his second missionary journey in Lystra. Paul took Timothy with him and disciplined him in ministry. Their relationship grew to that of a father-son relationship. Although Timothy became a pastor who was well versed in the Scriptures, there were still things that this young protégé needed to learn from his father in the faith. Paul wrote this letter shortly after his release from his first Roman imprisonment in about AD 62-64. While 1 Timothy was written to Timothy, a man charged with oversight of God's church, the contents of this letter must be studied by all as they are relevant for the entire congregation. Let's dive in and see what Paul wrote to his son so that we might apply it to our lives and glorify God.

#### Introduction

➤ **Read Acts 16:1–5**

1. In verse 1, what nationality were his mother and father?
2. According to verses 2–3, what kind of reputation and popularity did Timothy have?
3. In verses 4–5, what was Timothy's first public ministry experience?

➤ **Read 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:15**

4. What influence did Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, have in his life?

**Application:** What person(s) has had a spiritual mentor role in your life? What have you learned and in what ways are you or can you pass that on to others? (Women: In what ways do the above verses encourage or challenge you?)

## 1 Timothy 1

### ➤ Read 1 Timothy 1:1–7

5. In verse 1, Paul states he is an apostle of Jesus Christ “according to the commandment of God our Savior.” What is Paul asserting here as he begins his letter?
6. In verse 2, what kind of relationship does Paul have with Timothy?
7. According to verse 3, where is Timothy pastoring when Paul writes this letter to him?
8. In verses 3–4, what was Timothy’s assignment in Ephesus?

**Application:** What are ways people bring “strange doctrines,” “myths,” or “endless genealogies” into the church today? How can you make sure you don’t fall into this trap?

9. In verse 5, Paul gives three ways that you can tell a true teacher from a false teacher. What are they?
10. In verses 6–7, how does Paul describe the false teachers?

### ➤ Read 1 Timothy 1:8–11

11. How does Paul describe the Law and its purpose?

**Application:** Have you ever used the Law when witnessing to an unbeliever? In what ways can you use the Law when witnessing?

**Application:** In verse 11, Paul describes the gospel as “the glorious gospel of the blessed God.” What glorious truths about God should you present when sharing the gospel?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 1:12–17**

12. In verse 12, Paul gives thanks to Christ for strengthening him. He then gives two reasons for his thanksgiving to Christ. What are they?

13. In verse 13, what three ways does Paul describe his former life?

14. According to verses 12–14, how are men called into ministry?

**Application:** In verse 15, Paul identifies himself as “foremost of all” sinners? How can this view of self be healthy? How can this view of self also be unhealthy?

15. In verse 16, for what purpose did God save Paul?

**Application:** Reflecting back on your own life, how has God shown “perfect patience” with you? Be specific.

16. In view of God’s salvation in his life, Paul breaks out with a doxology (a brief hymn expressing praise or glory to God) in verse 17. How does he describe God in this doxology?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 1:18–20**

17. In verse 18, what command is Paul referring to?

18. What charge does Paul give Timothy in verse 18? In what ways are pastors to do this today?

19. In verse 19, what happens to people who ignore their God-given conscience and the truth?

20. In what ways is verse 20 loving to Timothy and the Ephesian church?

**Application:** Naming names can seem unloving and harsh to some people. But Paul named names out of love for God’s people and the truth. What are ways you can lovingly warn others about false teachers?

**Application:** Considering the example of Hymenaeus and Alexander, why is church discipline good for the church?

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this lesson? Why?

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**Food for Thought**

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“Many people—almost all!—think so little of God’s honor that they would rather favor mortal men than offend them, even if they have just cause. So they allow God’s name to be trodden underfoot.”

—John Calvin