

# Journey Through the Book of First Timothy- How The Church Should Work

## 1 Timothy Chapter 1 NIV

**Author-** God through Apostle Paul



**Purpose of First Timothy-** Encouragement to a young Pastor named Timothy (Paul's son in the ministry) on Church Organization & Administration.

**Date of Writing-** The Book of 1 Timothy was written around A.D. 62-66.

**Context-** False doctrine (teaching), Watered down Christianity and demonic alternative lifestyles were being offered by leaders in the Church at Ephesus.

### ***1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope***

Paul introduces himself as not just an Apostle but “An Apostle of Christ Jesus”. In his day, there were some who disputed this claim because they thought only those who had been with Jesus while he was physically on earth, could be a Apostle.

#1 The risen Jesus did appear to Paul to commission him (**Acts 9 & 22**).

#2 The word Apostle means Ambassador.

*Apostle (Greek- Apostolos) - One who is sent off, an Emissary or Ambassador.*

### **2 To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

No leader in the New Testament Biblical Church was aloud to lead without first learning how to follow. God places us under mentors to develop us. There are few relationships more important than that of a Spiritual mentor. The Apostle Paul writes this letter to his young mentee Pastor Timothy, to help him be a better Christian leader. No matter what title or position we may have, we should always be accountable to someone.

### **3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer.**

Paul installs Timothy as Pastor of the Church in Ephesus. He knows him well because Timothy had accompanied Paul on Missionary journeys. He had seen his spiritual work ethic. He leaves him in Ephesus to lead them. Some leaders in the Church had begun to teach false teaching. Paul tells Pastor Timothy to “Command” them that they stop teaching False Doctrine. There is an old saying that goes.

“Termites kill more trees than Woodpeckers.”

The meaning behind that saying is, things are killed quicker from the inside than they are from the outside. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 “Upon this rock (Spiritual Truth) I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it”. None of Satan tools can defeat the Church but his most powerful tool is False teaching. Every local Church that ever failed or closed its doors was due to some False teaching and belief, some lie that the people believed. I have heard all sorts of people who supposed to be Christian leaders teach demonic lies. There is **NO BIGGER THREAT** to the unity of the Church than false teaching. Attack on the character and truth of God was the original tool Satan used to get God’s people to give up God’s plan for Satan’s lie in Genesis 3.

**4 or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith.**

**Myths-** (Greek- Mythos) Sayings, Stories, Traditions and Fables

**Genealogies-** (Greek- Genealogia) Family Lineage (Family Tree)

Churches are destroyed by following traditions and fables and emphasizing family names and traditions. To many churches are filled with people that can quote what “Mother so and so” said way back in the day or what this or that family contributed in the churches history but, are completely ignorant of what God word and Will is for that Church.

### **2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV**

*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

Food For Thought

In What Ways Have You as A Believer Followed Myths And Family Traditions Over The Truth Of God's Word?

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**5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**

The Goal of any command of God is Love. Leadership is not always telling people what to do. Leadership is telling people "How to do". Whatever God commands us to do is predicated on "A Love Motivation".

**6 Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.**

We live in a time when it seems like everybody wants to be "deep", Everybody has "A Word". You can find a minister to tell you whatever you want to hear. People have polished their presentations to a Hollywood shine. We are tempted to believe people because they speak with such confidence. The Apostle Paul is telling Timothy that he is contending with "Slicked Up" Con-Artist who will confidently preach false doctrine that will fool those who have no depth.

*Matthew 24:24*

*24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

Remember, the biggest threat to the Church is False teaching. In timothy's time as well as ours, you can find a "Church" that will suit whatever lifestyle you want to live. If you don't like what this one says, run over there to that one. The Church is suffering an image crisis because anyone can claim to be a Church. Unfortunately, the unsaved sees us all the same. So negative things that happen at any Church reflects on every Church.

**8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.**

The Apostle brings up an interesting point. The Law (Commands) of God are all intended to bring about Spiritual and Physical healing and growth when used as God intended. However, Church history is filled with examples of people who twisted the word of God to disempower people. Women and minorities have been attacked by false teaching that came from the Church. In America, slave owners twisted the word of God to justify their sin filled actions. In the Church, Men twisted scripture and took it out of context to hold back women. One of those scriptures we will discuss in the next chapter (1 Timothy 2). During the Salem Witch trials in 1692, jealousy broke out among the colony. Twenty people were executed because they were accused of practicing witchcraft. Turns out, women used “The Law of God” to get rid of other women who they were jealous of.

*Philippians 1:15-18 New International Version*

*It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice*

**9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.**

The Apostle Paul names a list of sins that we all can recognize including Homosexuality which is sin. Notice though in verse 11. The point of the Law of God is to make us aware of our sin and bring us to repentance and a transforming relationship with God. Regardless of whether its sexual sin, Lying, Murder, Human trafficking, or anything else, God is asking you to repent and agree with him. God wants you to confess your guilt and he will help you to become what he designed you to be.

*1 John 1:8-10 New International Version*

*8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins*

and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

**12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.**

Most Great Christians, come out of really messed up backgrounds. The Apostle was a former persecutor of the Church. He literally murdered Christians before he got saved. Everybody has a past and God can turn that into your testimony. Who better to minister to an Alcoholic than a person who has been delivered from alcoholism. Who better to minister to a homosexual person than someone who has been delivered from homosexuality. The Church misses so many opportunities to be effective because we judge others who are bound by sin and hid the sin that had us bound. We get saved and two weeks later, we act as though we always been saved. Don't mistake a short memory for a clear conscious.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11 New International Version*

*9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

**15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 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. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Jesus did not come into the world just to make your life easier or more comfortable. Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins. When you look at the average Church in America, you don't see this as a priority. We focus on who the Pastor is, on the music or some program. If people are not coming to know Jesus as their Savior at your Church, you

just have a social club. The Apostle said God uses his past to demonstrate to non-believers, his ability to change anybody's life. Our lives as believers should demonstrate the power of God to save anybody.

**18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.**

The Apostle Paul reminds Pastor Timothy that leading God's people will mean he will be attacked. Even by those within the Church. Hymenaeus and Alexander were two prominent men in the Church at Ephesus, who undoubtedly were Christians but who had become seriously sidetracked by the Enemy. They had taken in and spread false teaching, and as the result of this the apostle had to hand them over to Satan to teach them not to blaspheme. The purpose was to restore them; it was that they might be taught, that they might be disciplined, and this seems to indicate that they were Christians who had been led astray and who needed to be disciplined by the Lord. When Christians willfully persist in disobeying the Lord there is need for discipline, and sometimes this discipline is very severe.

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