

Purpose

To give encouragement and instruction to young Timothy

Author

Paul

To Whom Written

Timothy, a church leader

Date Written

From Rome or Macedonia or Philippi (64 AD), just prior to Paul's final imprisonment

Setting

Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions. Paul had sent Timothy to the church at Ephesus to counter the false teaching that had arisen there. Paul wrote this letter to give Timothy practical advice about ministry.

Key Place

Ephesus

Key Verse

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." *1 Timothy 4:12*

Special Feature

This book is a handbook of church administration and discipline.

An Overview (6 Chapters)

- Instruction on Right Beliefs (*1:1-20*)
- Instruction for the Church (*2:1-3:16*)
- Instruction for Elders (*4:1-6:21*)

Major Themes

- *Sound Doctrine:* Paul instructed Timothy to preserve the Christian faith by teaching sound doctrine and modeling right living. Timothy had to oppose false teachers, who were leading church members away from belief in salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- *Public Worship:* Prayer in public worship must be done with a proper attitude toward God and fellow believers. Christian character must be evident in every aspect of worship.
- *Church Leadership:* Paul gives specific instructions concerning the qualifications for church leaders so that the church might honor God and operate smoothly. Church leaders must be wholly committed to Christ.
- *Personal Discipline:* It takes discipline to be a leader in the Church. Timothy, like all pastors, had to guard his motives, minister faithfully, and live above reproach. Any pastor must keep morally and spiritually fit. To stay in good spiritual shape, you must discipline yourself to study God's Word and to obey it.
- *Caring Church:* The church has a responsibility to care for the needs of all its members, especially the sick, the poor, and the widowed. Caring must go beyond good intentions. Caring for the family of believers demonstrates our Christ-like attitude and exhibits genuine love to non-believers.