

# Intro to I TIMOTHY

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**Paul and Timothy:** The relationship between Paul and Timothy is one of mentorship. Timothy is first mentioned in Acts 16:1. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, are mentioned in I Timothy 1:5. All that we know of his father is that he was a Greek and not a Jew.

Paul's second visit to Lystra is when Timothy first connected with Paul. Paul not only brought Timothy into the faith, but he was Timothy's main mentor in Christian leadership, having done church planting and missionary journeys together. Timothy would have received his authority to preach in churches directly from Paul who was, of course, the greater known and accepted of the two and was also an apostle. Timothy's official position in the church was one of an evangelist, and he worked with Paul in Phrygia, Galatia, Philippi, and Berea. Timothy was also noted for coming to Paul's aid when Paul fell into prison.

Paul writes these letters to his young friend to encourage him, but also to instruct him in matters concerning the practices of the local church.

## **Chapter 1 / Intro and Theme**

Paul wastes not time conveying the reason for his writing and the basis upon which Timothy is to lead and operate his church. Verse 5 of chapter one states: "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." Those three elements have to be the nucleus for every believer and every church—pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith all wrapped up in genuine agape love. In the remaining verses, Paul reminds Timothy of the basic elements of the Gospel: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom, I am the worst."

## **Chapter 2 / Instructions for Worship**

The very first instructions for Timothy and his congregation is that they base their worship on intercessory prayer. Paul's exhortation is that intercessory prayer should be offered up for everyone, including kings and all those who are in authority. He then gives exhortations for men to worship without being angry at their fellow brothers, and for women to dress modestly and to learn in quietness and submission.

## **Chapter 3 / Overseers and Deacons**

Paul gives Timothy clear guidelines for those who wish to become overseers and deacons in the church, as well, as instructions for their wives.

## **Chapter 4 / Practical Christian Living**

Paul begins chapter 4 with a statement regarding the latter days, and how some will move away from the faith and follow other teachings. As such, he encourages Timothy to practice godliness and to teach his congregation to do the same. In that teaching, his theme verse is in verse 12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."

## **Chapter 5 / Widows and elders**

Paul addresses several issues in chapter 5. First, he instructs regarding the elderly and the widows. He instructs him to take care of the widows, but to encourage their families to take care of them, if they exist. The rest of the chapter is filled with assorted words of instruction that applies to younger widows, elders, and some personal words for Timothy, himself.

## **Chapter 6 / Love of Money**

As Paul has in some other letters, he addresses slaves, and how they are to regard their masters with the highest respect. These are interesting passages, mainly because slavery, while it is still practiced in other parts of the world, no longer exists here. In verse 3 and following, Paul warns against the "love" of money. He closes the chapter with an exhortation to Timothy to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

# Intro to II TIMOTHY

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## **Chapter 1 / Personal Encouragement from Paul to his young protégé**

In the opening remarks of his second letter to Timothy, Paul takes the opportunity to give proper recognition to two significant people of faith in Timothy's family—his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. He exhorts Timothy to guard this legacy of faith that has been passed down to him. Two significant verses characterize this thought: "Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you..." and "For God did not give you a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind."

## **Chapter 2 / An Approved Workman**

Paul instructs Timothy to endure the hardship that he encounters as Godly discipline. He then equates serving the Lord to the plight of three people—the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer. He gives him a word of instruction that is the theme verse for AWANA: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." He also tells Timothy to "Flee the evil desires of youth, and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace."

## **Chapter 3 / Apostasy in the last days**

In one of his famous passages, Paul describes conditions that will characterize "the last days." Among the traits that will be prominent are people that will become lovers of themselves rather than lovers of God, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Paul ends the chapter with a reiteration of some of the things that characterized Paul's ministry—his teachings, his way of life, and his persecutions. He ends the chapter with the declaration that "all scripture is "God-breathed..."

## **Chapter 4 / A closing charge**

In the last chapter, Paul issues a strong challenge to Timothy to "preach the Word and to be prepared in season and out of season." He closes the chapter with that famous summation of Paul's ministry: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

In his closing remarks, Paul mentions several significant names: Priscilla and Aquilla, whom Paul met when he was in Corinth, and John Mark, with whom he parted company after the first missionary journey.

A key phrase in these last verses offers some insight into Paul's forgiving and redeeming spirit. "Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry."

This second letter to Timothy offers some of Paul's most impressive and endearing words that give us great and tremendous insight into the heart of the Apostle Paul.