

Teaching through First Timothy

Studies in Church Administration

Lesson: Topic and Chapter:

1. Wage a Good Warfare against Error (1 Timothy 1)
2. Public Worship Must Be Proper (1 Timothy 2)
3. Church Officers Must Be Qualified (1 Timothy 3)
4. Apostasy Must Be Exposed (1 Timothy 4)
5. All Members Must Be Respected (1 Timothy 5)
6. Error Must Be Corrected (1 Timothy 6)

Lesson 1: Wage a Good Warfare against Error (1 Timothy)

Key Verse: "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare." (1 Timothy 1:18)

Introduction: The apostle Paul urged Timothy to remain in Ephesus to correct teachers of error and to wage a good warfare against it. The law should lead to pure love, not quarrelsome fables. Paul praised the Lord for graciously permitting him to minister the truth.

Salutation: Paul greeted Timothy his son in the faith (1:1-2)

I. Paul Urged Timothy to Correct Teachers of Error (1:3-4)

- A. Remain in Ephesus (3)
- B. Charge the teachers to avoid error (3-4)
 - 1. They should not teach unsound doctrine
 - 2. They should not give heed to fables and genealogies

II. Paul Instructed Timothy about the Law (1:5-11)

- A. The purpose of any commandment is love (5)
 - 1. Love must be from a pure heart
 - 2. Love must be from a good conscience
 - 3. Love must be from a sincere faith
- B. Some teachers have strayed from this purpose (6-7)
 - 1. They have turned to idle talk (6)
 - 2. They are not qualified to teach the law (7)
- C. The law is good when rightfully used (8-11)

III. Paul Praised the Lord for the Privilege of the Ministry (1:12-17)

- A. The Lord counted him faithful for the ministry (12)
- B. Yet Paul had formerly opposed the gospel (13)
- C. The Lord chose to display His grace through Paul (14-16)
- D. Paul glorified God at the thought of all this (17)

IV. Paul Charged Timothy to Wage War against Error (1:18-20)

- A. Wage a good warfare (18)
- B. Have faith and a good conscience (19)
- C. Unfortunately some teachers have rejected this (20)

Conclusion: Today Christians must still combat error. God's law leads to a deep love for Him and His people, not to bondage and strife.

Lesson 2: Public Worship Must Be Proper (1 Timothy 2)

Key Verse: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." (1 Timothy 2:1)

Introduction: After instructing Timothy in the proper warfare against error in the church, Paul taught him about proper public worship. Christians should pray for the salvation of all men. Men should worship God with holy hands; women should worship in modesty and submission.

I. Worship Requires Proper Prayer (2:1-7)

A. Prayer for a quiet and peaceable life (1-2)

1. Pray for all men (1)
2. Pray for kings (2)
3. Pray for all authorities (2)

B. Pray for the salvation of all men (3-7)

1. Such prayer is good and acceptable to God (3)
2. God desires all men to be saved (4)
3. God provided for all men to be saved (5-7)
 - a. Christ Jesus is the mediator (5)
 - b. Christ Jesus is the ransom for all men (6)
 - c. Christ Jesus appointed preachers (7)

II. Worship Requires Proper Conduct (2:8-15)

A. The conduct of men must be proper (8)

1. Men should pray everywhere
2. Men should have holy lives
3. Men should be free from wrath and doubt

B. The conduct of women must be proper (9-15)

1. Women should be adorned in modest apparel (9-10)
2. Women should be in submission to authority (11-15)
 - a. Women should learn in silent submission (11)
 - b. Women should not teach or have authority over men (12)
 - c. The reasons go back to creation (13-15)

Conclusion: Let Christians today continue to preach the gospel and pray for the lost, living holy lives before a lost world.

Lesson 3: Church Officers Must Be Qualified (1 Timothy 3)

Key Verse: "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1)

Introduction: Paul instructed Timothy on the qualifications of church officers: the pastor (bishop) and deacons. He reminded Timothy that the church should be properly conducted because it is indwelt by the incarnate God.

I. The Pastor Must Be Well Qualified (3:1-7)

- A. The pastor's office is a good work (1)
- B. The pastor must have blameless personal characteristics (2)
 - 1. Blameless character
 - 2. Not a polygamist
 - 3. Temperate and sober-minded
 - 4. Well-behaved
- C. The pastor must have excellent interpersonal characteristics (2-3)
 - 1. Hospitable
 - 2. An able teacher
 - 3. Nondrinking, nonviolent, nongreedy
 - 4. Gentle, not quarrelsome
 - 5. Noncovetous
- D. The pastor must be a good leader (4-5)
 - 1. He rules well at home (4)
 - 2. He rules well in the church (5)
- E. The pastor must be experienced (6)
- F. The pastor must have a good reputation (7)

II. The Deacons Must Be Well Qualified (3:8-13)

- A. Deacons must have excellent personal characteristics (8)
- B. Deacons must be confirmed believers (9)
- C. Deacons must be proven blameless (10)
- D. Deacons' wives must be godly (11)
- E. Deacons must not be polygamists (12)
- F. Deacons must be good leaders (12)
- G. The deacon's office is highly respectable (13)

III. These Qualifications Assure Good Church Administration (3:14-16)

- A. Paul wrote about proper church conduct (14-15)
- B. The church is indwelt by God (15)
- C. The church proclaims the incarnation of God (16)

Conclusion: Church members must appoint officers who meet Biblical qualifications.

Lesson 4: Apostasy Must Be Exposed (1 Timothy 4)

Key Verse: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."
(1 Timothy 4:1)

Introduction: Paul warned Timothy about the danger of apostasy in the latter days. The church should be taught and warned about its dangers, and taught to diligently avoid apostasy in personal walk and public worship.

I. Warn the Church about Apostasy (4:1-6)

A. Some will depart from the faith in the latter days (1-5)

1. They will follow demonism (1)
2. They will disregard the truth (2)
3. They will disregard the conscience (2)
4. They will forbid marriage (3)
5. They will command abstinence of good food (3-5)
 - a. God created it for good food (3)
 - b. All such created food is good (4)
 - c. None should be refused (4-5)

B. Instruct the brethren about these things (6)

1. This makes the ministry good
2. This makes the ministry nourished

II. Work to Avoid Apostasy in the Church (4:7-16)

A. Teach the brethren to exercise in godliness (7-11)

1. Reject profane fables (7)
2. Exercise in godliness (7-10)
 - a. It is more profitable than athletics (8-9)
 - b. It is worthy of labor and reproach (10)
3. Command and teach these things (11)

B. Keep apostasy out of public life (12-13)

1. Be a good public example of sound doctrine (12)
2. Conduct proper public worship (13)

C. Keep apostasy out of personal life (14-16)

1. Cultivate personal spiritual gifts (14)
2. Make sure of personal spiritual growth (15)
3. Make sure personal doctrine remains sound (16)

Conclusion: Apostasy can creep into a church undetected unless Christians exercise themselves in godliness and guard themselves from apostasy in their personal and public lives.

Lesson 5: All Members Must Be Respected (1 Timothy 5)

Key Verse: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." (1 Timothy 5:17)

Introduction: Paul instructed Timothy on how to treat the members of the church. Everyone deserves the dignity of a respected family member. Older destitute widows are worthy of support by the church. Pastors are worthy of honor and wages, but their lives must demonstrate their worthiness.

I. Members of All Ages Must Be Respected (5:1-2)

II. True Widows Should Be Honored (5:3-16)

- A. True widows have no family to support them (3-4)
- B. True widows depend wholly on God (5-7)
- C. It is a disgrace not to support a widowed relative (8)
- D. Older qualified widows should be supported by the church (9-10)
- E. Younger widows should marry and be housewives (11-15)
 - 1. The church should not support them (11)
 - 2. Such support may be spiritually detrimental (12-13)
 - 3. They should marry and raise a family (14)
 - 4. This will avoid potential sin (14-15)
- F. Believers should support a widowed relative (16)

III. Elders Are Worthy of Double Honor (5:17-22)

- A. Elders are worthy of honor and wages (17-18)
- B. Discipline an elder with caution (19-21)
 - 1. Receive only legally verifiable accusations (19)
 - 2. Openly rebuke the guilty (20)
 - 3. Discipline without prejudice or partiality (21)
- C. Ordain an elder only after careful examination (22-25)
 - 1. Do not ordain hastily (22)
 - 2. Keep pure (and healthy) (22-23)
 - 3. Careful examination is needed for some (24-25)

Conclusion: All members of the church are to be respected, but honor and financial support should be given only to those proven to be worthy.

Lesson 6: Error Must Be Corrected (1 Timothy 6)

Key Verse: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." (1 Timothy 6:20)

Introduction: Paul instructed Timothy to correct certain erroneous attitudes in the Ephesian Church. Slaves despised their masters; false teachers were tolerated; people had a mercenary view of godliness and were lax in personal righteousness; riches and knowledge were wrongfully esteemed.

I. Correct Servant's Attitude toward Masters (6:1-2)

II. Correct Toleration of False Teachers (6:3-5)

- A. They do not accept sound doctrine (3)
- B. They are proud, ignorant disputers (4)
- C. They have corrupt minds (5)
- D. They are destitute of the truth (5)
- E. They view godliness as a means of gain (5)
- F. Withdraw from such false teachers (5)

III. Correct the View of Godliness and Gain (6:6-10)

- A. Godliness with contentment is great gain (6)
- B. Be content with the necessities of life (7-8)
- C. The desire for wealth leads to destruction (9)
- D. The love of money is the root of all evil (10)
- E. Some have strayed in their greed (10)

IV. Correct Laxity in Personal Godliness (6:11-16)

- A. Pursue personal godliness (11-12)
- B. Blamelessly keep the command until Christ comes (13-14)
- C. Christ is the sovereign Lord (15-16)

V. Correct the Attitude of the Rich (6:17-19)

- A. They should trust God not riches (17)
- B. They should be rich in good works (18)
- C. They should store up treasures for eternity (19)

VI. Correct the Attitude toward Knowledge (6:20-21)

- A. Guard the sacred trust (20)
- B. Avoid profane, contradictory knowledge (21)
- C. Some have strayed in their knowledge (21)

Conclusion: These same attitudes need to be corrected today. Christians should highly esteem loving servitude, sound doctrine and truth, godliness with contentment, generosity and faith.