

COMMENTARY

I TIMOTHY 1

vs. 1-11:

Paul is writing to one of his converts, Timothy, who had joined with him on his missionary journeys and was present when Paul wrote some of his other letters. They were close (Paul calling him, his son on occasion). Yet, the introduction appears to carry with it a more serious nature, than just 2 friends writing letters. Paul commands Timothy to stay in Ephesus, making sure that false teaching does not take place. Some of these teachings spring from myths and genealogies; some to the point that they cause division in the church. Paul reassures Timothy that his only motivation is love and concern.

Paul reminds Timothy that the purpose of the law was to make men aware that their lives are contrary to the teaching and message of God.

vs. 12-20:

Paul shows that the greatness of God's grace, can be seen in him. He had once imprisoned and had killed Christian people, yet God still loved him, and accepted him into the Kingdom of Christ. If Jesus had died, even for one such as Paul, then surely God must be a patient, loving and forgiving God! Paul tells Timothy that the purpose of the letter is to help Timothy remain faithful and true to the faith.

I TIMOTHY 2

vs. 1-15:

Paul asks that Christians pray for the government and all authorities (good or bad; Nero [who persecuted Christians, was then emperor]). The purpose is that we might have peace and order in which to live Christian lives.

Such Christian lives are pleasing to God. God wants all to be saved and come to believe the gospel concerning Jesus Christ (the perfect one who gave His life, so others might live). Paul was called then to declare this gospel to all people. Paul calls for men to pray in a respectful, petitioning way to their heavenly Father. They are not to pray "against" another (asking God to curse, punish, etc.).

Concerning the women, Paul also insists that their clothing be modest, with their beauty stemming from within. Women are to quietly accept God's Word as true; and they are not to teach men or to usurp authority. This is the result of Eve being deceived easily by Satan; therefore, the men are to be responsible for these things. Women will be saved by maintaining the womanly role that God has assigned, rather than trying to take on another's role!

I TIMOTHY 3

vs. 1-16:

Paul commends those who seek to be elders, serving in the Church. These leaders are to be prime examples to all believers and their community of what being a Christian is all about. They must not have any area where it would cause others to stumble or make excuse. They are to be "one-woman" men, not drunkards, but hospitable, able to teach, gentle, not a lover of money or quarrelsome, a good family man (controlling his household), a man who has been a Christian for quite some time, and have a good reputation in the community. Deacons are also to be worthy of respect and sincere in their faith. They must hold to the true teaching of the word, honest men who aren't drunkards. These should be chosen after they have proved themselves. THEIR WIVES must also be worthy of respect, not gossips, but controlled and honest. The deacons should also have control of their families and be "one-woman" men.

[Such men would be of tremendous benefit and help to any congregation. If these features are lacking, then their ability to lead will be hampered.] Paul tells Timothy that this letter will help people to know how to live for Christ, the one who came and glorified by angels and now preached to all the nations and now sits at the Right Hand of God.

STUDY GUIDE

I TIMOTHY 1

1. What, according to verse 3, was the reason Timothy was in Ephesus?
2. What do myths and endless genealogies promote?
3. What was the goal of Pauls' command?
4. What have some turned to?
5. What is good, if a man know how to use it properly?
6. Who was the law, not made for?
7. Why did Paul thank Jesus?
8. What was Paul at one time? (see vs. 13)
9. Why was Paul shown mercy?
10. What is a trustworthy saying that deserves acceptance?
11. What did Paul want Timothy to fight?
12. What had some rejected, thus shipwrecking their faith?

BONUS:

1. What discussions today, cause division in the Church? Paul had taught.
2. How does the law affect Christians today?
3. How do we hold onto faith and a good conscience?

STUDY GUIDE

I TIMOTHY 2:

1. Who are we to pray for?
2. What does God want?
3. Who mediates between God and man?
4. What did Jesus give Himself as?
5. How are men to pray?
6. How are women to dress?
7. How are women to learn?
8. What did Paul not permit?
9. Who was formed first?
10. Who was deceived?
11. What did they become when deceived?
12. How are women to continue?

BONUS:

1. What do we learn about prayer?
2. What do we learn about women and their life in the Church?
3. Was this teaching for women, just for that era? Explain.

Study Guide

I TIMOTHY 3:

1. Who desires a noble task?
2. What must the overseer be?
3. What is the overseer not to be?
4. What is to be his relationship with his family?
5. Why must he not be a recent convert?
6. What is he to have with outsiders?
7. What are deacons to be?
8. What are deacons not to be?
9. What must be done, before they serve as deacons?
10. What does it say about their wives?
11. What is to be the relationship between a deacon and his family?
12. What is the mystery of godliness?

BONUS

1. Are these qualifications to be altogether true, or just most of them? Explain.
2. Can women be elders or deacons?
3. What is the job of the elder and deacon?