NEW TESTAMENT · PAUL'S LETTERS · BOOK 54 OF 66

1 Timothy

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life (6:12)

6	Paul	c. A.D. 62–64	A Pastoral Letter
Chapters, 113 Verses	To Timothy	Written	For Church Leaders

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Paul moves from the church's teaching (1) to its worship and leaders (2–3), to Timothy himself (4), and to the care of every group in the church (5–6).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 113 verses.

I · 1 · 20 verses

Guarding the Faith

False teachers, the law, mercy to the chief of sinners.

II · 2–3 · 31 verses

Church Order

Prayer, worship, bishops, deacons, the mystery of godliness.

III · 4 · 16 verses

A Good Minister

Godliness, example and devotion to Scripture.

IV · 5–6 · 46 verses

Caring for the Church

Widows, elders, servants, riches, the good fight.

BACKGROUND

Who Was Timothy?

ACTS 16:1

From Lystra

Son of a Jewish believing mother and a Greek father.

2 TIM. 1:5

A Godly Family

Faith that dwelt first in his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.

ACTS 16:3

Paul's Companion

Joined Paul on the second journey.

PHIL. 2:20–22

Like a Son

"As a son with the father, he hath served with me."

1 TIM. 1:3

Left at Ephesus

To charge some to teach no other doctrine.

1 TIM. 4:12

Young

"Let no man despise thy youth."

THREE LETTERS

The Pastoral Letters

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus are written to Paul's helpers about caring for churches.

1 · c. A.D. 62–64

1 Timothy

To Timothy at Ephesus: order in the church and sound doctrine.

2 · c. A.D. 62–64

Titus

To Titus on Crete: appoint elders; teach sound doctrine; good works.

3 · c. A.D. 64–67

2 Timothy

Paul's last letter, from prison in Rome: preach the word.

Five "faithful sayings" appear only in these letters: 1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8.

1 TIMOTHY AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

Mercy, Prayer, Bishops and Deacons

CHAPTER 1:12–17

Mercy to the Chief of Sinners

> *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*
>
> 1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

WHAT PAUL WAS	WHAT CHRIST DID
A blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious — 1:13	I obtained mercy — 1:13
The chief of sinners — 1:15	Shewed forth all longsuffering, for a pattern — 1:16

1 TIMOTHY 1:17

The King Eternal

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

CHAPTER 2:1–8

Prayer for All Men

- **Supplications**
- **Prayers**
- **Intercessions**
- **Giving of Thanks**

> *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all”*
>
> 1 Timothy 2:5–6 (KJV)

CHAPTER 3:1–13

Bishops and Deacons

Paul cares more about a leader’s character than his gifts. Almost every quality is something every believer should seek.

3:1–7 · BISHOPS (OVERSEERS)

Blameless

Husband of one wife · vigilant · sober · of good behaviour · given to hospitality · apt to teach · not given to wine · no striker · not greedy · patient · not a brawler · ruling his own house well · not a novice · a good report of them which are without.

3:8–13 · DEACONS

Proved

Grave · not doubletongued · not given to much wine · not greedy · holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience · first proved · their wives grave and faithful · ruling their children and houses well.

“Bishop” translates a word meaning “overseer”; in the New Testament it is used of the same leaders also called elders (Titus 1:5–7).

Godliness, Example and Caring for the Church

CHAPTER 3:15–16

The Mystery of Godliness

The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth” (3:15). Paul sums up that truth in six lines about Christ.

1
God Was Manifest
in the flesh

2
Justified
in the Spirit

3
Seen
of angels

4
Preached
unto the Gentiles

5
Believed On
in the world

6
Received Up
into glory

CHAPTER 4

An Example of the Believers

> *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*
>
> 1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV)

4:7–8
Exercise in Godliness
“Godliness is profitable unto all things.”

4:13
Give Attendance
To reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

4:16
Take Heed
“Unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them.”

CHAPTERS 5–6

Caring for the Church

5:1–2
As Family
Elders as fathers, younger men as brethren, women as mothers and sisters.

5:3–16
Widows
Honour widows indeed; families provide for their own.

5:17–18
Elders
Double honour for those who labour in the word.

5:19–21
Fairness
Two or three witnesses; nothing by partiality.

6:1–2
Servants
Honour masters so God’s name is not blasphemed.

6:17–19
The Rich
Be rich in good works, ready to distribute.

Riches, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 6:6–19

Godliness and Riches

6:6

"But godliness with contentment is great gain."

6:7

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

6:10

"For the love of money is the root of all evil"

6:12

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life"

1 TIMOTHY 6:15–16

King of Kings

"The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto … to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Sound Doctrine

Guard the truth committed to you.

1:3–11; 6:20

Christ Saves Sinners

One Mediator, a ransom for all.

1:15; 2:5–6

Godliness

Profitable unto all things.

3:16; 4:7–8; 6:6

Church Order

Prayer, worship, bishops and deacons.

2:1–3:13

Care for All

Widows, elders, servants, the rich.

5:1–6:2, 17–19

The Good Fight

Flee, follow, fight, lay hold.

6:11–12

KEY VERSE

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)