

I Timothy Sermon #1

I Timothy 1

Tonight we begin a Fall Prayer Meeting Series in the Book of I Timothy!

I Timothy along with II Timothy and Titus make up what we call the Pastoral Epistles

They are called that because they are written to pastors in the ministry – to

ensure that God's church was run right – deal with the practical matters of church life and organization

These are very important books – the 13 chapters of these three books are detailed doctrine regarding church life.

These books were written specifically for this purpose – Biblical Philosophy of Ministry for the local church.

These books are the manuals for churches and that makes them very special

These are the inspired Books of Instruction

Thousands and thousands of books litter this land written on subjects of the church

But these three books – three inspired books lay the groundwork foundation/framework for all of church ministry

These books are the charge from God for our local church

I've entitled tonight's message – "Introduction to Timothy"

I Timothy 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 1:1

Let us pray

You may be seated

Introduction to Timothy

These three epistles were written to two preachers who worked with the Apostle Paul:
Timothy and Titus.

Timothy – Ephesus

Titus – Crete

Apollos – Corinth

“Timothy”—sometimes he is called Timothy and sometimes Timotheus.

Timotheus is made up of two Greek words which mean “that which is dear to God.”

Timothy was dear to God, he was dear to the apostle Paul, and he was dear to the local churches.

Vs. 2

I. Introduction to Timothy

4:12 – some rookie, some novice – green horn

Don't let that fool you

Timothy was a veteran of missionary and pastoral service

Let us look at a little of his background

Timothy's missionary experience began in Acts 16 when he was a young man – middle or late teens – would be a good guess

And Paul, beginning his Second Missionary Journey, met Timothy in a little town called Lystra

Timothy had two things – very strong in his favor – Godly heritage on his mom's side and he was highly recommended by the other believers in Lystra

Acts 16:2 – he was well reported of by the brethren

Proverbs – even a child is know by his doings

Paul took him under his wings and took him on his Second Missionary Journey

From that point on, Timothy is a constant companion of Paul

Timothy was with Paul in Philippi – when Paul and Silas were put in jail and God
earthquaked them out

Timothy was with Paul in Corinth – when Paul was in weakness and fear

Timothy had seen Paul at his strongest and at his weakest

Timothy had seen Paul in Jerusalem when he was arrested and saved from the mob

Timothy was even with Paul in Rome

Timothy knew of all the victories and tragedies of the mission field

And over that process some fifteen years have transpired

During those fifteen years, Timothy had served as interim pastor

We see him in I Timothy 1:3 at Ephesus, but this was not his first pastorate/pastoral
responsibility

In fact, in Thessalonica, Paul had a few converts and Paul was run out of town and he
ended up in Athens

In Athens, Paul sent Timothy back to those believers (I Thess. 3:1-2) to encourage and
establish those believers

Timothy went right back into the fire at Thessalonica at an early age, but he faithfully
fulfilled that charge

Several years later, Paul was in Ephesus and bad news reached him from the
Corinthian church and once again, Paul sent Timothy to deal with the carnal
Christians at Corinth (I Corinthians, chapters 4 and 16)

That was quite an order for Timothy

He was not quite as successful in Corinth.

They would not submit to the instructions given them and we have a second letter
– II Corinthians – which was much stronger in its language

Later at the end of Paul's Roman imprisonment – in Acts 28

Timothy was sent again to the church of Philippi – joyful time – model church

Paul says as soon as he gets out, he would join Timothy in Philippi

That was Timothy's third church—Thessalonica, Corinth, and Philippi

Now, when the Book of I Timothy was written, we have gone beyond the scope of events recorded in Acts

This time Timothy has been sent to the church at Ephesus

Paul is out of prison – he had joined Timothy at Philippi and then they traveled east down into Asia Minor

They visited the churches there and Timothy was left in Ephesus

At the time this was written, Timothy has been pastoring there for a while

Paul went back into Macedonia (I Tim. 1:3) – Philippi is in that area, but we are not sure exactly where

So, I Timothy was written to a veteran of at least 15 years of intense missionary effort on two continents, trained under the Apostle Paul

Timothy has pastored at three places and now he is on his fourth pastorate

Folks, he is seasoned

We need to remember this history when we begin I Timothy

That's the background on Timothy

II. Let's look at his personality

What kind of man would the Apostle Paul have confidence in to give all these ministries to?

The Apostle Paul has spent a total of three years at Ephesus

When we meet Timothy – Timothy was a common man who needed encouragement, support

He had weaknesses and frailties – he was a man

In I Corinthians 16:10, Paul, instructing the church, says to them – see that Timothy be
with you, without fear

He was susceptible to fear

He knows what it is like to be intimidated.

Paul warned them not to intimidate Timothy

When we come to I and II Timothy, we really get to see Timothy's personality

Timothy has both pastoral and personal problems

I Timothy 5:23 – using wine as a medicinal purpose – stomach ailment

These “frequent infirmities” –

Folks, the ministry would irritate, prolong, and expand any illness that a minister may
have

Timothy knew what it was to have some tough pastoral problems

I Timothy 4:12

Evidently, Timothy was not yet 40 and he was having trouble maintaining his
shepherding role/pastoral authority/his respect as their leader

Paul says don't let anyone look down on you – you be an example – in spite of the fact
that you are young – let your testimony be of such high regard

Timothy faced tough things in the ministry

One of these difficulties in Ephesus was false teaching

It's tough when you have to rebuke these teachers – tell them and confront them

No doubt that when Timothy was preaching that there were people in the congregation
that didn't like him

Difficulty in Chapter 5 with the widows – stirring up strife

He had to deal with wealthy people who thought their wealth was a sign of Godliness –
who taught if you were Godly, you'd be wealthy

Timothy had his share of pastoral difficulties and it seems to read in I Timothy 1:3 that

Paul had to strongly encourage Timothy to remain in the fight – to stick it out
I fully understand pastors – changing churches – burning out and quitting

1:3 – Timothy, stick it out

Timothy also had his share of temptations

II Timothy – you flee youthful lusts

I Timothy – you flee the love of money

II Timothy 1:7-8 – God has not given us a spirit of fear

Don't you be ashamed of the Lord or of me

Stir up your gift, Timothy

Timothy had gotten stale in the ministry – gotten into a routine – slow rot – listless
in activities

The pastor is a man – he may have a heart of gold, but he carries that heart with feet of
clay

This causes us to intercede for our pastors that they stay strong in spite of the
difficulties – discouragements, trials, labors

Drag on his spirit

When the church people fail to follow the Lord

When they hold up the world's etiquette, standards of living

When they make choices that lead to later destruction

Timothy is a man of common frailties and needs support!

There is another reason why Paul left him in Ephesus

Why did Paul give this ministry to Timothy?

Because he was an orator, scholar, or genius? Why?

Timothy was a man who was loyal

He had the rare quality of selfless service – we see that in the Bible

I Thessalonians 3:2 – Brother and fellow worker – a peer of the Apostle Paul

I Corinthians 4:17 – My beloved son – it's gone from a professional level to a tone of endearment

Timothy has won his way into the Apostle's confidence and heart

Faithful to the Lord

I Corinthians 16:10 – Timothy will show you even as I would – exact duplicate of what I would do if I were there

That is putting a stamp of approval on Timothy!

The greatest commendation is given in Philippians 2 – Paul is in prison in Rome

2:19-22

I Timothy 1:2 – “my own son” in the faith

Over the years, we can see

How Paul came to view this man as his son!

Is it because Timothy was perfect or above sin? No.

Do you know why?

Timothy was loyal to the work

He was a selfless servant to the cause of Christ

Folks, any work God gives to us – any ministry He places in our hands

God's requirement is always faithfulness!

Loyalty to God and selfless serving to His ministry

Timothy had proven himself

No wonder Paul could leave Timothy at Ephesus

Paul knows that Timothy can endure

When he fails, he gets up and carries on – doesn't quit

I tell you it is tough in the ministry today

Out there, Satan will fling everything possible to get you to leave the ministry/the calling of God in your life.

And if we are learning to be like Timothy, we will learn that in spite of our common frailties/humanness, we can be loyal and selfless and we can finish our course

Next week, we will have the introduction to this book

Let us stand for closing invitation

Are you weary in the work of God?

Do you want to quit?