

## **INTRODUCTION TO BOOK OF FIRST TIMOTHY**

### **Seven points on the Introduction to First Timothy**

**1. The title of First Timothy is based on the fact that it is the first of three Pastoral Epistles written to two spiritual trouble-shooters of Paul's missionary team (Timothy and Titus).**

- Apostles by Jesus (Acts 1:21-22; 9:4-6, 11-15; Gal.1:1-2; 2 Cor.12:11-12)
- Apostles by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:28-29; Eph.4:11; Rom.16:7)
- An Apostle was one commissioned to be sent out in royal service
  - According to the commandment (epitage), the highest commissioned rank (1 Tim.1:1).

**2. The primary recipient of this Epistle was Timothy (1 Tim.1:2; 2 Tim.1:2; Titus 1:4). "My true child (1 Cor.4:15; Gal.4:19)**

**Grace –  
Mercy –  
Peace –**

**Christ -  
Jesus -  
Lord –**

- The second recipient was the Church of Ephesus (1 Tim.1:3).
- It was the youthful Timothy who was assigned as a trouble-shooter to the Church of Ephesus (1 Tim.4:12-16; 6:11).
- He will have to "fight the good fight of faith" against senior level pastors (1 Tim.1:18-20; 6:12)
- His mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were Jewish believers (2 Tim.1:5). His father was a Greek (Acts 16:1).

**3. Paul is the author of this Book (1 Tim.1:1).**

- Paul was his Gentile name (Paulos in Greek and Paulus in Latin).
  - Saul was his Hebrew name (Acts 9:4-6).
- His father was Roman and his mother was Jewish (Acts 22:22-29).
- We know Paul had a sister (Acts 23:16).
- This made Paul a citizen of two nations: Israel and Rome (Acts 26:4-8; Phil.3:5-9).

**4. The date and place of the writing of First Timothy is associated with Paul's 4<sup>th</sup> missionary evangelism trip (62-67 AD; Acts 16:6-10; Rom.15:24-29).**

- Paul wrote First Timothy after being released from his first Roman imprisonment (62 AD) (Acts 28:30-31).
- Paul and his missionary team travelled to several established churches such as Ephesus. While visiting the Ephesus church, Paul became aware of several problems within the church. He left Timothy to deal with them doctrinally (1 Tim.1:3).
- The rest of the team travelled on to Macedonia. From there, Paul wrote the Book of First Timothy before heading westward towards Spain (1 Tim.1:3; Acts 16:10; Rom.15:24).

- 5. We believe Timothy was saved during Paul's first missionary evangelism trip at Lystra (Acts 13-14; 14:8-20/ 47-48 AD).**
- Timothy was invited to join the Pauline missionary evangelism team on the second missionary trip to Lystra (50-52 AD; Acts 16:1-5).
- 6. Paul became Timothy's spiritual mentor in ministry.**
- Timothy had the spiritual gift of evangelist (2 Tim.4:5; 1 Tim.4:14; Phil.2:19-24).
  - In 1 Tim.1:2, Paul refers to Timothy as "my true child in the faith." Paul does the same with Titus (Titus 1:4).
  - Paul sent a replacement for Timothy to Ephesus so that he could be with Paul in his second and last Roman imprisonment (2 Tim.4:6-8, 9-13). Paul will be executed during this imprisonment (68AD).
- 7. The primary purpose of the Book of First Timothy was the pastoral care of the local church of Ephesus. First Timothy gives us great insight into the organization of the local church.**
- It gives us insight into dealing with false doctrines and teachers (1 Tim.1:3-11, 18-20; 4:1-16; 6:3-5; 20-21).
  - It gives us insight into the Scriptural qualification of church leaders both men and women (1 Tim.2:9-15; 3:8-13).
  - It gives us insight into internal ministries of the local church (1 Tim.5:1-6:21).
  - It gives insight into the Scriptural qualification and ordination of spiritually gifted communicators of the church (1 Tim.3:1-7).
  - It will help in weeding out teachers, evangelists, and church leaders who are engaged in false doctrines. (1 Tim.1:18-20; 4:1-16; 6:20-21).