

1 Timothy #1

April 27, 2025

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: From Paul to Timothy; 1 Timothy 1:1-2

Timothy is the pastor of the church in Ephesus (1:3). Of course, Paul is writing to Timothy providing him with wise counsel and instruction regarding his pastoral ministry as well as how the Church is to conduct itself. So, you can see why 1 Timothy is referred to as one of the *pastoral epistles*. The other two are 2 Timothy and Titus.

What's in a greeting? There is more to Paul's opening words than meets the eye. Paul is reminding the church at Ephesus that his apostleship is an appointment of *Christ Jesus*, according to the will (or command) of God. Secondly, he is establishing Timothy's credentials as pastor of the church. This was a very important endorsement for Timothy. As we will learn in the letter, Timothy was faced with huge challenges that tested his leadership, notwithstanding the fact that he was a young man, prone to the temptations and foibles often encountered by young men. Nevertheless, Paul is strengthening Timothy's pastoral stature among the Ephesian believers by firmly establishing his close association with the wise apostle. This close association would help both Timothy and the Church as extremely difficult days lay ahead for pastor and people! (**See Acts 20:25-37**. As of Acts 20 Timothy was not yet the pastor. But trouble would be at full boil in his tenure.)

I had this experience early in my ministry. My pastor would often send a timely word for my encouragement, but also to remind the congregation that I had the confidence and blessing of not only him, but of the elders of College Park in Indianapolis. Having his endorsement did not eliminate challenges, but it did go a long way in fortifying my courage and blunting some of the sharp edges of conflict that would arise from time to time.

Paul's letter to Timothy which was probably within the years of A.D. 62-64 after his first imprisonment in Rome, has been kept for the edification of Church and Leaders, preserved for us to spur us on love and good deeds, for the sake of Christ Jesus. Therefore, as Church and leaders we should take to heart the imperatives expressed in this letter. If we do, we will better enjoy our lives together in Christ, radiating His glory on earth!

I) (1:1) Paul

- A) His Calling: Apostle. Paul made much of his apostleship. An apostle: A Biblical apostle is one who had both seen Christ Jesus during his earthly ministry and after his resurrection. A representative; ambassador. The connecting link to Christ. We are not apostles, but we are a connecting link.
 - 1) By the will/ command of God our Savior
 - (a) The will/ command of God (see 2 Cor. 1:1; Titus 1:3)
 - (i) This is a royal command, a directive of Sovereign God. Paul is selected for this royal position to proclaim the good news of the gospel of God to the nations.
 - (b) God our Savior
 - (i) Remember, God is by nature a Savior, a saving God!
 - (a) Israel understood this about God: From Abraham through the Exodus; from the Exodus through the return from exile the examples are numerous. The Psalms are full of references to God as Savior. Here are two: Psalm 24:5 and Psalm 32:5.
 - (b) From Genesis through Malachi, from Matthew through Revelation, God weaves the crimson thread of redemption, promising and fulfilling His saving promises through the person and work of God our Savior Jesus Christ!
 - 2) By the appointment of Christ Jesus.
 - (a) His apostleship was by divine appointment. I use the word appointment here instead of command in order to communicate the honor of apostleship. Of course, the word will/ command describes the irrevocable nature of Paul's calling, but in our language, it doesn't

communicate the sense of honor linked to God *willing* or *commanding* Paul's apostleship.
(See Acts 9:15; Romans 1:1; etc.)

- B) His Confidence: Jesus Christ our hope. Think of the many biblical expressions of hope in Christ.
- 1) He's our hope for *moral victory*! (1 Cor. 10:13: the way of escape) He not only tells us what is right but gives us the power to do right! (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 2) He is our hope for *circumstantial victory*! "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (1 Jn 5:4); Romans 8:37: more than conquerors.
 - 3) He is our hope for *victory over death*! Death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54).
 - (a) "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)
 - (b) The battle cry of the Church has been, "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" (Colossians 1:27)
 - (i) All through Church history there is ample evidence that Christ gives strength to live through hard trials, and courage to die for His name if need be.

II) (1:2a) Timothy

- A) Paul likely met Timothy on his first missionary journey to Lystra (Acts 14:8ff). It is thought that because Paul knew about his devout mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, and their knowledge of the Scripture, that Paul may have stayed at their house. (2 Tim. 1:5)
- 1) On his second missionary journey Paul was impressed enough with Timothy that he chose him to accompany them on their travels (see Acts 16:1-3).
 - (a) Timothy took his faith in Christ seriously. Acts 16:2 says that the brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. **Application:** A good reputation is important.
- B) Timothy's exploits: The following exemplifies Timothy's readiness and eagerness to serve.
- 1) Paul left him in Berea to further instruct the church when Paul fled to Athens (Acts 17:14-15). Timothy traveled to Corinth joining Paul in ministry (Acts 18:5). While Paul ministered in Ephesus for an extended period, Timothy was sent to Macedonia (Acts 19:22); He accompanied Paul on the long, arduous journey to Jerusalem with the offering (Acts 20:4-21:19). He was with Paul in Corinth when Paul wrote to the Church in Rome (Rom. 16:21). Timothy was sent to troublesome Corinth to get things in order (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10). Paul sent him to "strengthen and encourage" the Church in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:1; 3:2; 3:6). Timothy was with Paul in prison when Paul wrote the letter to the Philippian Church.

III) (1:2b) Fortification

- A) (Note): Character building started when he was young.
- 1) Timothy was all in! He was young and he was courageous. He was a young man full of strong convictions. He didn't just happen to become strong in conviction and courage. That kind of character is built. His mother and grandmother built him up in the word, teaching him before he was converted.
 - 2) Paul built him up with words that ignite both conviction and courage: He emboldened the young pastor by "urging" him to stand for Truth (1:3ff); to "fight" (1:18); to "hold on" (1:19) to "guard" (6:20). He affixed value to Timothy's work as pastor. Young men need to believe that what they put their hand to has value!
- B) Three words that Paul used to fortify Timothy with a stout-hearted faith:
- 1) Grace: God's abounding, limitless grace. Grace points us to look at God's smile of favor.
 - (a) Imagine how Timothy must have let this soak in. He had a hard work. Yet God smiled on him!
 - 2) Peace: From God to the depths of the soul, a sense of complete well-being. (Rom. 5:1).
 - 3) Mercy: (**only in 1 Timothy**): Hebrew idea of *chesed*. God's covenant loyalty; His loving kindness.
 - (a) God's help in our time of need! (see Psalm 57:3; 86:15-16)
 - (b) Timothy would face hard trials. Acts 20 tells us what he would face as he ministered in Ephesus. But, God fortified Timothy with this word, "mercy." Timothy would be strengthened to "fight the good fight" with courage, because he would always remember, It is God who is faithful! It is God who is our ever-present help in our time of need. God is merciful.