

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 TIMOTHY - INTRO

1 TIMOTHY IS A LETTER (AKA "EPISTLE") FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL TO HIS APPRENTICE TIMOTHY. MOST SCHOLARS BELIEVE IT WAS WRITTEN BY PAUL AROUND 62 AD, LIKELY BETWEEN PAUL'S TWO IMPRISONMENTS. THE ESV STUDY BIBLE SAYS:

"THE TRADITIONAL POSITION HAS BEEN THAT PAUL WAS RELEASED FROM HIS FIRST ROMAN IMPRISONMENT (THE ONE MENTIONED AT THE CLOSE OF ACTS: SEE ACTS 28:16, 30—31), DID FURTHER MISSION WORK, AND WAS THEN IMPRISONED A SECOND TIME, LEADING TO HIS EXECUTION...FIRST TIMOTHY THEN WOULD FIT WELL DURING PAUL'S WORK BETWEEN THE TWO IMPRISONMENTS. IF PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN ROME, AS NARRATED IN ACTS, IS DATED ABOUT A.D. 59—61, THEN, ALLOWING A COUPLE OF YEARS FOR THE IMPRISONMENT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN ABOUT 62. IF PAUL WAS EXECUTED UNDER NERO (D. A.D. 68), 1 TIMOTHY WOULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN SOMEWHERE IN THE MID-60S."

1 TIMOTHY IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THREE "PASTORAL EPISTLES", WHICH PAUL WROTE TO INDIVIDUAL PASTORS/ELDERS (RATHER THAN A CHURCH COMMUNITY) AND ALSO INCLUDE SOME INSTRUCTIONS FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY (THE OTHERS BEING 2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS). IN CONTRAST, THE GOSPELS AND ACTS ARE HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHIES OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS AND THE EARLY CHURCH. REVELATION IS PROPHECY. MOST OF THE OTHER LETTERS/EPISTLES ARE "CHURCH EPISTLES" SINCE THEY WERE WRITTEN TO A SPECIFIC CHURCH. MOST OF THE CHURCH EPISTLES OUTLINE THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS AND/OR ADDRESS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF THAT CHURCH AND HOW THEY ARE TO BE DEALT WITH.

ONE OF PAUL'S TASKS AS HE TRAVELED AS A GOSPEL HERALD WAS TO HELP ESTABLISH CHURCHES, ONCE PEOPLE IN A REGION BELIEVED THE GOSPEL. PART OF THIS WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY AND APPOINT ELDERS TO SHEPHERD THE NEW COMMUNITY. FOR EXAMPLE DURING PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (WITH BARNABAS), WE READ THE FOLLOWING:

ACTS 14:21-23 - AFTER THEY HAD PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO THAT CITY AND HAD MADE MANY DISCIPLES, THEY RETURNED TO LYSTRA AND TO ICONIUM AND TO ANTIOCH, 22 STRENGTHENING THE SOULS OF THE DISCIPLES, ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, AND SAYING, "THROUGH MANY TRIBULATIONS WE MUST ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD." 23 WHEN THEY HAD APPOINTED ELDERS FOR THEM IN EVERY CHURCH, HAVING PRAYED WITH FASTING, THEY COMMENDED THEM TO THE LORD IN WHOM THEY HAD BELIEVED.

THESE LETTERS ARE TO HELP CHURCHES AND CHURCH LEADERS.

TIMOTHY - WHO WAS TIMOTHY?

ACTS 16:1-5 - PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

TIMOTHY'S STAT SHEET:

- A DISCIPLE (V. 1)
- SON OF A JEWISH WOMAN, SON OF A GREEK FATHER (V. 1)
- HIS MOTHER WAS A BELIEVER (V. 1)
- FROM LYSTRA (V. 1)
- SPOKEN WELL OF BY THE BRETHREN OF LYSTRA AND ICONIUM (V. 2)
- GET CIRCUMCISED ("BECAUSE OF THE JEWS WHO WERE IN THOSE PARTS, WHO KNEW HIS FATHER WAS GREEK", V. 3)

TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS IN THEIR MISSION TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL AND ALSO COMMUNICATE THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER (V. 4) THAT CAME OUT OF THE FIRST JERUSALEM COUNCIL (ACTS 15)

ALSO, TIMOTHY'S ADDITION TO THE MISSIONARY TEAM COMES AFTER A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN PAUL AND BARNABAS ABOUT JOHN MARK (ACTS 15:36-41) WHICH LED TO THEIR SEPARATION AND PAUL TRAVELING WITH SILAS.

Q - HOW IS TIMOTHY AN INTERESTING SELECTION OF PAUL DURING THIS TIME OF THE EARLY CHURCH?

Q - WE KNOW THAT PAUL DOES NOT ADVOCATE KEEPING THE MOSAIC LAW FOR SALVATION (SEE GALATIANS 5:1-12, ETC). WHY THEN IS TIMOTHY CIRCUMCISED?

TIMOTHY WILL BECOME A FAMILIAR TRAVELING COMPANION OF PAUL. THE BOOK OF ACTS WILL RECORD THEM IN COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT THIS TIME, TRAVELING TOGETHER, SEPARATING, REUNITING, ETC. HERE ARE THE OTHER INSTANCES OF TIMOTHY IN ACTS:

PAUL IN BEREA/THESSALONICA:

ACTS 17:13-15 (NLT) - BUT WHEN SOME JEWS IN THESSALONICA LEARNED THAT PAUL WAS PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD IN BEREA, THEY WENT THERE AND STIRRED UP TROUBLE. 14 THE BELIEVERS ACTED AT ONCE, SENDING PAUL ON TO THE COAST, WHILE SILAS AND TIMOTHY REMAINED BEHIND. 15 THOSE ESCORTING PAUL WENT WITH HIM ALL THE WAY TO ATHENS; THEN THEY RETURNED TO BEREA WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR SILAS AND TIMOTHY TO HURRY AND JOIN HIM.

PAUL IN CORINTH:

ACTS 18:1-5 (NLT) - THEN PAUL LEFT ATHENS AND WENT TO CORINTH. 2 THERE HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH A JEW NAMED AQUILA, BORN IN PONTUS, WHO HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM ITALY WITH HIS WIFE, PRISCILLA. THEY HAD LEFT ITALY WHEN CLAUDIUS CAESAR DEPORTED ALL JEWS FROM ROME. 3 PAUL LIVED AND WORKED WITH THEM, FOR THEY WERE TENTMAKERS JUST AS HE WAS. 4 EACH SABBATH FOUND PAUL AT THE SYNAGOGUE, TRYING TO CONVINCE THE JEWS AND GREEKS ALIKE. 5 AND AFTER SILAS AND TIMOTHY CAME DOWN FROM MACEDONIA, PAUL SPENT ALL HIS TIME PREACHING THE WORD. HE TESTIFIED TO THE JEWS THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH.

PAUL IN EPHEBUS:

ACTS 19:1 (NLT) - WHILE APOLLOS WAS IN CORINTH, PAUL TRAVELED THROUGH THE INTERIOR REGIONS UNTIL HE REACHED EPHEBUS, ON THE COAST, WHERE HE FOUND SEVERAL BELIEVERS.

ACTS 19:8-12 (NLT) - THEN PAUL WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUE AND PREACHED BOLDLY FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, ARGUING PERSUASIVELY ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 9 BUT SOME BECAME STUBBORN, REJECTING HIS MESSAGE AND PUBLICLY SPEAKING AGAINST THE WAY. SO PAUL LEFT THE SYNAGOGUE AND TOOK THE BELIEVERS WITH HIM. THEN HE HELD DAILY DISCUSSIONS AT THE LECTURE HALL OF TYRANNUS. 10 THIS WENT ON FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, SO THAT PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF ASIA-- BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS-- HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD. 11 GOD GAVE PAUL THE POWER TO PERFORM UNUSUAL MIRACLES. 12 WHEN HANDKERCHIEFS OR APRONS THAT HAD MERELY TOUCHED HIS SKIN WERE PLACED ON SICK PEOPLE, THEY WERE HEALED OF THEIR DISEASES, AND EVIL SPIRITS WERE EXPELLED.

ACTS 19:17-22 (NLT) - THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED SPREAD QUICKLY ALL THROUGH EPHEBUS, TO JEWS AND GREEKS ALIKE. A SOLEMN FEAR DESCENDED ON THE CITY, AND THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS WAS GREATLY HONORED. 18 MANY WHO BECAME BELIEVERS CONFESSED THEIR SINFUL PRACTICES. 19 A NUMBER OF THEM WHO HAD BEEN PRACTICING SORCERY BROUGHT THEIR INCANTATION BOOKS AND BURNED THEM AT A PUBLIC BONFIRE. THE VALUE OF THE BOOKS WAS SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS. 20 SO THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE LORD SPREAD WIDELY AND HAD A POWERFUL EFFECT.

21 AFTERWARD PAUL FELT COMPELLED BY THE SPIRIT TO GO OVER TO MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA BEFORE GOING TO JERUSALEM. "AND AFTER THAT," HE SAID, "I MUST GO ON TO ROME!" 22 HE SENT HIS TWO ASSISTANTS, **TIMOTHY** AND ERASTUS, AHEAD TO MACEDONIA WHILE HE STAYED AWHILE LONGER IN THE PROVINCE OF ASIA.

TIMOTHY HAD JOINED PAUL AT SOME POINT IN EPHESUS AND WAS MINISTERING WITH HIM. AND NOW HE IS SENT AHEAD OF PAUL TO MACEDONIA.

PAUL IN MACEDONIA & GREECE:

ACTS 20:1-5 (NLT) - WHEN THE UPROAR WAS OVER, PAUL SENT FOR THE BELIEVERS AND ENCOURAGED THEM. THEN HE SAID GOOD-BYE AND LEFT FOR MACEDONIA. 2 WHILE THERE, HE ENCOURAGED THE BELIEVERS IN ALL THE TOWNS HE PASSED THROUGH. THEN HE TRAVELED DOWN TO GREECE, 3 WHERE HE STAYED FOR THREE MONTHS. HE WAS PREPARING TO SAIL BACK TO SYRIA WHEN HE DISCOVERED A PLOT BY SOME JEWS AGAINST HIS LIFE, SO HE DECIDED TO RETURN THROUGH MACEDONIA. 4 SEVERAL MEN WERE TRAVELING WITH HIM. THEY WERE SOPATER SON OF PYRRHUS FROM BEREA; ARISTARCHUS AND SECUNDUS FROM THESSALONICA; GAIUS FROM DERBE; **TIMOTHY**; AND TYCHICUS AND TROPHIMUS FROM THE PROVINCE OF ASIA. 5 THEY WENT ON AHEAD AND WAITED FOR US AT TROAS.

Q - BASED ON THESE SCRIPTURES FROM ACTS, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE TIMOTHY'S ROLE AND VALUE TO PAUL?

IN ACTS 17 TIMOTHY IS LEFT BEHIND TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH PEOPLE AS PAUL NEEDS TO ESCAPE

IN ACTS 18 TIMOTHY JOINS TO HELP PAUL WITH THE WORK THAT PAUL HAD BEGUN IN CORINTH

IN ACTS 19 TIMOTHY IS SENT AHEAD OF PAUL TO MACEDONIA.

IN ACTS 20 TIMOTHY IS TRAVELING WITH PAUL AS THEY JOURNEY.

ONE OF TIMOTHY'S ROLES WILL BE TO GO TO CHURCHES AND REPORT BACK TO PAUL ON THEIR WELFARE. HE WILL OCCASIONALLY REPRESENT PAUL IN THIS WAY. AS A RESULT, TIMOTHY IS KNOWN BY THE CHURCHES. HE IS MENTIONED OFTEN IN PAUL'S CHURCH LETTERS. AT TIMES THESE MENTIONS ARE BECAUSE TIMOTHY IS WITH PAUL, OTHER TIMES ARE BECAUSE TIMOTHY HAS A BIGGER ROLE TO PLAY.

ROMANS 16:21 - TIMOTHY MY FELLOW WORKER GREETES YOU, AND SO DO LUCIUS AND JASON AND SOSIPATER, MY KINSMEN.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:16-17 (ESV) - I URGE YOU, THEN, BE IMITATORS OF ME. 17 THAT IS WHY I SENT YOU TIMOTHY, MY BELOVED AND FAITHFUL CHILD IN THE LORD, TO REMIND YOU OF MY WAYS IN CHRIST, AS I TEACH THEM EVERYWHERE IN EVERY CHURCH.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:10-11 (ESV) - WHEN TIMOTHY COMES, SEE THAT YOU PUT HIM AT EASE AMONG YOU, FOR HE IS DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD, AS I AM. 11 SO LET NO ONE DESPISE HIM. HELP HIM ON HIS WAY IN PEACE, THAT HE MAY RETURN TO ME, FOR I AM EXPECTING HIM WITH THE BROTHERS.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1 - PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF CHRIST JESUS BY THE WILL OF GOD, AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER, TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHO ARE THROUGHOUT ACHAIA:

PHILIPPIANS 1:1 - PAUL AND TIMOTHY, BOND-SERVANTS OF CHRIST JESUS, TO ALL THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS WHO ARE IN PHILIPPI, INCLUDING THE OVERSEERS AND DEACONS:

COLOSSIANS 1:1-2 - PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE WILL OF GOD, AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER, 2 TO THE SAINTS AND FAITHFUL BRETHREN IN CHRIST WHO ARE AT COLOSSAE: GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-2 - PAUL AND SILVANUS AND TIMOTHY, TO THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS IN GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE. 2 WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS FOR ALL OF YOU, MAKING MENTION OF YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:

(NOTICE THE "WE")

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-6 - THEREFORE WHEN WE COULD ENDURE IT NO LONGER, WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO BE LEFT BEHIND AT ATHENS ALONE, 2 AND WE SENT TIMOTHY, OUR BROTHER AND GOD'S FELLOW WORKER IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE YOU AS TO YOUR FAITH, 3 SO THAT NO ONE WOULD BE DISTURBED BY THESE AFFLICTIONS: FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR THIS. 4 FOR INDEED WHEN WE WERE WITH YOU, WE KEPT TELLING YOU IN ADVANCE THAT WE WERE GOING TO SUFFER AFFLICTION: AND SO IT CAME TO PASS, AS YOU KNOW. 5 FOR THIS REASON, WHEN I COULD ENDURE IT NO LONGER, I ALSO SENT TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR FAITH, FOR FEAR THAT THE TEMPTER MIGHT HAVE TEMPTED YOU, AND OUR LABOR WOULD BE IN VAIN. 6 BUT NOW THAT TIMOTHY HAS COME TO US FROM YOU, AND HAS BROUGHT US GOOD NEWS OF YOUR FAITH AND LOVE, AND THAT YOU ALWAYS THINK KINDLY OF US, LONGING TO SEE US JUST AS WE ALSO LONG TO SEE YOU,

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1 - PAUL AND SILVANUS AND TIMOTHY, TO THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS IN GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

PHILEMON 1:1-2 - PAUL, A PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS, AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER, TO PHILEMON OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER, 2 AND TO APPHIA OUR SISTER, AND TO ARCHIPPUS OUR FELLOW SOLDIER, AND TO THE CHURCH IN YOUR HOUSE:

HEBREWS 13:23-25 (NLT) - I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT OUR BROTHER TIMOTHY HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL. IF HE COMES HERE SOON, I WILL BRING HIM WITH ME TO SEE YOU. 24 GREET ALL YOUR LEADERS AND ALL THE BELIEVERS THERE. THE BELIEVERS FROM ITALY SEND YOU THEIR GREETINGS. 25 MAY GOD'S GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL.

TIMOTHY IS OFTEN CALLED PAUL'S "FELLOW-WORKER". HE IS MORE THAN JUST A TRAVEL COMPANION, BUT A CO-LABORER IN THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. HEBREWS ENDS WITH THE WRITER OF HEBREWS TELLING US THAT TIMOTHY HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL! TIMOTHY IS QUITE THE MAN. WE FIRST LEARN OF HIM FROM ACTS 16 AND LEARN HE WAS "WELL SPOKEN OF BY THE BRETHREN." THAT REPUTATION CONTINUES THROUGH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE.

ANYTIME YOU ARE SERVING THE LORD AND SPEAK THE GOSPEL WITH ANOTHER PERSON, INCREDIBLE BONDS ARE FORMED AND LASTING MEMORIES ARE SHARED. YOU ARE SPIRITUAL BROTHERS/SISTERS IN ARMS, SERVING ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE LORD'S BATTLEFIELD. CERTAINLY PAUL AND TIMOTHY SHARED THIS BOND OVER THE MANY YEARS IN THE LORD'S ARMY.

TO CLOSE OUR INTRO TO TIMOTHY, LET'S LOOK AT PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF HIM TO THE PHILIPPIANS.

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24 - PAUL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH TIMOTHY

PAUL IS KNOWN AS THE GREATEST EVANGELIST IN HISTORY. HE WAS A REMARKABLE HERO OF THE FAITH, BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD AND FAITHFULLY ENDURING HIS OWN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST. PERHAPS HE IS THE GREATEST EXAMPLE FOR A CHRISTIAN TO EMULATE AFTER JESUS HIMSELF. BUT FAITHFULLY ALONG THE WAY, SERVING THE LORD, WE SEE TIMOTHY. AS WE BEGIN 1 TIMOTHY, WE'LL HEAR OF CHURCH PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW AND DOCTRINAL TRUTH TO RALLY AROUND - BUT WE WILL ALSO DISCOVER THE FAITHFUL MAN TIMOTHY WHO THE GREAT APOSTLE PAUL COULD COUNT ON LIKE NO ONE ELSE. IT SOUNDS LIKE THE LORD COULD COUNT ON TIMOTHY TOO.