



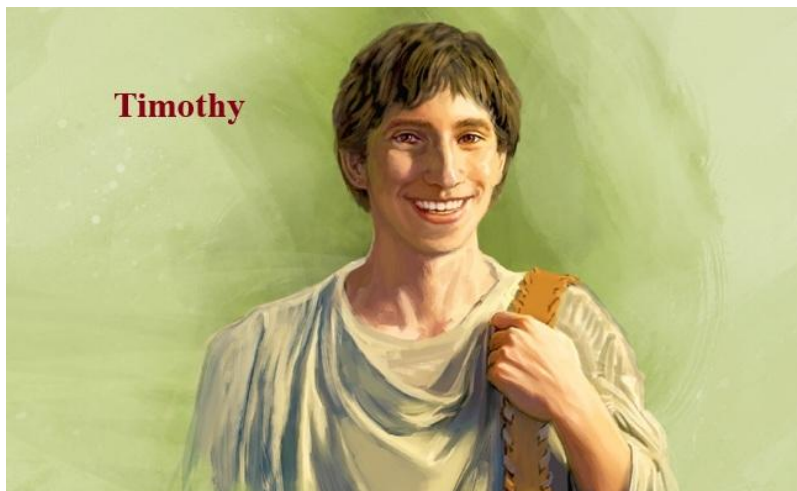
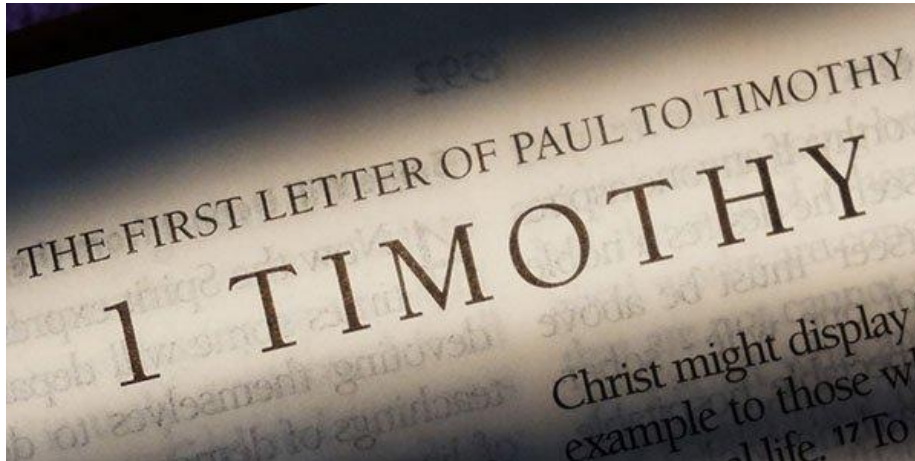
## **My Drift**

**Title: Bible – Books of 1 and 2 Timothy**

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**The Book of Timothy, which actually consists of two letters, "First Timothy" and "Second Timothy," is a New Testament text traditionally attributed to the Apostle Paul, where he instructs his young protégé Timothy on how to lead the church in Ephesus, primarily focusing on combating false teachings, upholding proper Christian conduct, and establishing appropriate leadership within the church by outlining qualifications for elders and deacons; essentially, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine and godly living in church leadership.**



### **Background**

Paul spent many years traveling to start new Jesus communities, and he developed a large team of coworkers in the process. Timothy was one such coworker. Once, when Paul visited Lystra, he met Timothy's faithful mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5; Acts 16:1-3). He was impressed by the young Timothy's passion and devotion to Jesus. Paul mentored him for many years, often sending him on missions to some of the churches he had started. When Paul heard about a group of leaders that had infiltrated the church in Ephesus, spreading incorrect views about Jesus, he sent Timothy to confront them and restore order to the community. After Timothy's arrival, Paul sent this letter to instruct him on how to fulfill his mission.

The letter is brilliantly designed. There is both an opening and a closing address (1 Tim. 1; 6b), in which Timothy is commissioned to confront these corrupt leaders and their bad theology. These sections bookend two large central sections (1 Tim. 2-3; 4-6a), which are full of practical instructions about the specific problems Timothy faced in the Ephesian church. Finally, all of these sections are linked together by a series of three poems (1 Tim. 1:17; 3:16; 6:15-16) that exalt the risen Jesus as the King of the world.

### **The Primary Message**

What a Jesus community believes will directly shape how that community lives and behaves. Allowing the Scriptures and good news about Jesus to form you will lead to a life of integrity and good works.

## **When did Paul write the Book of 1 Timothy?**

Christian tradition holds that the Apostle Paul wrote the book of 1 Timothy. This is the first of two letters Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy. The events described in 1 Timothy take place in the city of Ephesus. Paul likely composed 1 Timothy between 62 and 64 C.E.

## **Key Themes**

- Love and genuine faith in the Church.
- Equality and responsibility for the marginalized in the community.
- Hope in Jesus as King of the world in spite of suffering.

## **Structure**

1 Timothy can be divided into four parts:

- Chapter 1 begins with the purpose of the Torah.
- Chapters 2-3 address problems caused by corrupt teachers.
- Chapters 4-6a continue addressing false teachings.
- And chapter 6b is a call to be rich in generosity.

## **1 Timothy 1: The True Purpose of the Torah**

Paul opens by recalling his sending of Timothy to Ephesus to confront the leaders spreading false or “strange teaching” (1 Tim. 1:3). He describes them as being obsessed with speculation about the Torah, specifically with the early stories and genealogies from the book of Genesis. As we’ll soon find out, they had developed all kinds of strange ideas about food, marriage, and sexuality, none of which were consistent with the teachings of Jesus or the apostles. Paul even names some of them, Alexander and Hymenaeus (1 Tim. 1:20), describing how their teaching has divided the church and generated controversy. Paul says that this is a clear sign that their message is distorted because true Christian teaching that’s faithful to the way of Jesus results in love and genuine faith.

*According to Jewish tradition, the true purpose of the Torah is to provide guidance and instruction on how to live a righteous life by establishing a covenant between God and the Jewish people, essentially acting as a blueprint for moral behavior and a way to maintain a close relationship with God through following the commandments outlined within its text; the word "Torah" itself translates to "instruction" in Hebrew.*

Paul also says that the purpose of the Torah is not to fuel speculation but to expose the truth of the sinful human condition, as it did for Paul himself. Correct teaching about the Torah will lead people to see the grace of God

revealed in the Messiah, who came into the world to save sinful, broken people (1 Tim. 1:16). Paul closes with a poem that honors Jesus as King. He then calls Timothy to confront these men and shut down their false teaching.

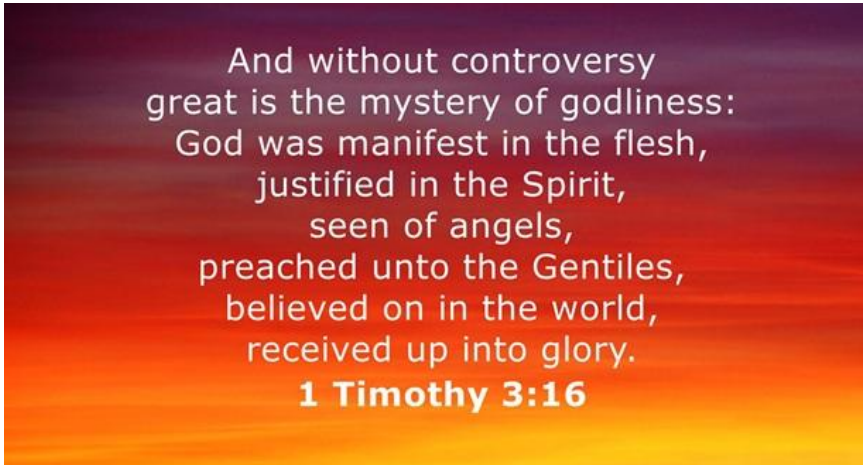
### **1 Timothy 2-3: Problems Caused by Corrupt Teachers**

In chapters 2-3, Paul addresses the specific problems caused by the corrupt teachers. He calls on Timothy to hold regular church gatherings and pray for the governing leaders of Rome and for peace (1 Tim. 2:1-7). Peace in the land creates the ideal setting for Jesus' followers to spread their message about the God of peace, who wants all people to be saved. This is why Jesus came as the one and only mediator to give his life as ransom for all people. In contrast to the corrupt teachers, Paul reminds Timothy that God's desire is to rescue the whole world.

Paul then addresses problems related to men and women who have been influenced by the corrupt leaders in Ephesus (1 Tim. 2:8-15). Paul calls out the men who were getting drawn into angry theological disputes started by the teachers (1 Tim. 2:8). Next, he confronts a group of wealthy women in the church who were treating the Sunday gathering as a fashion show, dressing upscale and shaming those who couldn't afford expensive wardrobes. Not only that, but some of these women were usurping leadership positions in the church and teaching others the same bad theology as the corrupt teachers (1 Tim. 2:9-15).

Paul addresses this issue by saying that the women should not teach or lead in the church, making a reference back to the story from Genesis 3. This is one of those sections in Paul's letters that Peter referred to when he said Paul is hard to understand (2 Pet. 3:16). There are lots of different views on what Paul actually means here. There are some who think that Paul is prohibiting women from ever leading or teaching men in any church and that his comments about Adam and Eve mean God has ordered that only men should be leaders in the Church. There are others who think that Paul is prohibiting women from having leadership authority over men, but that they can serve as teachers under male leadership once educated. There are still others who think that Paul is only prohibiting these specific women in Ephesus and that his comments about Adam and Eve are a comparison of how these women have been deceived by the false teachers. Whichever view you take, Paul is clear that these Ephesian women need leadership and a proper theological education. Ultimately, the goal is to help them mature so that they can become like the outstanding female ministers mentioned in Paul's other letters, like Phoebe (Rom. 16:1), Junia (Rom. 16:7), or Priscilla (Acts 18:26).

In chapter 3, Paul continues to address this leadership crisis, calling Timothy to appoint a small, healthy team of husbands and fathers who will act as elders or overseers to the church. These should be men of outstanding character and integrity who will work alongside a team of deacons, a Greek word meaning “servant.” The deacons are a group of men and women who possess the same upstanding character as the elders and will lead the ministries of the church. All of these people should be known for healthy relationships within their families, demonstrating their ability to lead in their church, which is God’s family, and they should live alongside each other in the new family created by King Jesus. Jesus’ story is explored in the closing poem. 1 Timothy 3:16 is all about his incarnation, death, and resurrection that led to his exaltation as King and the spread of his family through the world.



And without controversy  
great is the mystery of godliness:  
God was manifest in the flesh,  
justified in the Spirit,  
seen of angels,  
preached unto the Gentiles,  
believed on in the world,  
received up into glory.  
**1 Timothy 3:16**

### **1 Timothy 4-6a: More Problems Related to False Teaching**

Paul’s second section of instructions in chapters 4-6a are also centered around specific problems caused by the false teachers. Paul once again corrects their bad theology. They’re telling people to stop eating certain foods and getting married, which Paul thinks is ridiculous. Paul appeals to Genesis 1 and reminds Timothy that God’s entire creation is good, including all foods and marriage. All of it is to be received with gratefulness by those who know the Creator.

Paul moves on to address problems with the church’s care of widows (1 Timothy 5:1-16). This important ministry was being abused by younger, wealthy widows (likely the same troublemakers from chapter 2). They would sign up for the church’s support and then spend their days sleeping around, spreading gossip, and damaging the church’s reputation. Paul put his foot down. He made it clear to Timothy that only older widows with no other family support should qualify. For widows who really need it, the church should show the same love and generosity of Jesus.



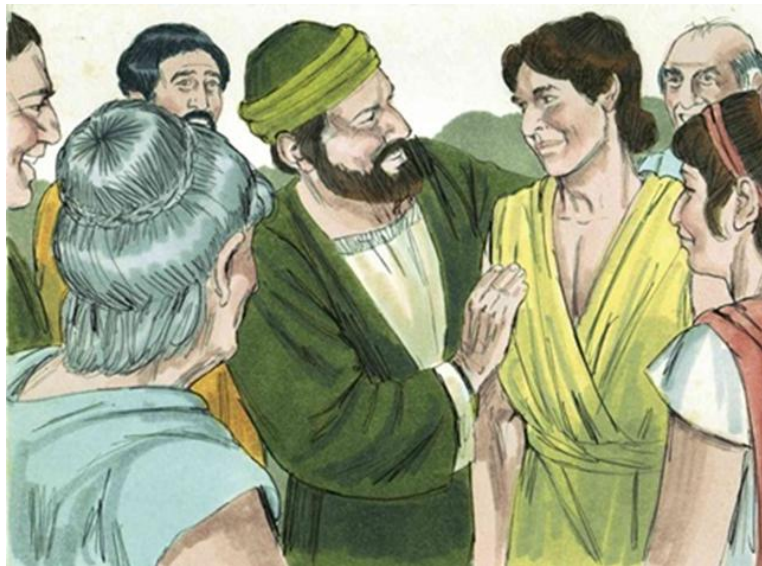
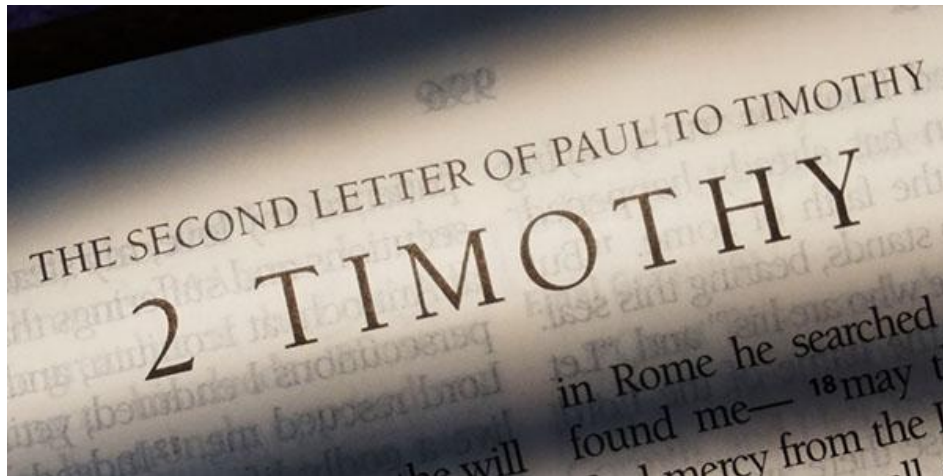
Next, Paul writes about problems among the older men in the church. Timothy is to respect their age but not their misbehavior, which seems related to alcohol abuse. Whatever they're doing, it's damaging the church's reputation in Ephesus. Timothy is to lovingly confront them and have them step down if they are in leadership positions. Paul also adds that this doesn't mean Timothy himself should never drink. Given his stomach problems, he should have a glass of wine each night with dinner.

In chapter 6, Paul addresses a problem with some Christians in Ephesus who were enslaved and disrespecting their Christian masters. This was tricky for Paul. The Gospel creates equality among all of Jesus' followers, but that equality must be implemented in a strategic way that doesn't compromise the mission of the Church. If Christians become associated with slave rebellions, they will undermine the effectiveness of their message. The Christian transformation of the Roman household should be implemented strategically so that their neighbors can be persuaded and not repulsed by the radically different, new vision of God's family.

### **1 Timothy 6b: Rich in Generosity**

Paul closes the letter by once again calling Timothy to confront the corrupt teachers. Paul exposes their motive to make lots of money by accumulating followers and charging high rates. They betray Jesus' message of contentment and simple living, so Paul instructs the wealthy Ephesian Christians to be rich in good works and act generously. He encourages them to submit all their resources to King Jesus, inspiring a final poem about how Jesus is the true King over all others.

1 Timothy is a crucially important letter, in which we can gain a holistic vision of the nature and mission of the Church. What a Jesus community believes will directly shape how that community lives and behaves, so its theology and beliefs must be constantly formed by the Scriptures and the good news about Jesus. At the same time, how the church is perceived is also important. Christians should be people that are full of integrity and known for good works, serving the poor and the most vulnerable out of their devotion to the risen King Jesus.



**Apostle Paul and Timothy**

### **General**

The Book of 2 Timothy is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to his protégé Timothy, urging him to remain steadfast in the faith despite facing persecution and opposition, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine, and encouraging him to faithfully preach the Gospel even when facing hardship, all while acknowledging Paul's own impending death and desire for Timothy to visit him in prison; essentially serving as Paul's final words of encouragement to Timothy to continue the work of ministry.

This is Paul's final and most personal letter. He wrote it during another time in prison to his dear co-worker and protégé, Timothy. While we don't know exactly how much time has passed since he wrote 1 Timothy, we can easily see that Paul's situation has changed for the worse.

We learn that Paul is imprisoned in Rome, which could refer to his time under house arrest in Acts 28, or it could also mean that he was released from that imprisonment and had another long season of ministry before being arrested again in Troas (2 Tim. 4:13-15). Either way, Paul says that he's in the middle of his court trial, and it's not going well. Paul is pretty sure that he's not going to survive this one. Out of this dark situation, Paul appeals to Timothy, who is still on assignment in Ephesus. Paul asks Timothy to come be with him in prison so that he can pass on his plans for a church-planting mission.

The letter's design is pretty simple. There are two large sections in which Paul challenges Timothy. Paul first calls on Timothy to accept his calling as a leader (2 Tim. 1:1-2:13). He also asks that, before he comes to Paul, Timothy deals with the corrupt teachers who are still causing problems in the church of Ephesus (2 Tim. 2:14-4:5). After these sections, Paul concludes the letter (2 Tim. 4:6-22).

### **The Primary Message**

Following Jesus involves risk, sacrifice, and inviting tension and discomfort into your life. Dark, painful, or difficult moments are not a sign of Jesus' absence but opportunities for Jesus' love and faithfulness to be most tangible.

### **When was 2 Timothy Letter Written?**

The events described in 2 Timothy take place in the city of Ephesus. 2 Timothy was likely composed between 64 and 66 C.E., about one year after Paul wrote 1 Timothy.

## **II Timothy: Content Outline**

- I. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1-5)**
- II. The Perseverance of a Man of God (1:6-18)**
- III. The Patterns of a Man of God (2:1-26)**
- IV. The Perils of a Man of God (3:1-17)**
- V. The Preaching of a Man of God (4:1-5)**
- VI. Concluding Remarks and Farewells (4:6-22)**



## **Key Themes**

- Jesus' grace as a source of power
- Faithfulness to Jesus
- The comfort of Jesus amidst suffering

## **Structure**

**2 Timothy can be divided into three parts:**

- Chapters 1-2a encourage Timothy to accept leadership.
- Chapters 2b-4a challenge Timothy to confront corrupt teachers.
- And chapter 4b is Paul's personal plea for Timothy to visit him in prison.


### **2 Timothy 1:1-2:13: Paul Challenges Timothy to Accept Leadership**

Paul opens by thanking God for Timothy and his family. Paul makes sure to specifically mention his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. Both of these women had immersed the young Timothy in the story of the Hebrew Scriptures, instilling in him a deep faith in the Messiah, Jesus. Because of that firm faith, Paul offers his first challenge to Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6-18), calling him to reject any temptation to be ashamed of the good news about Jesus or of Paul's suffering in prison for announcing that good news. Paul has to emphasize that last point because of the negative stigma he had gained from his frequent imprisonments. Even some of Paul's coworkers had begun to doubt his calling as an apostle. Paul specifically mentions two, Phygelus and Hermogenes (2 Tim. 1:15), who had deserted him because they were ashamed of being associated with an accused criminal. Paul asks Timothy to reject any fear of shame and come see him.

Paul realizes this is a costly request that could put Timothy at risk, but Paul reminds him that Jesus' grace is a source of power (2 Tim. 2:1). This power source is necessary because following Jesus is not easy. It requires everything you have. Paul likens following Jesus to enrolling as a soldier who strives to please their commanding officer, or to an athlete focused on training their body for a competition, or to a dedicated farmer. All three of these metaphors involve a person who is committed to something bigger than themselves, people who are willing to make sacrifices and endure challenges in order to accomplish a greater goal.

Of course, the highest example of this is Jesus himself. Because of his commitment to the Father, he suffered crucifixion by the Romans.

Similarly, Paul himself now suffers in a Roman prison. Hardship and sacrifice are inherent to the Christian life, which is why Jesus' resurrection is the foundation of Christian hope, or as Paul says in a short powerful poem, "If we died with him, then we will live with him. If we endure, then we will reign with him. If we deny him, then he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, he will remain faithful. For he is unable to deny his own nature" (2 Tim. 2:11-13).



"IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE REQUIRE SACRIFICE OF SOMETHING WE WANT. WE HAVE TO RISK. THE QUESTION ISN'T ABOUT WHAT WE ARE SACRIFICING; IT'S ABOUT WHAT WE ARE CHOOSING NOT TO SACRIFICE."

God's love for our world has opened up a new hope through the death and resurrection of Jesus. For those who take the risk of trusting and following Jesus, God promises vindication and life. For those who reject him, God will honor their decision and do the same, but their faithlessness will never compel God to abandon his faithfulness. Paul calls Timothy to have faithfulness, knowing that it may come with a cost.

## **2 Timothy 2:14-4:5: Paul Encourages Timothy to Confront Corruption**

As Paul moves into the second half of the letter (2 Tim. 2:14-4:5), he asks Timothy to confront the corrupt teachers in Ephesus before coming to Rome. Their teaching is spreading through the Ephesian church like a cancer. They've targeted and corrupted a number of influential women in the church, likely the same wealthy women that Paul had to deal with in his first letter. He doesn't offer much detail about these teachers' bad theology, as Timothy already knows all about it, but Paul does give one hint: they teach that "the resurrection has already taken place" (2 Tim. 2:18).

It's not certain whether or not these teachers are following Greek philosophy's rejection of the idea of bodily resurrection and think that it's only about spiritual experience. Of course, they also could have simply distorted Paul's teaching about the resurrection life. Either way, the problem is that they've abandoned the robust future hope of resurrection and new creation and have instead embraced a private, hyper-spiritualized Christianity that is disconnected from their day-to-day lives and relationships.

Paul calls Timothy to raise up faithful leaders who will teach the real good news about Jesus (2 Tim. 2:2). These leaders should avoid the senseless arguments that result from debating with those guys. In contrast, Timothy and his

leadership team are to keep the focus on the core storyline and message of the Scriptures, which, in this context, means the Hebrew Bible. “The Scriptures,” Paul says, “are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in the Messiah Jesus.” In other words, the whole point of the Scriptures is to tell a unified story that leads to Jesus and offers wisdom to the whole world.

Paul also talks about the Scripture’s nature and purpose. “All Scripture is divinely breathed,” or literally “God-Spirited” (2 Tim. 3:16), a reference to the Spirit’s role in guiding the biblical authors to write God’s word to his people. God speaks to his people through the Scriptures for practical reasons, as it is useful for teaching, challenging, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:15-17). In other words, by reading the Scriptures, God’s people will be prepared to do good.

### **2 Timothy 4:6-22: Paul’s Final Plea**

Paul closes the letter by reminding Timothy that he is probably not going to make it out of prison alive. He asks Timothy to come as soon as possible before winter hits. Paul doesn’t want to freeze in his cell, so he is going to need his heavy coat that he had to leave behind along with all of his important personal documents in Troas (where he was likely arrested). He mentions how Alexander is an especially dangerous man who should be avoided and is probably the one responsible for Paul’s most recent arrest.



**Timothy Visits Paul in Prison**

Paul further concludes by mentioning how nearly everyone has abandoned him to his fate. His only source of comfort is the personal presence of Jesus, who stands with him and waits to deliver him even if he dies.

**2 Timothy stands as a reminder that Paul's influential life and mission were marked by persistent challenge, suffering, and struggle. Following Jesus involves risk and sacrifice and means inviting tension and discomfort into your life. These things are not a sign of Jesus' absence. Rather, as Paul discovered along with generations of Jesus followers after him, it's precisely in those dark and difficult moments that Jesus' love and faithfulness become most tangible.**

### **How did the Apostle Paul Die?**



**It's believed that Emperor Nero ordered the execution of many Christians, including Apostle Paul who was likely beheaded in Rome around 67 AD.**

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