

# 1 Timothy

## Original Historical Setting

**Author:** Paul

**Written:** ~62-66 A.D.

**Audience:** Timothy, who was in Ephesus

**Occasion:** Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus when he found that false teaching had upset the stability of the church there. Timothy had to deal with the false teaching and help stabilize the church. Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in these endeavors.

### **Timeline:**

~35 AD – Paul’s conversion

~50-53 AD – Paul second missionary journey

~60-62 AD – Paul imprisoned in Rome

~62-66 AD – Paul released and writes 1 Timothy

## World Events that occur simultaneously

~50 AD – China and Rome conduct trade via 4,000-mile-long Silk Road

~54 AD – Claudius poisoned and is succeeded by Nero

~64 AD – Rome burns; Nero blames Christians

~68 AD – Nero commits suicide

## Key text(s)

**1:15** – Christ came to save sinners of whom I am chief

**3:1-13** – Elder and Servant Leader Qualifications

**4:12** – Be an example of those who believe

**6:10** – The LOVE of money is the root of all evil

**6:12** – Fight the good fight of faith

## Genre/Literary style

An epistle (letter) written in (Koine) Greek

## Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:11

## Features and Structure:

The first five and a half chapters deal with Timothy’s public responsibilities in the life of the congregation at Ephesus. The last half of chapter six focuses on Timothy’s “private” spiritual character as a “man of God.”

**I.** – Timothy’s Mission in Ephesus (1)

**II.** – Instructions Concerning Local Church Life (2)

**III.** – Instructions Concerning Local Church Leaders (3-4)

**IV.** – Instructions Concerning Local Church Groups (5:1-6:10)

**V.** – Instructions Concerning Timothy’s Godly Life (6:11-21)

## What to look for

- Lots of advice for ministers. The three letters of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles because they contain Paul’s advice to these two men who are pastoring churches.
- Scattered throughout 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are five “Faithful Sayings.” These were probably confessions used in public worship. The first and third of these add the words, “and worthy of all acceptance,” which was perhaps a congregational oral unison response to the words, “This is a faithful saying.”  
The Faithful Sayings are found in **1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; and Titus 3:5-7.**

## Interesting facts

- Timothy was a third generation believer. His grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, had persuaded Timothy to follow in their faith.
- The word “immortal” is only found once in the Bible. Only God is immortal. **1 Tim. 1:17**
- Under God’s Law, an accessory to a crime is just as guilty as the one perpetuating the crime. **1 Tim. 5:22**
- Though Paul argued that the Jewish ceremonial laws had become obsolete, including the law of circumcision, he had Timothy (whose mother was a Jew) circumcised in order to help him relate to the Jews better.