

## **Book of 1 Timothy**

### **Historical Background**

The first Timothy contained practical and pastoral advice from the seasoned apostle Paul to a younger pastor named Timothy, who was working in the church at Ephesus. This is one of the Pastoral Epistles, including 2 Timothy and Titus. Paul met Timothy in the city of Lystra in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey), where Paul recruited Timothy as Paul continued his second missionary journey (roughly about the spring of 49 AD as the start of this mission). The support and assistance of Timothy met a critical need for Paul because their friendship and partnership came on the heels of Paul's split with Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41). Paul's first letter to Timothy was probably written in AD 64 after his release from a Roman prison (around the end of AD 62 or in AD 63) and going on to preach in Macedonia, where Paul received the reports of Timothy's work at Ephesus that prompted Paul to write this letter.

### **How is the book of 1 Timothy relevant to us today?**

First Timothy offers the most explicit and complete church leadership and organization instructions. For example, there are sections on appropriate conduct in worship gatherings, the qualifications of church leaders and deacons, and the proper order of church discipline. More so than before, the leaders of our churches fill critical roles as they encourage the Christians' spiritual growth and empower the believers to be on a mission with God. 1 Timothy presents a clearer understanding of the proper qualifications and roles for and roles for the Christian church leaders.

### **1 Timothy 1 (Tenacity)**

**Observation:** What was the first instruction Paul gave to Timothy?

**Interpretation:** Why do you think the first instruction is on the top of a list?

**God loving Us:** How has God gifted us with people who embody tenacity?

**God Meeting Us:** In the lives of the saints who possessed/possess tenacity, when and where did you experience their persistent determination?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate tenacity?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate tenacity in your faith/life?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating tenacity in the future?

### **1 Timothy 2 (Intercession)**

**Observation:** How has Paul instructed Timothy concerning prayer? What was on the top of the list?

**Interpretation:** Why has Paul put intercession on the top of a list?

**God loving Us:** How has God gifted us with people who intercede for us?

**God Meeting Us:** In the lives of the saints who interceded/intercede for others, when and where did you experience their intercession?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate a heart of intercession?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can intercede for others?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role of practicing/demonstrating/cultivating in interceding for others?

### **1 Timothy 3 (Godliness)**

**Observation:** What were Paul's understanding and teaching of godliness?

**Interpretation:** Why were Paul's understanding and teaching of godliness important in the given context? Is Paul's instruction to Timothy about godliness particular to a context or general?

**God loving Us:** How has God gifted us with godly people?

**God Meeting Us:** In the lives of the saints who demonstrated/demonstrate godliness in their lives, when and where did you experience their practices?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate godliness in your faith/life?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate godliness in your faith/life?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating godliness in the future?

### **1 Timothy 4 (Spiritual gifts)**

**Observation:** How has Paul instructed Timothy about spiritual gifts among church leaders?

**Interpretation:** Why do you think Paul believes using spiritual gifts in the church is significant?

**God loving Us:** How has God granted us spiritual gifts?

**God Meeting Us:** In the lives of the saints who possessed/possess (a) spiritual gift(s), when and where did you experience their practices?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate your spiritual gift(s)?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate (a) spiritual gift(s) in your life?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating (a) spiritual gift(s) in the future?

### **1 Timothy 5 (Compassion)**

**Observation:** What is Paul's understanding of the church's role for widows, elders, and servants?

**Interpretation:** Why do you think it is important for the church to care for them?

**God loving Us:** How has God gifted us with compassion even before you knew God?

**God Meeting Us:** In the lives of the saints who were/are compassionate, when and where did you experience their compassion?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate compassion in your life?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate compassion in a community, in a church, or in the world?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating compassion in the future?

## **1 Timothy 6 (Truth-telling)**

**Observation:** What are Paul's final instructions to Timothy?

**Interpretation:** Are Paul's instructions reliable? Are they beneficial? If so, why? If not, why not? Do you believe Paul's instructions seek and speak the truth?

**God loving Us:** How has God gifted us with truth-tellers?

**God Meeting Us:** In the life of the saints who were/are truth-tellers, when and where did you experience their truth-telling?

**God Refining Us:** What are some people or means to help you cultivate truth-telling in your life?

**God Inspiring Us to Serve:** What are some ways in which you can practice/demonstrate truth-telling in a community, in a church, or in the world?

**Real Life Today:** What kind of community would you like to play a role in practicing/demonstrating/cultivating truth-telling in the future?