



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

## Chapter 1

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# Introduction

## Authorship

- St. Paul (1 Tim 1:1)

## Recipient

- St. Timothy the Bishop of Ephesus (1:2)

## Date

- After the events of Acts 28 (63–65)



# Purpose

- To refute false teachings (1:3–7; 4:1–8; 6:3–5, 20–21)
- To supervise the affairs of the growing Ephesian church
  - ❑ Church worship, chapter 2
  - ❑ Appointment of clergy (3:1–13; 5:17–25)



# Theme

- Pastoral Care
  - ❖ Role of the clergy
  - ❖ Combating heresy
  - ❖ Care for women, widows, and slaves
  - ❖ Money and the ministry



# Greeting (1 Tim 1:1,2)

- Reminder of his calling to give weight to his words
- Our Savior: St. Paul is called to be an apostle to preach the good news of salvation
- Our Hope: The anticipation of the salvation which is yet to be revealed



# Greeting (1 Tim 1:1,2)

- St. Paul led him to Christ
- Timothy behaves as a dutiful son to St. Paul (Philippians 2:20-22)
- St. Paul prays for Timothy that he would receive grace, mercy and peace
- These gifts come from God

# Opposing False Doctrine (1 Tim 1:3-5)



- False doctrines are like cancer (2 Tim 2:16, 17) or leaven (Gal 5:9)
- Things which are highly speculative (fables) invite vain disputes
- Godly edification of the true doctrines results in:
  - ❖ Pure heart
  - ❖ Good conscience
  - ❖ Sincere faith

# Opposing False Conduct (1 Tim 1:6-11)



- Idle talk” is that which is vain, meaningless, and empty
- St. James warns of not taking the role of teaching lightly (James 3:1)
- To use it lawfully is to interpret and apply it using proper Biblical interpretation



# Opposing False Conduct (1 Tim 1:6-11)



- St. Paul associates a “righteous person” in accordance with his behavior
- Righteousness is not only regarded with respect to faith in God
- The Bible teaches that there is also a connection to the person’s behavior

# Opposing False Conduct (1 Tim 1:6-11)



- It does not lie against a righteous man; because he does not transgress it
- St. Paul made no attempt at prioritizing these sins
- In evaluating whether doctrine is sound, one must test it to identify how the doctrine applies to one's behavior

# Opposing False Conduct (1 Tim 1:6-11)



- Even among Christians there are those who are angered by or otherwise reject what St. Paul teaches
- The fact is that if one rejects the gospel which St. Paul preaches, one rejects the Lord Jesus
- St. Paul's gospel is the gospel of Christ

# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- God put him into the ministry because he was faithful
- He was sincere in his persecution of the Church. He thought he was doing God's will
- Not that his ignorance was an excuse
- But rather to contrast himself with apostates

# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- St. Paul's conversion revealed just how exceedingly abundant God's grace was
- Faith and love accompanied God's grace
- Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
- For St. Paul, this was not simply theological concept, but his very real experience

# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- Salvation is available to everyone no matter how sinful their background
- St. Paul's conversion is a pattern for repentance and changed life
- King: His kingdom started on the cross
- Eternal: It is an eternal kingdom

# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- Immortal: He trampled death by His death
- Invisible: God cannot be seen
- Wise: (1 Cor 1:30)
- Honor: We honor God for the salvation He has provided
- Glory: God is glorified in His salvation

# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- Prophecies made of Timothy: “He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium” (Acts 16:2)
- “By them you may wage the good warfare”:  
By the commands he has given him
- Shipwrecks occur because of shallow faith



# Exhortations to be Faithful (1 Tim 1:12-20)



- Alexander is mentioned in (2 Tim 4:14) and Hymenaeus in (2 Tim 2:16-18)
- Handing someone over to Satan may mean that Satan had permission to inflict some illness or disability (Job 2:6)
- It may also picture life outside the fellowship of the church as Satan's sphere (1 Cor 5:5)



# Conclusion

- What two things did St. Paul want Timothy to charge some?
- What was the three-fold purpose of this commandment?
- When is something considered “sound doctrine”?
- What is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance?
- Why did St. Paul obtain mercy, and Christ show all longsuffering toward him?
- What is the purpose of discipline?