First Timothy

Preaching Verse by Verse



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Published by

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY PRESS 900 Park Avenue Collingswood, New Jersey 08108 U.S.A.

Church Phone: 856-854-4747 BFT Phone: 856-854-4452 Orders: 1-800-John 10:9 e-mail: BFT@BibleForToday.org

Website: www.BibleForToday.org

We Use and Defend the King James Bible

March, 2007 BFT3085BK

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ISBN #1-56848-055-5

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank and to acknowledge the assistance of the following people:

- The Congregation of the Bible for Today Baptist Church, for whom these messages were prepared, to whom they were delivered, and by whom they were published. They listened attentively and encouraged their Pastor as he preached;
- **Yvonne Sanborn Waite**, my wife, who encouraged the publication of these sermons, read the manuscript several times, suggested the various boxes, and gave other helpful suggestions and comments;
- **Dianne W. Cosby**, for typing these messages from the original cassette tapes and put them in computer format;
- **Daniel S. Waite**, the Assistant to the Bible For Today Director, who kept my computer working, guided the book through the printing process, and made important suggestions;
- Barbara Egan, our Bible For Today secretary who
 proofread the manuscript and, as usual, offered valuable suggestions and comments.
- Loretta Smith, a former attender of our Bible for Today Baptist Church, having moved out of state, volunteered to continue reading the manuscript and offered her valuable suggestions chapter by chapter throughout the book.

Foreword

- The Beginning. This book is the seventh in a planned series of books based on expository preaching from various books of the Bible. It is an attempt to bring to the minds of the readers two things: (1) the meaning of the words in the verses and (2) the practical application of those words to the lives of both saved and lost people.
- Preached Sermons. These are messages that have been preached to our Butle for Today Baptist Churth in Collingswood, New Jersey, broadcast over radio, over the Internet by streaming, and placed on our Website as follows:

(http://www.BibleForToday.org/audio_sermons.htm)

This site is for people all over the world to listen to, should they wish. As the messages were originally preached, I took half a chapter during our Sunday morning services, spending about forty-five minutes on each message.

- Other Verses. In connection with both the meaning and application of the verses in this book, there are many verses from other places in the Bible that have been quoted for further elaboration of Paul's discussion. One of the unique features of this study is that all the various verses of Scripture that are used to illustrate further truth are written out in full for easy reference.
- A Transcription. It should be noted that this book is made up largely from the transcription of the tape recordings of the messages as they were preached. These recordings are available in both audio and video formats (Audio is BFT#3085/1-3; or Video is BFT #3085VC1-2). Though there has been some editing, the words are basically the same as the ones I used as I preached the sermons. Though different in emphasis, this was also the method Dr. H. A. Ironside used in his Bible exposition books.
- The Audience. The audience intended is the same as the audience that listened to the messages in the first place. These studies are not meant to be overly scholarly, though there is some reference to various Greek words used by Paul. My aim and burden is to try to help believers to understand the Words of God. It is my hope that I can get as many as possible of my expositions in print so that my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many others might profit thereby.

Yours For God's Words,

Pastor D. A. Waite, Th.D., Ph.D. Bible For Today Baptist Church

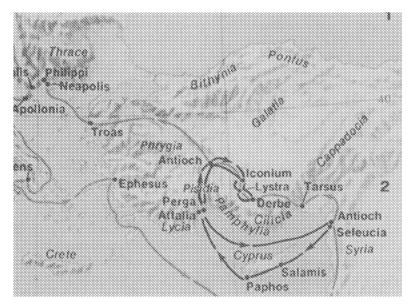
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First Timothy Chapter One

Introductory Remarks

Though there is a dispute as to whether Paul was in the prison in Rome one time or two times, I believe the evidence points to two imprisonments. This letter was written between these two confinements. The early churches needed some instructions about proper church order. For this reason Paul wrote this



letter and that of 2 Timothy and Titus as well. These three letters are called the Pastoral Epistles because they were written to two pastors of the early church, Timothy and Titus.

According to tradition, Timothy was the pastor of the church at Ephesus. From the map above, you can see that Ephesus was located in Asia Minor which is now called Turkey. It was a major seaport in the Mediterranean Sea in its day. Timothy evidently had been led to the Lord Jesus Christ by Paul and is referred to as "my own son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2).

Timothy joined Paul when Paul visited the areas of Lystra and Derbe (Acts 16:1). Timothy's mother was a Jewess and his father was a Gentile. Timothy accompanied Paul in the events from Acts 16:1 through at least 20:4 where his name is mentioned.

In this book, Paul lays down many principles that were to be followed in the sound, Bible-believing local churches in his day as well as in the future days of the church age, including our own. It is sad but true that many of these principles have not been followed in our local churches today. For this reason there is a great spiritual poverty in altogether too many churches.

1 Timothy 1:1

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;"

In the first part of this chapter, we will be discussing about fifteen reasons for laws. We must keep the laws of man provided they do not conflict with the laws of God. This letter was written by the apostle Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy. Timothy was at that time the pastor of the local church at Ephesus, a large city in Asia Minor. Paul was writing Timothy in order to prepare him properly for his ministry at Ephesus.

Paul did not say he was a self-appointed apostle, nor did other apostles appoint him to that office. He was appointed "by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ." Notice he said, "and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." The Lord Jesus Christ is "our hope." There are many verses on "hope."

Acts 23:6

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

The Sadducees did not believe in the "hope" of the resurrection.

Romans 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**.

If we are saved, we have the hope of the Glory of God by and by.

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

• Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God wants us to abound in "hope."

• 1 Corinthians 15:19

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

There is a "hope" beyond this life. Paul was persecuted greatly and it would not have been worth it had there not been a "hope" beyond the grave.

Ephesians 2:12

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Our condition before we were saved was one of "no hope."

Colossians 1:5

For the hope which is laid up for you in Heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

For those who are born-again, there is a glorious "hope" waiting for them in Heaven.

• Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**:

Christ Indwells the Saved Ones

No one will be in Heaven without Christ dwelling within them. While we usually think of only the Holy Spirit indwelling the Christian (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, it is also true that the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father also dwell within saved people as taught in this verse and in John 14:23 as well.

• 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

It is also true that the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father also dwell within saved people as well.

• John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

God promised eternal life as a "hope" to those who come to His Son by genuine faith. God always keeps His promises.

• Titus 2:13

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back again in the rapture for the born-again Christians to transform corruptible bodies into incorruptible, and mortal bodies into immortal, and then to take them to Heaven to be with Him forever.

• Titus 3:7

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

• 1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

"Hope" in the Scripture is not "I hope so, I guess so, I think so." "Hope" is a future event that is assured without any question.

1 Timothy 1:2

"Unto Timothy, *my* own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

Evidently Paul had led Timothy to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, Timothy is called "my own son in the faith." Either Timothy or Timotheus, which is another spelling of his name, is mentioned seventeen times in the New Testament.

Acts 16:1-3

Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which

were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

• 1 Corinthians 4:17

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Are We "Faithful in the Lord"?

Are we who are saved really "faithful in the Lord" like Timothy was? If not, we should be.

1 Timothy 1:18
 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to
the prophetical which went before on thee, that they by them.

the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Again Paul called Timothy his "son." He was not a physical son, but a spiritual son.

• 2 Timothy 1:5

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Timothy was a believer in Christ as his Saviour. He was a young man who was selected by Paul to accompany him on his many missionary journeys. Timothy was faithful to the Lord and faithful to Paul as well. When Timothy was called to be the pastor of that church at Ephesus, Paul wrote Timothy some things that this pastor ought to know. That is why 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are called pastoral letters. Paul's greeting to Timothy was threefold. It involved "Grace, mercy, and peace."

"Grace" and "Mercy" Defined

"Grace" is getting something we do not deserve. That is Heaven and God's forgiveness of all our sins. "Mercy" is not getting something we do deserve. That is the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

One definition of Christian peace is "the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is." This is God's perfect peace indeed.

1 Timothy 1:3

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,"

Paul wanted Timothy to stay at "Ephesus" while he "went into Macedonia." "Ephesus" was, at that time, a major port in Asia Minor, which is now Turkey [See the map of Ephesus above in the Introductory Remarks.] The purpose for which Paul wanted Timothy to abide at "Ephesus" was "that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine." That word "charge" is not like a "charge account." It is a command. Notice how God uses that word "charge."

1 Thessalonians 5:27
 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

That is an urgent and solemn command.

• 1 Timothy 1:18

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

This command is a weighty command.

- 1 Timothy 5:21
 - I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.
- 1 Timothy 6:13
 - I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and *before* Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;
- 1 Timothy 6:17

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Pastor Timothy was to warn wealthy Christians and tell them plainly. It is not a problem of having "uncertain riches." The problem is "trusting in uncertain riches." Riches are certainly "uncertain." Look at the fluctuations in the stock market day by day. It is up and down daily, weekly, and monthly.

• 2 Timothy 4:1

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

In the present verse (1 Timothy 1:3), God told Timothy through Paul to charge some and to be sure "that they teach no other doctrine." Doctrine is important.

In this verse we come to what I call a "stop sign." The Greek structure of "that they teach no other doctrine" is a present tense prohibition.

Two Kinds of Greek Prohibitions

In Greek there are at least two major kinds of prohibitions or negative commands:

- 1. The Greek agrist tense prohibition means to not even begin an action.
- 2. The Greek present tense prohibition means to stop an action already in progress.

Paul is saying here that he wants some of those in Ephesus to stop teaching other doctrines. Some in Ephesus were teaching doctrines contrary to the will and Words of God, and Paul wants Timothy to attempt to stop such false doctrinal teaching.

The Greek verb for "teach no other doctrine" is HETERODIDASKALEO. It is a compound verb consisting of HETERO (meaning "another of a totally different sort") and DIDASKALEO (meaning "to teach, or instruct") Taken together, the verb means "to teach other or different doctrine; deviating from the truth."

"Doctrine" is another word for "teaching." It refers to the teaching of the Words of God. We here in our **Bible for Today Baptist Church** teach and preach the various Bible "doctrines" as we come to them in our verse-by-verse method of preaching and teaching the Scriptures.

Why Do Pastors Desert Doctrine?

Many pastors in their sermons seek to stay away from "doctrine." They believe it confuses people and might divide them. Many of them either go in for psychological talks or sermons that abound in stories which some have called "skyscraper sermons," that is, one tall story after another. "Doctrine" is mentioned many times in the Bible.

- Matthew 15:9
 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
- Matthew 16:12
 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

The Lord Jesus warned His disciples about the false teaching and "doctrine" of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- Mark 1:22
 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.
- Mark 12:38-40
 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

The Lord Jesus Christ named names and exposed the teachers of false doctrine, which we should do as well. Faithful pastors and Bible teachers must do the same today.

John 7:16
 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine,
 but his that sent me.

Read the Bible Through Yearly

We have to know God's doctrine to know and do God's will for our lives. That is why we encourage everyone of those in our congregation to read the Words of God each day and their entire Bible each year. This can be done at eighty-five-verses per day, following our YEARLY BIBLE READING schedule. This is available upon request at the Bible For Today, or on the Internet by requesting BFT #0179.

Acts 2:42

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The "apostle's doctrine" is that which has been given to us in the Scriptures.

• Romans 6:17

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

When you "mark" somebody, that person becomes visible or noticed. That means the pastor and other believers are commanded to name their names, pointing them out, and exposing them for their false doctrines that they are teaching.

• Ephesians 4:14

That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and **carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Harold Camping, President of the Family Radio Network is a good illustration of that verse. We are not to follow such false teachers as he.

• 1 Timothy 1:10

For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine:

God wants everyone to hear "sound" and healthy "doctrine," not sick and false doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils**;

The "devils" and demons are all around us. There are false and demonic doctrines such as the false doctrine that everybody in the world is saved and going to Heaven. That is not true.

Who Are Truly Saved?

Only those who genuinely trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are saved.

• 1 Timothy 4:6

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of **good doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.

- 1 Timothy 4:13
 - Till I come, **give attendance** to reading, to exhortation, **to doctrine**.
- 1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Both Doctrine & Pure Life Needed

Like Pastor Timothy, every pastor, as well as every Christian, must have a good personal life as well as sound and Biblical "doctrine."

• 1 Timothy 5:17

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the Word and doctrine.

That word "labour" means to work hard.