

Men's Sunday Night
The Book of 1 Timothy
"A Blueprint for Living"
Introduction – 1 Timothy

One of the most difficult transitions for any organization to make is the transfer of power from the founders to a second generation of leadership. Countless entrepreneurs have brought disaster on their companies by refusing to release control to others who are younger and, in their view, less competent. And even where visionaries gladly hand over the reigns of authority to qualified successors, there is no guarantee of continued success.

That's one reason why 1 Timothy makes for such interesting reading. It is a letter about the transfer of leadership to a new generation. In writing 1 Timothy, Paul was passing the torch to his son in faith, Timothy, Pastor of the church at Ephesus. Paul knew that his own time was drawing to a close, and that his work would soon come to an end. Would the Ephesians continue in the faith? Would they hold to the truth of the gospel and practice Christ like love toward one another? Would young Timothy be faithful to his pastoral tasks? Would he teach the people sound doctrine, navigate through disputes and disappointments, and model a life style of faith?

As we read Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy, we can feel his heart reaching out to the believers in Ephesus. Paul wanted the fellowship not merely to survive, but to thrive. So, he wrote this letter, which is one of the earliest manuals we have for church organization.

We might ask the question, why were such instructions needed? Perhaps it was because of the gospel's success at Ephesus. No longer was the Christian community there just a small body of new believers enjoying intimate fellowship on a first name basis. The group had really grown over the years and was having an influence in cities throughout Asia Minor. It was a diverse church struggling internally with issues of unity and doctrinal purity and externally with pagan, sometimes hostile surroundings. Ephesus was in many ways the church as it was supposed to be. But it had grown to the point where it needed organizational structure.

Author and Setting

The letter of 1 Timothy bears the customary greeting of Paul, and the church down through history has generally agreed that he was the author. This view is supported by the close personal tone of this letter. In 1 Timothy, Paul writes from Macedonia to young Timothy, pastor of the church at Ephesus. The exact date of the letter is unknown, but is believed to be written late in Paul's life. Probably between AD 62-66.

Key Verses in 1 Timothy

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever." 1 Timothy 1:17

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."
1 Timothy 4:8

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

"For the Scripture says, you shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain, and, the laborer is worthy of his wages." 1 Timothy 5:18

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10