

PAUL'S EPISTLES TO TIMOTHY – INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDERLY CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH

To open up this study we need to first find out something about Timothy; who he is exactly according to Scripture where he is first mentioned in Ac 16, having been converted to Christ by Paul on his first Apostolic Mission journey which included Lystra, Timothy's home town. This mission journey is recorded in Ac 13-14. Timothy became Paul's protégé and co-worker in the Gospel. Paul was his Spiritual mentor. He referred to Timothy in his First Epistle as *'my own son in the Faith'*. Paul chose Timothy to accompany him after he and Barnabas parted company prior to his second Apostolic Mission journey – which is recorded in Ac 15:36 – 18:22 – and they continued in Ministry together until Paul's death (CP Ac 15:36 – 16:3 with 1Th 1:1-2, 18). Later in their Ministry Timothy was co-author with Paul of six of Paul's Epistles (CP 2Cor 1:1; Php 1:1; Col 1:1; 1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:1 and Phm 1). See also author's comments on Ac 14:26-27, 15:36-41, 16:1-3, 18:22 and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. Paul sets forth his purpose for writing these Epistles to Timothy in 1Ti 3:14-15. It is to ensure that Timothy – and by extension every professing Christian throughout the history of the Church from that time forth – observes a code of conduct for the Church of God, from behaviour in public Prayer to the behaviour of women in public, and their purpose in God's order for the New Testament Church, as well as outlining the Church's responsibility toward widows and the elderly in their midst. We will examine the Scriptures dealing with those subjects as we come to them.

(CP 1Ti 1:1-20). In his introduction here in V1-2 Paul highlights the Scriptural truth that God and Jesus are two separate and distinct personalities in the three-in-one Godhead of Christianity (CP V1-2 with 3:16, also Jas 1:1 and 1Jn 5:7). In 1Ti 1:3-7 Paul admonishes Timothy not to allow any false teachings to gain a foothold in the Church, or let any error be perpetuated. Nor should he be involved in any controversial arguments which only promote speculation, not love from a pure heart and genuine faith (CP V3-7 with Ga 5:22-23). Next, in 1Ti 1:8-10 Paul explains the necessity and purpose of the Old Testament Law (CP V8-10 with Ro 3:19-20 and Ga 3:19-25). In 1Ti 1:11-17 Paul refers to himself as the chief of sinners under the Old Testament Law, saved by Grace under the New Covenant and he thanks God for His mercy (CP V11-17). Paul then highlights three things necessary for Christians to save their souls: wage a good warfare in God's service; hold fast to their Faith; maintain a good conscience before God (CP V18-20 with 2Ti 1:6 and 1Ti 4:12; 5:21 and 6:11-15). See also author's comments on 1Ti 1:1-2 1:18 and 1:20, also 1Ti 4:12 and 6:14, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**.

(CP 1Ti 2:1 – 3:16). Here Paul instructs Timothy regarding orderly conduct in the Church. V1-7 in Chapter 2 concerns Prayer; V8-15 concerns the function of men and women in God's order for the Church and who should lead the worship (V1-15). See also author's comments on 1Ti 2:8-15 and 2:9-10, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies

referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. In 1Ti 3:1-13 Paul instructs Timothy concerning the office of Bishop and Ministry of Deacons in the New Testament Church (CP 3:1-13). See also author's comments on 1Ti 3:1-7 and 3:8-13, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. In closing Ch 3 of this Epistle, in V15-16, Paul instructs Timothy concerning the Church being the Pillar and the Ground of the Truth of God, and he then highlights the Deity of Jesus (CP V15-16). See also author's comments on 1Ti 3:15 and 3:16, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**.

(CP 1Ti 4:1-16). In V1-5 here Paul speaks of the repeated warnings throughout Scripture by the Holy Spirit, of Christians defecting from their Faith in God and giving heed to the Doctrine of Demons and Seducing Spirits (CP V1-5 with 2Ti 3:1-9 and 4:1-5). See also author's comments on 1Ti 4:1, 4:4-5 and 2Ti 3:1, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. In V6-16 in 1Ti 4, Paul admonishes Timothy and by extension every professing Christian, to be a good Minister of God's Word and an example for Christians to follow (CP V6-16). There are nine commands to Church leaders in V13-16 here to ensure both their own, and their hearers' salvation (CP also V13-16 with Ac 14:21-22 and 2Ti 2:15). The word *study* (KJV) in 2Ti 2:15 means make every effort to do one's best; exert oneself; make haste; give diligence (see also author's comments on 1Ti 4:10 and 4:12, and all related cross-reference Scriptures referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**).

(CP 1Ti 5:1-25). Here Paul instructs Timothy concerning various classes of Believers in the Church. V1-2 concern men and women in general; V3-10 concern elderly widows; V11-15 concern younger widows; V16 concerns relief of widows, V17-19 concern the Church's duty to ruling Elders (CP V17-19 with Tit 1:5-9 and 1Pe 5:1-6). 1Ti 5:20-22 concerns sinning Christians (CP V20-22 with Ga 6:1). Next, in 1Ti 5:23 Paul admonishes Timothy to drink a little wine to settle his stomach and other ailments affecting him (CP V23 with 2Ti 1:6-8). Timothy was apparently a timid young man who allowed himself to be treated contemptuously by some in the Church at Ephesus, because of his youthfulness (CP 1Ti 1:3; 4:12 and 2Ti 1:6-8). In V24-25 in 1Ti 5 Paul instructs Timothy concerning men's characters. Some men's sins are blatant; others are more subtle. Likewise their good works – some are conspicuous, others are not. But they will all be revealed sooner or later. This should alert every professing Christian in the contemporary Church to stop sinning, even inadvertently, and failing God's Grace (CP V24-25). See also author's comments on 1Ti 5:8, 5:17-18, 5:19, 5:22 and 5:23, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New**

Testament. See also author's studies *The Cost of Discipleship: Forsaking all for Jesus*; *Conditions of Entry into Heaven* and *Haggai – the Significance of His Messages for Today*, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 1)**; *Christians – Flee from Idolatry, Christians, Love Not the World and Christians – Beware of Failing God's Grace and Forfeiting your Salvation* and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 2)**; *Christian – Keep your Tongue from Evil and your Lips from Speaking Guile* and *Christian Ethics*, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 3)**.

(CP 1Ti 6:1-21). This is the final Chapter in Paul's First Epistle to Timothy. In V1-2 Paul instructs Timothy concerning slaves and their masters who have become Believers in Christ (CP V1-2 with 1Cor 7:17; Eph 6:5-9; Col 3:22-25 and 4:1). In 1Ti 6:3-5, Paul instructs Timothy concerning false teachers in the Church (CP V3-5 with 4:1-5; 2Ti 3:1-9; 4:1; 2Pe 2:1Jn 4:1-6; Jude 17-21). Next, in V6-10 and 17-19 in 1Ti 6, Paul instructs Timothy concerning covetousness and riches. Riches in scripture are considered the cause of much sin and rebellion against God, and for this cause there are many warnings to Believers to shun all covetousness of such (CP V6-10 and 17-19 with De 6:10-19; Pr 23:4-5; 30:8-9; Jer 9:23-24; Eze 28:4-10; Mt 6:19-21; Lu 6:24-25; 12:15-21; 16:13-31; Jas 1:9-11; 5:1-5). In V11-14 and 20-21, in 1Ti 6, Paul charges Timothy to never wander out of the way of God's truth and to keep sacred all that God has committed to his keeping (CP V11-14 and 20-21 with 1Ti 5:2 and 2Ti 2:6). Finally, in 1Ti 6, V15-16, Paul describes God and the purpose of Christ's Second Advent (CP V15-16 with 1Cor 15:24-28). See also author's comments on 1Ti 6: 6-10, 6:14 and 6:20, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**.

Now to study Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy (CP 2Ti 1:1-18). After greeting Timothy in V1-2 here, Paul offers up thanks to God for the unfeigned Faith of both Timothy's Grandmother and Mother and also of course, Timothy himself, for which cause, Paul then reminds Timothy, to bear solemn witness to the gifts with which God had endowed him by the laying on of Paul's hands (CP V1-7). The *Spirit of Fear* Paul refers to in V7 is a disposition of the mind, meaning "fearfulness, cowardice, timidity, reticence". *Power* refers to all the spiritual resources Christians are endowed with in Christ (CP Ac 1:1-8). In V8, in 2Ti 2, Paul exhorts Timothy to continue in the Ministry to which God has called him and be a partaker of the afflictions that Christians are warned of throughout Scripture will beset them (CP V9 with Mt 5:10-12; 10:34-35; Jn 15:18 – 16:6; Ro 8:35-39; 12:14; 2Th 1:4-5; 2Ti 3:10-13). The word *abolished* in V10 means rendered idle, ineffective, and inactive. Physical death still exists, but Christ has rendered it ineffective. For Christians it is but the doorway to Eternal Life with Christ (CP V10 with Jn 3:16; 14:1-3; 1Ti 1:15-16; 1Jn 2:24-25; 3:14; 5:11-13, 20). Next, in 2Ti 1:11-12 Paul highlights God's method of

propagating His work. (CP V11-12 with 1Ti 2:7 and Eph 4:11-13). In 2Ti 1:13-14 Paul exhorts Timothy – and again, by extension, all Christians – to follow the pattern of sound teaching laid out by Paul in Faith and Love which are in Christ; to guard the Truth that has been entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit who indwells us (CP V13-14 with 1Ti 1:18; 5:21; 6:11). In closing the first Chapter of 2Ti Paul, prayed for Onesiphorus (CP V16-18). See also author's comments on 2Ti 1:7, 1:8-9, 1:10, 1:12 and 1:18 and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**.

(CP 2Ti 2:1-26). Paul's instructions to Timothy here are again by extension directives to every Christian in the professing Church. In his opening Verses – V1-6) – Paul likens Christians to soldiers, athletes and farmers (CP V1-6). Like soldiers on active duty must suffer the casualties of war, so too Christians consecrated to the service of God must endure hardship and afflictions. As athletes cannot win the prize unless they strictly comply with the rules of engagement, so too Christians must strictly conform with the conditions of Salvation, lest they forfeit their place in the Eternal Kingdom, and as farmers must labour intensively for a bountiful harvest in order to partake of the fruit of their labours, so to Christians must labour intensively for a Spiritual harvest of souls. The cause of Christ must be the first and foremost thought in the mind of every Christian. It is worth noting here that in the context of 2Ti 2:4 *life* includes its meaning possessions and wealth. This can be construed then as a warning to Christians against the pursuit of wealth and possessions as the focus of this life at the expense of advancing the Kingdom of God in the earth (CP Hag 1:1-15; Mt 6:19-21, 24-33; Lu 12:15-33). See also author's comments on Mt 6:24, Lu 12:16-21 and 12:33-34, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**, and his study *Haggai – the Significance of His Messages for Today* in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 1)**.

In V7-14 in 2Ti 2 Paul admonishes Christians to deeply consider what he is teaching here and God will give them the understanding of all they need to know. They are to particularly remember the Person of Christ being resurrected from the dead, which is the Central Truth of the Gospel of Salvation: Christ suffered, died and was buried. He rose again from the dead for the Justification of Sinners (CP V7-14 with Ro 4:23-25). See also author's comments on 2Ti 2:10, 2:11-13 and Ro 4:23-25 and all related cross-reference Scriptures in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**, and his study *The Doctrine of Justification* in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 3)**. In V15-26 in 2Ti 2, Paul instructs Christians on the importance of being approved by God by diligently applying themselves to the work of God's Word and not being ashamed of any aspect of it. They are knowledgeable in the word and correctly expound its Truth, unlike false teachers. V26 teaches that Christians must not be quarrelsome, but patient with those who wander out of the way of God's Truth, in order that they might be won back to Him (CP V26). See also author's comments on 2Ti 2:18, 2:19-21, and 2:26, and all related cross-reference

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Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**.

(CP 2Ti 3:1-17). Paul is warning Christians in every era of Church history here that wicked men will rise up in their midst and attempt to subvert the authority of God's Word in their life. These men have a form of Godliness, but deny God's power. Christians are admonished to remain steadfast in their Faith notwithstanding the persecutions they will have to suffer for the cause of Christ. They must remain committed to the cause to be approved by God (See also author's comments on 2Ti 3:8 and 3:16-17, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**, and his study *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture* in his book **Advanced Studies in the Christian Faith (Volume 3)**).

(CP 2Ti 4:1-22). Although there will be at least 1007 years separating them, there are two Judgements referred to in V1 here - the Judgement Seat of Christ,

and the Great White Throne Judgement. Both will involve living and dead people. The Judgement Seat of Christ is for Saints; the Great White Throne Judgement is for sinners. The Judgement Seat of Christ will take place in Heaven after the "*Rapture*"; the Great White throne Judgement will take place on earth at the end of Christ's Millennial – 1000 years – earthly reign (CP V1 with Jn 5:25-29). See also author's comments on 2Ti 4:1-2 and Jn 5:28-29, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. In 2Ti 4:6-8 Paul speaks of his impending death. V8 should be carefully noted by every professing Christian – it teaches that only sincere Christians doing the work of God's Word for the cause of Christ will rule and reign with Christ in His Eternal Kingdom (CP V6-8 with Mt 7:21-28). See also author's comments on 2Ti 4:6-8 and Mt 7:21, and all related cross-reference Scriptures and studies referred to therein, in his book **A Question and Answer Study of the New Testament**. Paul's closing verses in 2Ti are self-explanatory. He closes the Epistle with final salutations and greetings to various brethren.