

FIRST TIMOTHY

Conversational Version

Salutation

1¹Paul, apostle of Christ^{Messiah} Jesus by the authority of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope, ²to Timothy *my* loyal son in the faith. Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God *the* Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Tim 1:1-2

Warning Against False Teachers

³When I left for Macedonia, I urged you to stay in Ephesus to instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine ⁴or pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. Those things lead to speculation rather than God's plan, which operates by faith. ⁵The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and sincere faith. ⁶Some have turned away from these to empty talk and got lost. ⁷They want to teach the Law, but they don't know what they're talking about so confidently.

1 Tim 1:3-7

Using the Law Lawfully

⁸We know the Law is good if you use it 'lawfully.' ⁹It's not there *so much* for good people, as for lawless, disorderly, godless, sinful, unholy, profane *people*. It's for murderers, for people that kill *their* fathers and mothers, ¹⁰for immoral people, male homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and anything else that contradicts sound doctrine ¹¹as set forth in the glorious good news from our blessed God—the good news he entrusted me with.

1 Tim 1:8-11

Paul's Gratitude for Salvation

¹²I'm grateful to Christ Jesus who has strengthened me and considered me worth trusting though I'd been a blasphemer, persecutor, insolent person. ¹³I received mercy because I did it ignorantly in disbelief. ¹⁴The Lord's grace overflowed with the faith and love that's in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵There's a reliable statement that deserves full acceptance: "*Christ Jesus came to the world to save sinners and I'm the worst.*" ¹⁶I received mercy so Christ Jesus could use me to demonstrate *his* extreme patience. The "worst sinner" provided an example to people that would later trust in *Christ* for eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the eternal King and only God, immortal, invisible *be* honor and glory forevermore! Amen.

1 Tim 1:12-17

¹⁸I'm entrusting that instruction to you, Timothy *my* son. I'm doing it because of the prophecies about you early on so that on the basis of them you can fight the good fight ¹⁹with faith and a clear conscience. Some have refused to listen to *their* conscience and have shipwrecked as far as faith is concerned. ²⁰Hymeneas and Alexander are *two examples*; I've delivered them to Satan to teach them not to blaspheme.

1 Tim 1:18-20

Attitude Toward Earthly Rulers

2:¹So I encourage prayers and thanksgiving for everybody—²kings and *other* people in authority—that we can lead a peaceful, quiet, godly life. ³That’s good and acceptable to God our Savior. ⁴He wants everyone to learn the truth and be saved. ⁵*There’s* one God and one Mediator between him and us, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for many, *as a* testimony given at the right time. ⁷That’s why he appointed me to be a herald and apostle, to teach Gentiles about faith and truth. That’s the truth.

1 Tim 2:1-7

Men’s and Women’s Decorum

⁸So I want believers everywhere to pray, holding up holy hands without anger or argument. ⁹*I want* women to dress modestly and decently, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, expensive clothes. ¹⁰*They should ‘dress’* in good deeds, which is appropriate for women that profess godliness. ¹¹They should learn in quietness and deference. ¹²I don’t let a woman teach or exercise authority over a man; she should remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam wasn’t deceived; the woman was deceived and fell into transgression. ¹⁵But she’ll be saved through *her* child-rearing *role*, if *her children* continue in faith, love, sanctification, and decency.

1 Tim 2:8-15

Characteristics of Elders

3:¹It’s a reliable statement: “*If anyone aspires to being an overseer, he’s aspiring to do a good thing.*” ²He needs to be above criticism, faithful to his wife, moderate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. ³*He must not be* pushy or addicted to wine. *He should be* gentle, not combative or greedy for money. ⁴*An overseer needs to* manage his family well; his children *need to be* obedient and well-behaved. (⁵If someone doesn’t know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) ⁶*He shouldn’t be* a new convert; he can get proud and fall into the devil’s condemnation. ⁷He needs *to have* a good reputation among people that aren’t Christians so he won’t fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

1 Tim 3:1-7

Characteristics of Deacons

⁸Deacons, too, need to have good character, not be two-faced, addicted to a lot of wine, or greedy for dishonest gain, ⁹*men who* maintain the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰They should be examined first, then serve as deacons if they’re blameless. ¹¹*Their* wives need to have good character too, not be inclined to malicious gossip, *but* temperate, faithful in every respect. ¹²Deacons need to be faithful to their wives, managing *their* children and family well.

¹³Deacons that serve well gain good standing and added boldness in the faith that's in Christ Jesus. **1 Tim 3:8-13**

¹⁴I'm writing to you in hopes of coming soon. ¹⁵But if I'm delayed, *this way* you'll know how to conduct yourself in God's house, the church of the living God, the foundation and pillar of the truth. ¹⁶Everybody agrees that the mystery of godliness is great:

*"He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
presented among nations,
believed on in the world, and
taken up in glory."*

1 Tim 3:14-16

Future Heresies

^{4:1}The Spirit says that later on people will abandon the faith. They'll pay attention to deceiving spirits and demons' doctrines, and indulge ²in the hypocrisy of liars that have a seared conscience. ³*They'll* forbid marriage and require abstinence from food that God created for faithful people to receive with gratitude. ⁴Everything he created is good, and nothing should be rejected if people that know the truth receive it gratefully. ⁵God's word and *our* prayers sanctify everything he created. **1 Tim 4:1-5**

⁶If you point this out to the disciples, you'll be serving Christ Jesus well, and you'll be fed by the message about faith and the good teaching you've been following. ⁷Stay away from profane, silly myths. Exercise yourself for godliness. ⁸Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness profits a lot because it promises life now and later. ⁹The saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: ¹⁰*"We labor and struggle because we've placed our hope in the living God, everybody's Savior, specifically believers."* ¹¹Teach and command that. **1 Tim 4:6-11**

Timothy's Interim Ministry

¹²Don't let anybody disregard you because you're young. Set an example for the faithful in what you say and do—in love, faith, purity. ¹³Till I get there, give attention to the *public* reading of *scripture*, to encouragement, to teaching. ¹⁴Don't neglect your spiritual gift that you received by prophecy and the laying on of hands by the eldership. ¹⁵Cultivate it; immerse yourself in it so everybody will see your progress. ¹⁶Pay close attention to how you live and to your teaching work. Stay true to the truth so you'll save yourself and your listeners. **1 Tim 4:12-16**

Relating to Church People

^{5:1}Don't reprimand an elder; urge *him* like a father. Encourage younger men like brothers; ²older women like mothers, and younger women like sisters, in purity. **1 Tim 5:1-2**

³Honor widows that don't have anybody to depend on. ⁴If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn to practice godliness toward their own family and repay parents; that's acceptable with God.

⁵A widow that's by herself has put her hope in God and continues in prayers and thanksgiving day and night. ⁶But one that lives in self-interest is dead while she's alive. ⁷Tell *widows* to be above criticism.

⁸If people don't take care of their own, especially *their* family, they've denied the faith; they're worse than disbelievers. 1 Tim 5:3-8

Guidelines for Welfare Recipients

⁹Don't enroll a widow younger than 60, who was faithful to her husband, ¹⁰with a reputation for doing good, who have raised children, shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet, helped people in distress, followed every good deed. ¹¹Don't enroll younger widows. While they're liable to physical interests, they'll want to remarry, ¹²incurring criticism for setting aside their previous pledge *to Christ*. ¹³At the same time, they can get in the habit of not doing anything, going around the neighborhood talking about things they shouldn't. ¹⁴So I prefer younger *widows* to remarry, have children, manage the family—so they don't give critics a chance to find fault. ¹⁵Some have already wandered off after Satan.

¹⁶If a believer^{fem} has widows, she should take care of them so the church won't be burdened, and it can help widows that don't have anybody *to take care of them*. 1 Tim 5:9-16

Commandments About Leaders

¹⁷Consider elders that do their work well to be worthy of double honor, especially the ones that teach. ¹⁸The scripture says, “*Don't put^{sg} a muzzle on an ox while it's threshing*” [Deut 25:4], and, “*A worker's worth his wages*” [Mt 10:10; Lk 10:7]. ¹

¹⁹Don't accept an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

²⁰Publicly reprimand people that keep sinning, so the rest will take heed as well.

²¹In front of God, Christ Jesus, and the elect angels, I solemnly charge you to keep these directives without showing favoritism to anyone.

²²Be careful about laying hands on somebody too soon. Don't take part in other people's sins so you'll keep yourself untainted.

²³Don't *just* drink water; use a little wine for your frequent bouts with an upset stomach.

²⁴Some people's sins are obvious as they lead them into condemnation. *Other people's sins* become obvious *later*. ²⁵It works the same way with good things. The ones that aren't *obvious* will become obvious someday. 1 Tim 5:17-25

Servant-Master Relationship

⁶¹Servants should fully respect their masters so God and *his* doctrine aren't slandered. ²Servants with believing masters must not disregard them because they're equals; they need to serve them even more because the ones that are benefiting from their good service are faithful and loved.

1 Tim 6:1-2a

Consequences of False Teaching

Teach^{sg} and encourage *everyone to do* these things. ³If anybody teaches something that doesn't agree with sound words from our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, ⁴he's conceited and lacks understanding. He has an unhealthy desire to debate and arguments about words. Things like that produce jealousy, division, slander, suspicion, ⁵constant arguing by people depraved in mind and deprived of truth. They think godliness is a way to gain wealth, ⁶but godliness with contentment is a great gain. ⁷We didn't bring anything into the world, and we can't take anything out. ⁸Let's be content with food and clothes. ⁹People that want to get rich encounter temptation, which traps *them* in foolish, harmful desires and drags them down to ruin. ¹⁰The love for money is the root of all *kinds of* evil. Some that strain after wealth have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Tim 6:3-10

Keeping Morals and Priorities Straight

¹¹But, man of God, run away from wealth; pursue goodness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life God called you to, the good acknowledgement you made in front of many witnesses. ¹³I charge [you]^{ms} in front of God, who gives life to everything, and Christ Jesus, who acknowledged who he was in front of Pontius Pilate: ¹⁴be spotless and without blame; keep the commandment until the Lord Jesus Christ comes. ¹⁵At the right time he'll be revealed by
 the blessed and only Master,
 the King of kings and Lord of lords,
 ¹⁶who alone has immortality,
 who lives in light so bright you can't approach,
 that no one has seen or can see:
 to him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

1 Tim 6:11-16

Words to the Wealthy

¹⁷Instruct people that are wealthy now not to be proud or to have *their* hope based on the uncertainty of wealth. *Tell them to put their hope* in God, who supplies us richly with everything we enjoy. ¹⁸*Instruct them* to be rich in good deeds, *to be* generous, willing to share, ¹⁹treasuring up for themselves a firm foundation for the future, so they can experience what's truly life indeed.

1 Tim 6:17-19

Maintaining the True Knowledge

²⁰Timothy, guard what's been entrusted to you. Avoid profane, empty talk, and the opposing notions that come from knowledge falsely so-called. ²¹Some have professed that knowledge and strayed away from the truth.

Grace *be* with you.

1 Tim 6:20-21

Translator: Virgil Warren

christir.org