

FIRST TIMOTHY

Conversational Version

Salutation

1:1Paul, apostle of Christ^{Messiah} Jesus by the authority of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope, **2**to 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 **4**or pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. Those things lead to speculation rather than God's plan, which operates by faith. **5**The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and sincere faith. **6**Some have turned away from these to empty talk and got lost. **7**They 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.' **9**It'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, **10**for immoral people, male homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and anything else that contradicts sound doctrine **11**as 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. **13**I received mercy because I did it ignorantly in disbelief. **14**The Lord's grace overflowed with the faith and love that's in Christ Jesus. **15**There's a reliable statement that deserves full acceptance: "*Christ Jesus came to the world to save sinners and I'm the worst.*" **16**I 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. **17**Now 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 **19**with faith and a clear conscience. Some have refused to listen to *their* conscience and have shipwrecked as far as faith is concerned. **20**Hymeneas 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

2:1 So 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

8 So 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

3:1 It'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. ⁵*If 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. ⁷*He 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

8 Deacons, 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

6:1Servants should fully respect their masters so God and *his* doctrine aren't slandered. **2**Servants 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. **3**If anybody teaches something that doesn't agree with sound words from our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, **4**he's conceited and lacks understanding. He has an unhealthy desire to debate and arguments about words. Things like that produce jealousy, division, slander, suspicion, **5**constant arguing by people depraved in mind and deprived of truth. They think godliness is a way to gain wealth, **6**but godliness with contentment is a great gain. **7**We didn't bring anything into the world, and we can't take anything out. **8**Let's be content with food and clothes. **9**People that want to get rich encounter temptation, which traps *them* in foolish, harmful desires and drags them down to ruin. **10**The 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. **12**Fight 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. **13**I 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: **14**be spotless and without blame; keep the commandment until the Lord Jesus Christ comes. **15**At 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, **19**treasuring 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

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