



THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

First Epistle to Timothy

Book Summary:

The letter of First Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to his spiritual son, Timothy. Timothy led the church in the city of Ephesus and faced the challenge of dealing with false teachers. The letter was penned between A.D. 63 and 65, just after Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment.

Paul is challenging Timothy to continue his important work amid difficulty and providing him with guidance on how he ought to lead those entrusted to him. Timothy is responsible for teaching the importance of prayer, especially for leaders, choosing honorable leaders for the church, confronting false teaching, ensuring that vulnerable people are cared for, and honoring fellow laborers in the gospel. He must protect the gospel's reputation by living honorably.

Timothy is engaged in a fight, a fight that Paul describes as a 'good fight.' As we seek to fulfill our ministry, we must, like Timothy, train ourselves in godliness, immerse ourselves in the work of our calling, and guard the deposit that's been entrusted to us.



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Memory Verse for April 2025:

1 Timothy 4:16 KJV

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.

What to Look For:

- What are the dangerous results of false teaching that concern Paul?
- What seems to be the goal of Paul's teaching on how God's people should behave?
- Take note of the qualifications for leaders in God's house. What is the balance between character-based and skill-based qualifications?
- How do the false teachings Paul mentions compare to those of today? What do they have in common?
- How does Paul determine who is truly in need and deserving of Timothy's support?
- What does Paul urge Timothy to pursue throughout his letter?

Selected Reading

- **Week 1:** 1 Timothy 1
- **Week 2:** 1 Timothy 2:1-7 & 3:1-16
- **Week 3:** 1 Timothy 4 & 5:1-8
- **Week 4:** 1 Timothy 5:17-25 & 6:3-20

Questions to Consider:

- What beliefs have led you to fruitless behavior and meaningless discussions?
- How have you prayed for leaders, and do you share Paul's desire for their salvation?
- Do the people you entrust with important responsibilities embody the characteristics Paul describes?
- Have you set boundaries in your life that God never established? (See 4:1-5)
- What keeps you from fully embracing God's calling for your life, and how does Paul address these obstacles in this letter?
- Have you enabled people who could do more for themselves? Has this caused you to neglect the truly vulnerable whom God calls you to care for?
- How can you honorably oppose false teachings in your life, as Paul describes?