

Family Matters | 1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope.
To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Who is Timothy?

Timothy was a young believer who became a faithful pastor

- a. The faith of Timothy
 - i. "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers[b] at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek." (Acts 16:1-3)
 - ii. "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." (2 Timothy 1:5)
 - iii. "My mother, your faithful servant, was weeping for me to you, weeping more than mothers weep for the bodily deaths of their sons. For she, by that faith and spirit which she had from You, saw the death in which I lay, and You, Lord, heard her prayer. You heard her and You did not despise her tears which fell streaming and watered the ground beneath her eyes in every place where she prayed; indeed You heard her." (St. Augustine)
- b. Timothy in Ephesus
 - i. "As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine..." (1 Timothy 1:3)
- c. Timothy and Paul
 - i. "For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare...But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel." (Philippians 2:20,22)

Why Are We Studying 1 Timothy?

1. As Christians, we live under the authority of God

a. Who is Paul?

- i. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (Acts 9:3-6)
- ii. "If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ." (Philippians 3:4-7)
- iii. But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15)
- iv. "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)

b. Paul is under the authority of God

a. Two requirements for apostleship:

1. He must have been an eye witness of Jesus' resurrection;
2. He must have been commissioned by Jesus himself to preach the gospel

c. Authority & the Christian experience

2. Jesus saves us into the family of God

- a. Family matters because God matters
- b. Family matters because community matters

3. The Church communicates the truth of God

a. The church is “the mouth house of God”

- i. “I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:14-15)
- ii. Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.” (Acts 20:17-31)

4. The Church needs the hope of God

a. The source of hope for the church is Jesus Christ –

1. “Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, then who could be against you? O be not wearing of well doing. Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, til even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away from it.” (John Wesley to William Wilberforce)