

Sermon, May 13, 2012
“What’s a Pastor to Do?” – 1 Timothy 6:11-16
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, **1 Timothy**, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

Overview of 1 Timothy:¹

- Paul wrote this letter to his disciple Timothy, whom he had left in Ephesus to oversee the work there.
- First Timothy was written after Paul’s release from Roman imprisonment (Ac 28:16–31), in about 63–65 and possibly from Macedonia.
- Paul wrote to Timothy, sent to the church in Ephesus to combat the false teaching that had arisen there.
- Timothy occupied a special place in Paul’s heart as his coworker, emissary, traveling companion and “true son in the faith” (1:2).
- First Timothy is essentially a letter of encouragement to Paul’s aide, Timothy.
- This is not to say, however, that it is entirely personal. Paul seems to have used the occasion to construct a letter on the nature of Christian ministry in the face of opposition and heresy.
- Paul viewed the opposition his younger protégé was enduring from a prophetic perspective, pointing out that the Spirit had foretold such apostasy (4:1).
- Paul instructed Timothy to refute false teachers and to promote good order and godliness in the church.

General Outline of 1 Timothy:

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Warning against false teachers (1:3-11)
- III. The Lord’s grace to Paul (1:12-17)
- IV. The purpose of Paul’s instruction to Timothy (1:18-20)
- V. Instruction concerning Church administration (2:1-3:16)
 - a. Public worship (2:1-15)
 - b. Qualifications for Church officers (3:1-13)
 - c. Purpose of the instructions (3:14-16)
- VI. Instructions concerning false teachers (4:1-16)
- VII. Instructions concerning different groups in the Church (5:1-6:2)
- VIII. Miscellaneous matters (6:3-19)
- IX. Concluding appeal and benediction (6:20-21)

Major Themes of 1 Timothy:²

- *Sound doctrine.* False teachers who showed an unhealthy fascination with myths and genealogies (1:4; 4:7) and a preoccupation with the law (1:7) had infiltrated the church in Ephesus. They prohibited marriage and the eating of certain foods (4:3) and taught that the final resurrection had already taken place (1:20; see 2Ti 2:18). In contrast, Timothy was to teach only what was trustworthy, sound and good (1Ti 1:9–11; 3:9; 4:6; 6:3–4).
- *Right living.* The false teachers were intent on stirring up controversy and prone to speculation (1:4, 6; 6:4, 20), deception (4:1–2) and greed (6:5). Paul instructed Timothy to “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (4:12).
- *Evangelism.* Paul’s concern for the church’s successful evangelism lay at the heart of his commands. The conduct of Christians is to be above reproach, a direct effect on the success of their evangelistic efforts.

¹Kaiser Jr., Walter C.; Garrett, Duane (2010-10-19). NIV Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History and Culture (Kindle Locations 110912-110921). Zondervan. Kindle Edition..

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- *Church leaders.* Church leaders need to reach for even higher standards than what is expected of persons holding similarly important positions in contemporary society. Warnings against immoral practices and materialism, however, apply to all members (6:7–10, 17–19).

The “role” of a Pastor is devotion to preaching and teaching the Word of God and expressing the truths of Scripture as a living example.

1. Pastors are to be an example to their congregation. 1 Timothy 6:11

- The pastor must pursue right living and to “shun all this”...all what? 6:3-10
- Be content in focusing your life on Godly living and not worldly pleasures
- Do those things that are right according to God, with reverence toward Him, believe-trust-have faith in His word, demonstrating His love to others unconditionally, so that you may endure any and all trials of life with a calm disposition trusting in God.

2. The Pastor battles in a spiritual realm. 1 Timothy 6:12; 1 Timothy 1:18

- Pastors are fighters in the ring of life contending for the faith...belief in Christ!
- March 8, 1971, "The Fight of the Century," between Muhammed Ali and Joe Frazier. 15 round test of courage and strength. Rocky and Apollo Creed.
- In the struggle, must keep focused on eternal living in the kingdom of God, who calls you according to His purpose. Do what He says! Demonstrate it!
- The “good confession” of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Made in front of witnesses...important!

3. Paul intensifies the importance of your testimony before witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:13-14

- Your confession is more importantly made in the presence of God.
- Paul caps his charge to Timothy in the presence of God and Jesus who also made the “good confession”
- Knowing that such a confession would cost Him His life, Jesus nevertheless confessed that He was truly the King and Messiah (John 18:33–37). He never evaded danger; He boldly and trustfully committed Himself to God who raises the dead (cf. Col. 2:12).
- Timothy must “keep the commandment” the entire word of God, which was entrusted to him to guard...
- **1 Timothy 6:20; 1:18; 4:6; 4:16**
- Pastors are to guard the word of God, preach and teach sound doctrine.
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4. Christ is the hope and salvation and eternal life of all believers; 1 Timothy 6:14-16

- God-focused believers keep their eye on Jesus,
- Godly Pastors know where the kingdom of God is and where it will be...eternally with Jesus now and forever

Conclusion:

- Pastors have a role to fill in the community of believers
- Do those things that are right according to God, with reverence toward Him, believe-trust-have faith in His word, demonstrating His love to others unconditionally, so that you may endure any and all trials of life with a calm disposition trusting in God
- Pastors are fighters in the ring of life contending for the faith...belief in Christ!
- In the struggle, must keep focused on eternal living in the kingdom of God, who calls you according to His purpose. Do what He says! Demonstrate it!
- Pastors are to guard the word of God, preach and teach sound doctrine.
- Godly Pastors know where the kingdom of God is and where it will be...eternally with Jesus now and forever
- **The “role” of a Pastor is devotion to preaching and teaching the Word of God and expressing the truths of Scripture as a living example.**