

The Blueprints for Church Order

Chapter 13

Audio Lesson: New Testament #67



Objective: To introduce 1 Timothy and understand its theme of how the Church was designed by God to function.



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 3:14-15

So far, our study has followed the order of Paul's letters as presented in the Bible, but now, as we look at the last of Paul's epistles, we will go in chronological order. Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus at the same time, so we'll study those first. Then we will study Philemon, and finally we will look at 2 Timothy, the last words of Paul before he died.

Paul had trained Timothy and Titus as pastors, and his letters to these two men are called the Pastoral Epistles. Timothy was a pastor of the church at Ephesus. Timothy was young, timid, and sensitive, so he may have struggled with being bold for Christ and in his pastoral duties. In Philippians, Paul held him up as an example to follow, because he was filled with love. Paul and Timothy had a relationship like father and son, which serves as a model for senior and junior pastors. Titus, on the other hand, was a much older man, a strong man that Paul could trust with a difficult assignment. Paul had sent Titus to the hostile island of Crete.

Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy after his first Roman imprisonment, described in Acts. The purpose of the epistle was to teach pastors how to lead the church of God, "the pillar and foundation of the truth." He emphasized the character of the men who lead the church. The church's primary responsibility is to be a base of operations, out from which the truth goes, with each member being involved in reaching the unreached, in sharing the Good News of hope to the hopeless.

Here Paul shares wonderful personal testimony when he says that he was the worst of sinners because he had persecuted the church. Paul's point was that if God could save him, God can save anyone. Paul also emphasized the priority of prayer in ministry.

1. True or False? Timothy was a mature believer who boldly shared his faith with everyone.



2. True or False? Paul and Titus had a strong father/son relationship.
3. True or False? The letters to Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles.
4. True or False? Timothy was a first generation Christian, the first in his family to believe in Jesus Christ.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul write to young Timothy? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. To help him understand philosophy
 - b. To encourage him to be bold
 - c. To instruct him how the church is to operate and function.
 - d. To emphasize to him the character church leaders are to have.
6. What made Paul and Timothy's relationship a good model for pastors today?
 - a. A good seminary education is all a pastor needs.
 - b. Paul needed a good friend.
 - c. Paul considered Timothy his apprentice and continued to teach him.
 - d. Paul criticized Timothy whenever he failed.
7. What is the purpose of the Church? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. To provide great and entertaining music
 - b. To be the pillar and foundation of the truth
 - c. To teach believers so they can go out and share their faith
 - d. To provide a place to make friends

8. Why did Paul call himself the worst of sinners?
 - a. He was humble.
 - b. He liked to exaggerate.
 - c. He had persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ.
 - d. He was a very bad criminal.

9. Which characteristic does Paul say the leaders of the Church should have?
 - a. They should be highly educated.
 - b. They should be influential people in society.
 - c. They should be strong followers of Christ.
 - d. They should be old and wise men.

10. In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, what is the first priority of the Church?
 - a. Petitions, prayer, intercessions and thanksgiving
 - b. Build a beautiful building
 - c. Take care of widows and orphans
 - d. Select elders and deacons

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:13-16



Paul said that he was the worst sinner, yet God forgave him and used him to reach countless lives for Christ. Do you believe that your sins are unforgiveable? Have you asked Jesus to save you from your sins? If you ask Him, He will forgive your sins and purify you from all unrighteousness and give you eternal life with Him. Why not ask Him now?

Paul says the most important thing a believer can do is to pray, and then he shares four kinds of prayer: petitions, prayers, intercessions, and prayers of thanksgiving. What are your personal petitions? What do you need to talk to God about? Who do you need to intercede for? What and who do you need to thank Him for?



Praise God for the examples of Paul, Timothy, and Titus. Thank God for His Church, and ask God to strengthen it. Thank God for your local church. Ask Him to help your church to fulfill its purpose as the pillar and foundation of the truth. Ask God to help your pastor to be the best leader he can be. Thank God for saving you and for the ability to study His Word.



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally identify with and apply the personality profile of Timothy—timid, loving, sensitive and young? _____

2. How do you personally identify with and apply the personality profile of Titus? _____

3. What is your personal application of the way Paul describes himself in 1:15 as the greatest sinner in the world? _____

4. How do you apply what Paul writes in 3:15 about the church being the base out from which the Gospel or the truth is to be proclaimed? (Relate that to the job description of every pastor in Ephesians 4:12.) _____

5. How do you personally apply what Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1 about prayer being the first priority when the church meets together? _____

6. How do you personally apply the instruction of Paul in 2: 3-4 that the church should pray for all men because God wills that all men might be saved? _____

7. How does the instruction of Paul in 3:15 state the purpose of this letter and show us how it is to be used in all churches? _____
