

# 1 TIMOTHY

## **Personal greeting (1:1-2)**

**1** From Paul, made an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus who is our hope for the future.

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my true son in the faith.

May grace, mercy and peace be imparted to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Prevent men from teaching false doctrine (1:3-7)**

<sup>3-4</sup>When I entered Macedonia I urged you to stay in Ephesus so that you could command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer, nor indulge themselves in controversies concerning myths and traditions from the past. Such things never enable people to do God's work, which can only be accomplished by faith in Him.

<sup>5</sup>Love is the motive behind this command, the kind of love that comes from a pure heart, is inspired by faith and results from having a clear conscience. <sup>6</sup>By their senseless talk it is clear that some have strayed from these virtues. <sup>7</sup>They want to be teachers of the law yet they have no idea what they are talking about, even though they sound so confident.

## **The necessity of the law (1:8-11)**

<sup>8</sup>We know that the law has good influence when used properly. <sup>9</sup>But we are also aware that the law cannot make us acceptable to God. It exists to restrain the actions of disobedient and rebellious people, of ungodly sinners, of those who have no regard for what is holy or sacred to God. The law is needed for those guilty of killing their mothers or fathers. <sup>10</sup>The law is necessary because of murderers, adulterers and perverts, those who trade in human misery, those who lie, cheat and perjure themselves. <sup>11</sup>It exists for those who teach whatever contradicts the truths of the glorious gospel of our great God, the truth He has entrusted me to proclaim.

### **Jesus came to save sinners (1:12-20)**

<sup>12</sup>He has given me strength to do this, and I thank Christ Jesus our Lord that He regarded me as being faithful and so appointed me to serve Him in this way.

<sup>13</sup>I used to blaspheme Jesus, persecute the church and was a violent man. Despite this I was shown mercy by God because I had acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup>God lavished His grace on me so abundantly, together with the faith and love that are only found in Christ Jesus!

<sup>15</sup>This is a truth that everyone needs to believe: Christ Jesus came to this world to save sinners, of whom I regard myself as the worst. <sup>16</sup>That is why I was shown such great mercy, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might demonstrate the full extent of His patience, as an example that would encourage others to believe in Him and so receive eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Now to Him, the One who is the eternal King, the immortal, invisible and only true God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. It shall be so!

<sup>18-20</sup>Timothy, my son, in line with the prophecies that have been spoken over your life, I give you these instructions so that by obeying them you may fight the good fight of faith that comes from having a clear conscience. By rejecting these instructions, some have shipwrecked their faith, including Hymenaeus and Alexander. I have handed them over to Satan so they will learn not to blaspheme against God.

### **Pray for all people (2:1-4)**

**2** <sup>1-2</sup>First of all, I urge you to pray for all people. Ask for God's mercy to be upon them and pray with thanksgiving, even for kings and those in positions of authority, that we will be able to live in peace, stability and in godliness as His holy people. <sup>3</sup>Such prayer is good and pleases God our Saviour. <sup>4</sup>He desires all men to be saved by coming to know the truth.

### **Jesus the mediator between God and man (2:5-8)**

<sup>5-6</sup>For there is only one God and One who mediates between God and man, Jesus Christ, who was born as a man and gave Himself as a sacrifice on behalf of all men, to pay the necessary price to restore them to God. This is the message that He gave to the world at the appointed time. <sup>7</sup>And I tell you truly that I was appointed an apostle to proclaim this truth, to teach the true faith to the Gentiles. This is no exaggeration!

<sup>8</sup>So I want everyone everywhere to lift up their hands to the Holy One in prayer, without any anger or disagreements in their hearts.

### **Appropriate behaviour for women (2:9-15)**

<sup>9</sup>Women should dress modestly; their whole appearance should be decent and proper. There is no need for them to have elaborate hair styles, nor to adorn themselves with gold or pearls. Neither do they need to wear expensive clothes. <sup>10</sup>It is far better that attention is on their behaviour, to ensure this is appropriate so they are seen to be women of God who honour Him.

<sup>11</sup>Women should learn with quiet and fully submissive hearts. <sup>12</sup>I personally do not allow a woman to teach men or exercise authority over them; she should remain silent in the public meeting. <sup>13-14</sup>God created Adam first and then Eve, and it was the woman who was first deceived by the devil and so became a sinner. <sup>15</sup>However, women are to accept that they are called to be mothers who continue to walk in faith, love and holiness, being modest in their appearance and behaviour.

### **Standards for church leaders (3:1-15)**

**3** It is certainly true that anyone who sets his heart on being a leader desires what is honourable. <sup>2-3</sup>However, he must realise that a church leader has to be above reproach. He is to be faithful to his only wife and have a temperate lifestyle. This means that he will be self-controlled, respectable and certainly not an excessive drinker. He will be gentle, not violent nor argumentative. He will also be hospitable and needs to be a gifted teacher of God's Word.

<sup>4</sup>He will not desire financial riches but will manage his family well, ensuring that his children obey him and show proper respect to others. <sup>5</sup>How can anyone care properly for God's church if he cannot even manage his own family well?

<sup>6</sup>A recent convert should not be placed in leadership or he might become proud and abuse his position, as the devil did, and fall under judgment as a result.

<sup>7</sup>It is essential for a leader to have a good reputation with those outside the church, so it is clear that he does not yield to the devil's temptations and fall into disgrace.

<sup>8</sup>Those called to serve as deacons are to be men held in high regard by others. They, too, must be people whose word can be trusted, not heavy drinkers nor those who resort to questionable practices for financial gain. <sup>9</sup>They must be men of genuine faith in the truth who can serve with clear consciences.

<sup>10</sup>They should prove themselves faithful in lesser responsibilities first and when they have demonstrated a godly character, they can be appointed as deacons. <sup>11</sup>Also their wives must be women who are respected by others; not malicious gossips but temperate and trustworthy in everything they do.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must also be faithful to his only wife and must manage his children and household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well in this office will gain great respect from others and will demonstrate considerable confidence because of their great faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14-15</sup>I hope to visit you soon, but I put these instructions in writing in case I am delayed; so you will know how people should behave as members of God's household, the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

### **Jesus' nature (3:16)**

<sup>16</sup>The mystery of Christ's godly nature is undoubtedly great:

He appeared in a human body and was shown to be totally acceptable to God when the Spirit came upon Him. He was in the company of angels and has been preached to the nations. People in the world believed Him to be God's Son before He returned to the glory of heaven.

### **Beware of deceiving spirits (4:1-7)**

**4** The Spirit has clearly revealed that in due course some will abandon their faith in Christ and will follow deceiving spirits, believing demonic teaching that opposes the truth. <sup>2</sup>People who give such teaching are hypocritical liars whose consciences no longer respond to the truth. <sup>3</sup>They appear to be religious by forbidding people to marry and by ordering them to refuse to eat certain foods, which God intended us to enjoy with thankful hearts, because we believe the liberating power of the truth.

<sup>4-5</sup>For everything God created is good and so does not need to be rejected. By giving thanks to God for His provision, whatever we eat becomes consecrated through faith in God's Word and by prayer.

<sup>6</sup>You will be Christ Jesus' faithful minister if you teach these things to the believers. This will demonstrate that you have been brought up to believe the truth and have followed the teaching of God's Word. <sup>7</sup>So refuse to have anything to do with whatever disagrees with His Word or with any old wives tales. Instead, you are to train yourself to be godly.

**Godly character (4:8-16)**

<sup>8</sup>Physical exercise is of some value, but a godly character influences everything you do, and has great value in the present life and in the life that is to come.

<sup>9-10</sup>Here is another truth that you can depend upon and is true for every believer: That we have placed our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all mankind, but especially of those who believe in Him.

<sup>11</sup>Teach these things with authority. <sup>12</sup>Do not allow anyone to put you down because you are so young. Set the other believers an example by the way you speak and live, in your love for people, your faith in God and the purity of your heart. <sup>13</sup>Continue to be faithful in reading the scriptures publicly and in preaching and teaching the Word of truth until I arrive. <sup>14</sup>Use fully the gift that was imparted to you when the whole body of elders laid their hands on you and prophesied over you.

<sup>15</sup>Be wholehearted in doing all these things so that everyone will see how you have progressed spiritually. <sup>16</sup>Keep a close watch on the way you live and on what you teach. If you persevere in the truth, God will save both you and those who listen to you.

**Respect other church members (5:1-16)**

**5** <sup>1-2</sup>Never speak harshly of an older man; rather appeal to him as if he were your father. Regard younger men as your brothers; treat older women as you would your mother and younger women as your sisters, with complete purity of heart.

<sup>3</sup>Ensure that widows who are in real need are cared for properly. <sup>4</sup>However, a widow who has children and grandchildren should be cared for by them. They should put their religion into practice by caring for their own family members and in this way they will return the love their parents and grandparents have given them; this pleases the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>However, the widow who is in genuine need with no one to care for her has to put her trust in God and prays continually to Him for help. <sup>6</sup>But the widow who lives only for her own pleasure is spiritually dead, even if she is physically alive.

<sup>7</sup>Give these instructions to the people so that everyone understands his or her responsibilities. <sup>8</sup>Those who do not provide for their relatives, especially those of their immediate family, have denied their faith and are behaving in ways worse than you would expect from an unbeliever.

<sup>9</sup>No widow should be put on the official list for aid unless she is over sixty and is known to have been faithful to her husband. <sup>10</sup>She should have a reputation for her good deeds, that she has brought up her children well and has served her fellow believers by helping those in trouble; she is someone devoted to the welfare of others.

<sup>11</sup>So younger widows should not be named on such a list because their sensual desires will grow stronger than their devotion to Christ and they will want to remarry. <sup>12</sup>Then they could prove unfaithful to promises made to the Lord. <sup>13</sup>In any case, if you were to support them you would encourage them to be lazy and they would only go from house to house sharing gossip and proving to be busybodies, interfering where they have no right to do so.

<sup>14-15</sup>So I advise younger widows to remarry, have children and manage their households well. Then they will not give the enemy any opportunities to slander them; for some have already turned away from following the Lord and follow sin instead.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, a woman who is a believer with widows in her family should help them rather than allow them to become a burden on the church. Then the church can help those who are truly in need.

### **Honour the elders in the church (5:17-20)**

<sup>17</sup>The elders who order the affairs of the church well are worthy of receiving double honour from the rest of the believers. This is true especially of those who preach and are responsible for teaching the brethren. <sup>18</sup>After all, the scripture says, "Do not prevent the ox from eating while it treads out the grain." And it also says, "The worker deserves his wages."

<sup>19</sup>Do not listen to any accusation against an elder unless it is substantiated by at least two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup>But elders who are proved to be guilty are to be publicly rebuked as a warning to others.

### **Further instructions (5:21-25)**

<sup>21</sup>Now in the sight of God, of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, I give you this charge: obey these instructions without showing any partiality or favouritism. <sup>22</sup>Do not be in a rush to lay hands on people and do not compromise your own standards of purity because others sin.

<sup>23</sup>Instead of drinking only water, drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach and because you are often physically weak.

<sup>24</sup>The sins of some men are all too obvious. Even though they are plainly destined for judgment, others follow their evil examples.

<sup>25</sup>But in the same way, good deeds are also obvious and cannot be hidden!

### **Be good employees (6:1-2)**

**6** All believers should consider their bosses in the workplace worthy of full honour, so that they have no grounds to speak against God's Name or what we teach about Him. <sup>2</sup>Those with Christian bosses should not take advantage of them, but must show them the respect they deserve because they are fellow believers. In fact, they should work even harder for them because those who benefit are fellow Christians and so are precious to them. Teach these things and urge people to put them into practice.

### **Effects of false doctrine (6:3-5)**

<sup>3-4</sup>Anyone teaching false doctrine that does not agree with the words of truth given by our Lord Jesus Christ and other godly teachers is clearly conceited without any real understanding of the truth. <sup>5</sup>He loves to be involved in controversial discussions and will quarrel about the interpretation of words. This only leads to jealousy and division. People even speak blasphemously and undermine confidence in others. Because of their continual wranglings, their minds become corrupted and they allow themselves to be robbed of the truth. They are more concerned with financial rewards than with godliness.

### **True godliness brings real rewards (6:6-16)**

<sup>6</sup>However, true godliness brings real rewards. <sup>7</sup>For we were born with nothing and we can take nothing with us when we die. <sup>8-9</sup>We should be content with having enough to eat and wear, for people who aim to become wealthy fall into temptation and a trap laid by the devil. Their many foolish and harmful desires will plunge them into spiritual ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>Having a love for money is the root of many forms of evil. Some are so desperate to be rich they have strayed away from the faith and have only caused themselves many problems.

<sup>11</sup>But you are a man of God and are to run from all such fleshly desires so that you can pursue a righteous way of life, full of godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>So fight the good fight of the faith, living in the good of the eternal life given you

when you were called, when you made your public confession of faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>13-14</sup>I charge you before God, who is the source of all life, and before Christ Jesus, who made His good confession while testifying to Pontius Pilate, keep this command with a pure heart. <sup>15</sup>At His appointed time, God will cause the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. And God is the Blessed One, the only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>He alone is immortal and He lives in unapproachable light, so brilliant that no-one has seen or could see Him as He is. To Him belongs all honour and power forever. Amen! It shall be so!

**Don't put confidence in earthly wealth (6:17-19)**

<sup>17</sup>Tell those who have great wealth in this present world that they are not to be proud, nor should they put their future hope in the fact that they are rich. All wealth is only temporary and uncertain. However, those who hope in God find that He provides abundantly for them. He provides for all our needs and our pleasure as well.

<sup>18</sup>So tell the wealthy to be generous in the way they handle their riches, doing good and sharing with others. <sup>19</sup>Then they will store up heavenly riches for themselves, a necessary foundation for the future! In this way they will be able to take hold of the only life that is real and eternal.

**Put your faith in the truth (6:20-21)**

<sup>20-21</sup>Timothy, guard the deposit of truth that has been entrusted to you. Have nothing to do with empty talk and with the ideas that oppose the truth but are promoted under the banner of 'reason.' In believing such false so-called 'knowledge', some have strayed from putting their faith in the truth.

God's grace be with you.