

First Timothy Outline

Introduction: First Timothy is the first of the “pastoral epistles”, letters that are written to specific individuals rather than being addressed to various communities. These letters are most likely written towards the end of Paul’s life, as he is sensing the natural decline of his own ministry and is desiring to pass of the wisdom he has gathered to the next generation of leaders, especially to Timothy.

As we’ve seen in Paul’s other letters, Paul begins with a warning to be careful about other teachers- to test them not only making sure their beliefs are in line with Paul but that their hearts are loving as well. Then Paul offers general instruction about how to care for churches and leaders. There is an abundance of practical advice regarding caring for widows with Paul attempting to strike a balance between the responsibility of the widows’ families and the church.

In general these letters are incredibly personal and dear. We see a kind and fatherly side of Paul come out around Timothy that we often don’t get to see in many of the other letters.

Chapter 1: Address to Timothy; warning against false teachers; Paul the chief of sinners

Chapter 2: Pray for all; women should learn, but learn in silence and not teach

Chapter 3: Description of bishops and deacons

Chapter 4: Instructions to Timothy in leadership; “let no one look down on your youth”

Chapter 5: Words about correction, widows, and elders

Chapter 6: Words about slaves; “love of money root of evil”; fight the good fight

Stories/texts to know: (Chapter 1) Paul the chief of sinners; (Chapter 2) Women should learn in silence; (Chapter 4) let no one despise your youth;