



**Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas**  
**Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study**  
**September 2, 2009**

**Lesson One – Introduction**  
**1 Timothy 1:1-2**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Background**

Timothy was a resident of Lystra, which would be in modern south-central Turkey. He was the son of a Greek dad and a Jewish mom, Eunice. (2 Timothy 1:5) His name means “honoring God.” His mother and grandmother taught Timothy the Scriptures from his childhood. (2



Timothy 1:5; 3:15) The fact that Timothy was not circumcised indicates that he was not raised in strict legalistic Judaism, maybe because of his father’s influence on the family.

Many believe that Timothy and his mother were converted to Jesus through the ministry of the Apostle Paul during his initial ministry in Lystra. (Acts 14:8-20) Paul refers to Timothy as his “beloved son” and “son in the faith.” (1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2) When Paul later returns to Lystra Timothy is referred to as a disciple and his mother as a believer. (Acts 16:1)

When Paul revisited Lystra, he decided to take Timothy along as his personal assistant. Acts 16:1-3 records that:

*Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.*

Timothy was ordained (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6) and was circumcised. Timothy’s circumcision was a matter of expedience. Without circumcision and being the son of a Greek

father, Timothy would potentially be refused access to synagogues and lose a hearing with the Jews. Timothy's circumcision opened those doors though it meant nothing to him spiritually.

Timothy became a companion of the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys and was used of Paul for special mission projects. Eventually Paul leaves Timothy in Ephesus to oversee the work there. This first of the letters we have from Paul to Timothy is written to give instruction concerning matters in the church.

*These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)*

This letter is more than a "Pastoral Epistle," it is an epistle about church life. It then behooves both pastors and people to read it, meditate upon it and obey it.

## Exegesis

### ❖ The Author – Paul

- He is an apostle of Jesus Christ

Paul was sent forth of, by and from Jesus Christ. Everything Paul did was related to and regulated by the person of Jesus. The title "Christ" means the anointed, as of a king, and the Apostle saw himself as an ambassador for the Gospel of King Jesus. (Ephesians 6:19-20)

- He is an apostle according to commandment
  - The commandment of God our Savior
  - The commandment of Christ Jesus our hope

The Apostle Paul's calling was not that of a "chosen profession," but rather of being chosen for ministry. Paul did not resent the commandment that placed him in ministry, but rather embraced it. He refers to God as being our Savior. The saving work of God on the road to Damascus forever changed Paul, opening his eyes to see the truth about Jesus. Christ Jesus went from being the hated enemy to being Paul's blessed hope. How could he not, then, passionately pursue the ministry God had commanded in his life?

### ❖ The Recipient – Timothy

- Considered a **child** in faith by Paul

Paul's relationship with Timothy was a father-son relationship. Timothy's physical dad did not appear to have any spiritual influence in Timothy's life, leaving him without a Godly male role model. Paul became that for Timothy, taking him in under his wing and developing him for beneficial ministry in God's Kingdom work.

- Considered a **genuine** child in faith

Timothy's growth between Paul's first and second visit to Lystra was evident. Timothy was the "real deal" when it came to Christianity. Timothy's character was influenced by those early years of Bible teaching from his mom and grandmother. And when

converted, his life was consumed by the Christ and he was ready to be offered up as a living sacrifice.

❖ The Greeting

- The pronouncement of a blessing
  - Grace
  - Mercy
  - Peace

These are not mere “throw away” words. They were doubtlessly three things desperately needed by Timothy. Timothy was ministering in a city of vice, idol worship and wickedness in seemingly every form. In this setting he needed grace – the favor of God upon him daily to renew his strength and maintain his focus. He needed mercy – the kindness of God flowing into his life, keeping him humbled in service lest his anger at the scenes around him turn him into a self-righteous preacher on a soap box. He needed peace – he needed the calm assurance of God’s presence to still his heart in the midst of an immoral and godless culture.

- The source of the blessing
  - Father God
  - Christ Jesus our Lord

The Apostle Paul loved Timothy and could instruct Timothy in the way of the Lord, but he could not provide the essential soul elements Timothy so desperately needed for ministry. Genuine grace, mercy and peace find their source nowhere but in God and Christ Jesus. God is our Father; what a comforting thought! He can and will provide us with all we need for the sanity of our minds and the commitment of our lives in a world gone awry. Christ Jesus is our Lord. Our master is no deaf, dumb and blind idol erected in a temple nor is He a sorcerer with magic spells. Jesus is our master and He is a faithful master who sees our plight, hears our prayers, and speaks sweetly to our souls.

### Application

1. Consider how God directed the circumstances of the world to bring the Gospel to Timothy and prepare him for a life of service with the Apostle Paul and the Ephesus Church and **praise God!** Whenever God is doing one thing He may be doing a million things. His purposes are vast and what grace that those purposes would include us.
2. Consider how Timothy lived the disciple life from his conversion making him ready for the mission trail and **live for God!** May we not live in the expectation of how God may use us but rather may we live being used of God now.
3. Consider the genuineness of Timothy’s response to the Gospel and **believe!** The Gospel that brought salvation to Paul brought it to Timothy and will bring it to you.