



1 & 2 TIMOTHY

NOVEMBER 2019

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of these books. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

INTRODUCTION

These books were written to a man called Timothy. Paul had met him when Timothy was still a young man and living in Lystra (Acts 16:1). Paul took Timothy under his wing and mentored him in his faith and ministry. At the time these letters were written, Timothy was the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

1 TIMOTHY

The first letter is a collection of pastoral advice to Timothy as he seeks to carry out the ministry God has given him in Ephesus. It is filled with practical instruction that speaks directly to the life and practice of the local church.

TEACHING (1 TIMOTHY 1)

In the first chapter, Paul urges Timothy to reject the false teaching that is becoming so prevalent and stay focused on the good news of Jesus (1 Timothy 1:15).

WORSHIP (1 TIMOTHY 2)

Chapter 2 deals with questions concerning public worship. Notice how Paul roots his instruction in the realities of the good news of Jesus and in the Old Testament scripture. This is a great example to us of biblical thinking.

LEADERSHIP (1 TIMOTHY 3)

Next, Paul sets out the qualification for elders and deacons in the church. Again, note where he ends this section. Getting the right leaders matters because the church is no ordinary group of people. It is the 'household of God... a pillar and buttress of truth' (1 Timothy 3:15).

GODLINESS (1 TIMOTHY 4)

Timothy is urged to be a 'good servant of Christ' (1 Timothy 4:6). He is encouraged to live a godly life, to be a faithful minister of the word and to watch his life and doctrine closely. Again, note that the basis for this encouragement is a gospel heart and a desire to see people saved (1 Timothy 4:16).

OTHERS (1TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2)

How should we treat people? These verses are packed with helpful advice on how we should treat different people in a gospel-hearted way. It even helps us to know how we should take care of ourselves.

FAITHFULNESS (1TIMOTHY 6:3-21)

The book ends with a warning concerning the perils of money. Timothy is not to live and minister out of a desire for more; instead he is to faithfully follow Christ and carry out his calling.

2 TIMOTHY

Paul's second letter to Timothy was written while Paul was in prison in Rome (2 Timothy 4:13) while Nero was Emperor (around 66-67 AD). He knows that his time is limited (2 Timothy 4:7) and he will soon be executed for his faith in Jesus.

OUTLINE

The letter is a passionate plea to Timothy to keep going. He is encouraged to:

- Not be ashamed (2 Timothy 1)
- Work hard (2 Timothy 2)
- Hold onto God's word (2 Timothy 3)
- Keep preaching God's word (2 Timothy 4)

The book is littered with the names of people who have either opposed or turned their back on the truth. These serve as a warning to Timothy and to us of the need to keep our eyes on Jesus and pray and encourage others to do so too.

A LETTER FOR US ALL

Although we aren't all preachers, all of us need to be reminded of these truths if we are to reach the end of our lives and, with Paul, say:

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.*

2 Timothy 4:7

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What do these books teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What do these books teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of these books make in your life? (Matthew 7:24-27)