

First Mount Zion Baptist Church

Wednesday In The Word

October 16, 2024

1 Timothy 1:1-20

Presenter - Rev. Glenda Brown

Introduction and Background: The “Pastoral Epistles” is a term used to designate the Apostle Paul’s two letters to Timothy and one letter to Titus, his “*sons in the ministry*” who served the church in Ephesus and the church in Crete respectively. The letters were purposely addressed not to a congregation, but to two young men who were functioning in pastoral roles. They are believed to have been some of the final letters written by Paul reflecting the concerns which burdened him as he nears the end of his ministry.

Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). While no mention is made of his father being a believer, his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were known for their sincere faith and taught Timothy the Old Testament scriptures at an early age. Paul met Timothy on his first missionary journey to Lystra and Timothy soon became Paul’s protégé. Paul thus became like a spiritual father often referring to Timothy as “*my true son in the faith*” (1 Timothy 1:2).

Timothy became one of Paul’s most trustworthy fellow-laborers as well as a faithful representative and messenger. Six of Paul’s epistles include Timothy in the salutations (2 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; and Philemon 1).

After being released from his first Roman imprisonment, Paul, with Timothy by his side, revisited some of the churches in Asia, to include the church at Ephesus. On Paul’s departure from Ephesus, he leaves Timothy behind to provide leadership to the congregation and later pens the pastoral epistle urging Timothy on in the ministry to “to fight the good fight” in protecting and spreading the gospel message.

The Salutation (1 Timothy 1: 1-2)

1. What qualified Paul to be an Apostle?

2. What can we learn about the relationship between Paul and Timothy in verses 1-2?

Warnings Against False Teachers (1 Timothy 1: 3-11)

3. How would you summarize Paul’s instructions to Timothy in verses 3-11?

4. What are some practical steps we can take to counter false teachings in the church today?

Paul's Experience of Grace (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

5. What impact did the grace of God have on Paul? What impact does God's grace have on you?

6. Paul's contemplation of God's grace prompted him to what expression in verse 17? Where and why do you often hear these words at FMZ?

Paul's Charge to Timothy (1 Timothy 1: 18-20)

7. Summarize Paul's charge to Timothy. What specifically stands out to you in this charge and why?

Reflections

If the Apostle Paul penned this letter to you, how would you respond?
