

## A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You I Timothy

It is with great joy that I once again invite you to stay tuned and join with me as we study the Word of God together. Let me encourage you that, if you are someplace where you can get your Bible, please open that Bible and get you a pencil and paper and write down some of the Scriptures that we refer to today. Today, we're going to continue our study in a "A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You," the books of the New Testament. We're in study number fifteen, I Timothy, and we're going to look at that in just a moment.

But first, let me remind you to look at our website, [www.LRWM.org](http://www.LRWM.org). On the website, you'll be able to find Bible study helps; you'll even find this program once again that you can download and listen to. You can also request a copy or, I might say, a transcript of this program written out so that you can look back on it and keep it. You might want to keep it as notes so that you can refer back as you study the Word of God. Or you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

All right, in the book of I Timothy we want to look briefly today, and there's no way we can do justice to this book by looking at it quickly, but my goal here is to let us look with a bird's-eye view and get an idea of what the books of the New Testament are about and help us to realize the importance of these books of the New Testament. Of course, every book of the Bible is written under the inspiration of the Lord. So, we know that it is the Word of God as we compare Scripture with Scripture.

Well, the background for this book, once again, is that Paul the apostle is the author of this book, of this letter. Verse 1 of I Timothy 1 says, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope....* Paul writes this under the inspiration.

Once again we're reminded here, he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. He's writing it by the commandment of God, who is God our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Lord Jesus Christ which is our hope. And the date of the writing of this epistle is one of Paul's later letters, and it was written around A.D. 62-64.

Now, all of Paul's other letters, except for Philemon, were written to the churches, but this letter is one of three letters written to two men, and we see those other letters written, II Timothy and Titus. Of course, these are the two men the letters are written to, Timothy and Titus. Now, both of these men were pastors, or shepherds, which means that they were leaders in their churches. Just as a shepherd is to take care of the sheep, these men were responsible to take care of the believers who were in their churches, and this is why these three letters, I Timothy, II Timothy, and Titus, are often called pastoral letters or pastoral epistles.

So, in I Timothy chapter 1 and verse 2, it says, *Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.* So we see that this letter was written to Timothy. And the setting for this book is that Paul writes to his beloved friend Timothy who has remained at Ephesus to work with the churches. And after their beginning there at Ephesus, some false teachings had taken place and so it was now necessary to deal with those situations. Paul wanted to straighten some things out.

The key verses here, and once again, let me remind you that you may see other verses that stand out to you and actually to you are key verses. You may disagree with what I'm presenting as a key verse here, but that's all right. Study the Word of God, showing that you are a workman who needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Well, I see key verses here, I Timothy chapter 1 verses 3-7 first of all, where it says, *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus....* Now remember, Paul's talking to Timothy here. He said, <sup>3</sup>*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightiest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,* and he's speaking, of course, of the Gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the teachings that Paul would have left there with Timothy.

And verse 4 says, <sup>4</sup>*Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.* <sup>5</sup>*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:* <sup>6</sup>*From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;* <sup>7</sup>*Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.* Now I believe those verses are some of the key verses that we find in the book of I Timothy, and of course, there are others as well, I Timothy chapter 1, verses 18-20 and I Timothy chapter 6, verses 20-21.

Well, the theme of the book seems to be that Timothy is charged to oppose the false teaching with sound doctrine and to guard and teach the church how to uphold godly lives. He's personally charged to exercise godliness and to fulfill his ministry, not neglecting himself and his calling. And as we read the book of I Timothy and much of the teachings of Paul, we see that the teachings that he's teaching Timothy here come to us, that we're to also follow his writings and look at the theme that he's writing about here and also the purpose of the book or the purpose of the letter that he is writing to Timothy. The purpose also applies to us today.

Now the purpose of the book, first of all, is to let us know about false teachings. In I Timothy chapter 1 and verse 3, Paul says, <sup>3</sup>*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into*

*Macedonia, that thou mightiest charge some that they teach no other doctrine....* Remember, he's speaking here of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord. And that is so important because, as we study, we understand that that is the only way a person goes to Heaven is by the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, so Paul says don't sway from that. You need to hold to that, and let those people who are teaching those false doctrines understand that you've got their number and that you are going to teach what is right and you're going to tell the people what it takes to go to Heaven, and that is by and through the grace of God that anyone ever goes to Heaven.

Well, he goes on to say that these false teachers will teach things concerning law keeping. In I Timothy chapter 1, verses 3-11, he talks about this, and I'll read just a couple of verses here. Chapter 4, verses 1-3, says, <sup>1</sup>*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;* <sup>2</sup>*Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;* <sup>3</sup>*Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*

The Bible teaches us that no person is saved by law keeping, in other words, by keeping the Ten Commandments or trying to work to go to Heaven. There is no way a person is saved that way. It's through the doctrine that is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection. And Paul says, "Timothy, stand strong on that," because the Spirit says that there's going to come a time when people are going to depart from the faith and try to teach something contrary. And we see that today in our world, how that people have strayed away from teaching the Gospel, how to be saved.

Now, Paul also warns concerning riches in I Timothy chapter 6, verses 5-10, and also chapter

6, verses 17-19. He says, <sup>17</sup>*Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;* <sup>18</sup>*That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;* <sup>19</sup>*Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.* Some are trying to buy their way to Heaven today, and I suppose they were doing that back then as well, as Paul wrote this letter, but there is no other way to Heaven, let me remind you, than through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Secondly, Paul writes about healthy teachings, faith, and a good conscience. First Timothy chapter 1, verses 4-5, says, <sup>4</sup>*Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.* <sup>5</sup>*Now the end of the commandment is charity... or love... out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.* And in verse 19 of chapter 1, he says, *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck....*

Well, we're to have healthy teachings in our churches. We're to look at the Word of God and let the Word of God be our guide. First Timothy 3:9 says, *Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience.*

Something else that Paul's talking about here is godliness. First Timothy chapter 2 and verses 9-10, it says, <sup>9</sup>*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;* <sup>10</sup>*But which becometh women professing godliness with good works.* It's not saying that women shouldn't look like women. It's saying here that they should not be overdoing it. In other words, they should not be doing it to draw attention to themselves, taking away once again from the Word of God as they attend a church or as they are part of a local

membership or as they represent the Lord. They are to represent godliness.

And then as we keep studying in the book of I Timothy, we see that Paul also talks about good works. He's talking that we need to work not to be saved but because we are saved. Paul first warns about false teaching, and secondly, he writes about healthy teachings which we've looked at. And third, Paul writes about Timothy's specific responsibilities. He talks about his teaching responsibilities. In I Timothy 3:14-15, it says, <sup>14</sup>*These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:* <sup>15</sup>*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

And he goes on to talk in I Timothy 4:11-16 about teaching, how that Timothy is to teach those things which are sound. And there are so many things that we could look at in this book, and we want to look now at some applications, the application lessons, the uselessness of striving about words. Well, what are the type of words that men strive about? Fable, endless genealogies, and the law according to Paul, I Timothy chapter 1, chapter 4.

And then we see that there's ungodly and untrue questioning and arguing that is worthless according to chapter 6, verses 3-5 and verse 20. Well, what is the result of worthless arguing? It brings about more useless questions; it serves no worthy purpose, only a waste of time; it works against true godliness. Don't be wrapped up in things that don't concern you that are worthless, but be concerned about the things of God.

Until the next time when you hear me say, "It is a good life," may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.