

The letters of Paul to Timothy

In the Bible, how many letters are there written to the church in Ephesus?

The letters to Ephesian Church

There are 4 - in chronological order:

Ephesians – from Paul to the Church

- written from house arrest in Rome

1 Timothy – from Paul to Timothy about the church

- written from 4th Missionary journey

2 Timothy – from Paul to Timothy about the church

- written from final imprisonment in Rome

Revelation 2.1-7 – from Jesus to the church

- through John's revelation

The letters of Paul to Timothy

Key themes of the letters to Timothy.

1 and 2 Timothy are quite different letters, but have the common major themes of recognising and combatting bad/false teaching, and choosing good leadership in the church at Ephesus

Why was Timothy given this task?

He was of mixed parentage, both Jew and Gentile, so he could be accepted by both major divisions of the church; he had been in Ephesus with Paul previously, so he would be known to most of the church as well, and recognised as carrying Paul's authority.

1 Timothy well-known phrases 1

1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...

2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

2:12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, etc.

1 Timothy well-known phrases 2

- 4:7** Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly
- 4:12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers
- 5:17** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."
- 5:23** Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.
- 6:1** All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect
- 6:6** But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
- 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

1 Timothy – Broad Outline

Chapter 1 – Timothy's Commission

Chapter 2 – Worship in prayer and Women

Chapter 3 – Leadership Crisis – Overseers and Deacons

Chapter 4 – Bad teaching

Chapter 5 – Treatment of Widows and Elders

Chapter 6 – Slaves and Money

Women in the early church

Romans 16.1 – Phoebe “a servant (ie. Deacon) of the church in Cenchrea”

Priscilla is mentioned 7 times in all, and 6 times she is named before her husband - **Acts 18.26** – “When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”

Phil 4.2,3 – Euodia and Syntyche “these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel”

Rom 16:7 “Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.” Junias mentioned here most likely was Junia, a woman.

2 Timothy – style and content

- An emotional letter written from prison, not house arrest.
- The sacrifices and challenges of preaching and teaching the true gospel
- The need for faithful leaders and teachers
- The importance of the Scriptures
- Paul's personal situation and needs