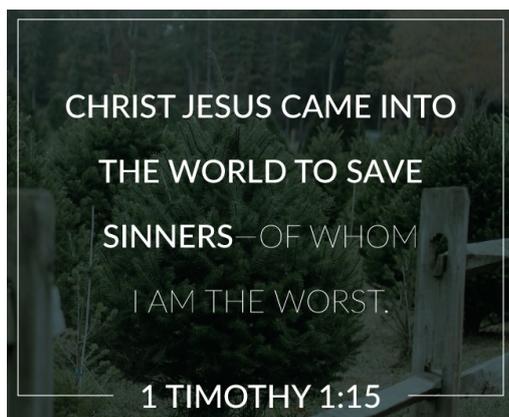


Paul's first letter to Timothy



This is a letter in 6 chapters about leadership in the church. Paul warns of the dangers of false teaching and tells Timothy how to choose the right kinds of leaders. Paul also gives the younger man personal guidance for his own leadership role.

Chapter 1

Paul sends Timothy his customary messages of warm greetings and Christian love. Paul reflects with great thankfulness on his own conversion and praises God for His kindness and mercy to him, which is an example to even the worst sinners.

Chapter 2

Paul sets out the practical steps a church needs to take in order to prevent false doctrine from taking over. This begins with prayer, including prayers for leaders outside the church, so Christians can be left in peace. Paul also explains the separation between the roles of men and women in worship services.

Chapter 3

Paul makes general statements about church structure and behaviour. In chapters 1, 2, and 3, he has laid out some broad concepts that Timothy needs to enforce in his congregation. This chapter specifically deals with the qualifications for leaders; something that we are thinking about ourselves, but perhaps not in the exact way that Paul describes!

Chapter 4

Paul reminds Timothy not to be swayed by the false teachings of others and has to make this clear in his own ministry, which must be lived out in actions, not just words. There is advice about spiritual fitness ... what spiritual exercises can we do to become better Christians?

Chapter 5

This chapter is about pastoral care, with the emphasis on how Timothy should treat others in the congregation. Paul tells him to care for his congregation as if they were his own family. Our own Pastoral Care Team provides much vital support to members of our church family. Thank you.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 rounds out the instructions given in the first five chapters. Building on the ideas laid down earlier in the letter, Paul reminds Timothy of the importance of Godly living and avoiding the snares of evil and temptation. This chapter provides a strong encouragement for Timothy to apply the wisdom of this letter, both in his personal life and in the churches he is leading.