

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 7 | LESSON 19

Letters – The Promise Explained Through the KING’S Church

God is a PROMISE Completing God




JESUS as the 1) **PROMISED KING** has 2) **RESCUED** His people through His Perfect Law Keeping Life and Sacrificial, Substitutionary Death on the Cross, whereby 3) **DEFEATING** the enemy of sin and death, and is 4) **RESTORING** them to the PLACE OF REST where Heaven and Earth are rejoined and God reigns and abides 5) so that His people shall be with Him forever for their **JOY**.

“[Our] Common Confession” 1 Tim. 3:14-16

¹⁶ By **common confession**, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

The selection of this “TITLE” stands in contrast to the false teaching circulating in the Church.

Begin the class using the provided slides to compare 1 and 2 Timothy with Titus. The slides give generalities. There is more in each Letter than the emphasis, but it does give some distinction between the three.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know what the local church represents. Q – What is the local church in relation to the Temple and Garden?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose to go to church regularly. Q – What kinds of adjustments do you need to make to be sure you are in church on Sundays?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray God will keep your schedule open so that you can attend church regular. Q – How can you increase your understanding of the gospel in order to strengthen your local church?</p>

EMPHASIS

“Within the range of the Pastoral Epistles there was probably some lapse of time. I Timothy pictures Paul as traveling and active, counseling his young lieutenant concerning his pastoral duties. Titus is quite similar in its outlook. **II Timothy, however, is definitely a terminus**, for Paul evidently was confident that he would not survive the winter (II Timothy 4:21).”¹

IMPORTANT POINT

1st Timothy – Protecting the Church by Strengthening its Structure and Dealing with Falsehood

2nd Timothy – Finishing well for the sake of the Gospel

We will only focus on 1st Timothy.

LITERARY CONTEXT

The apostle Paul is the author of this Letter and his student, disciple, co-worker is Timothy. Their journey began in Acts 16 and this first Letter is written after Acts 28.

ACTS 16:1-5

¹ Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. **A disciple was there, named Timothy**, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ **Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him**, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

⁴ As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

In considering this Letter, we can ask, "What is this?" "The **letter** is a private communication to Timothy, written by his mentor to give him the guidance he needed for his work as a superintendent of churches."

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Paul left Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3).

First Timothy speaks to GOD'S MISSION in and through the LOCAL CHURCH. The Letter is fraught with confrontation. There is false doctrine in the church seeking to undermine Paul's authority and the structure of the local church. The assault can be studied in 1:3-17; 4:1-16; and 6:3-10. It is a sober reminder that we must hold fast to Christ.

- A. Paul writes to Timothy concerning the organization of the church, its conduct/character, Timothy's own leadership, and the ongoing threat of false teaching within the body.
- B. This Letter makes no sense if it is not directed at a local church community/structure. i.e. elders, deacons, the role of women in the church, widows, etc.
- C. It is to an **Elder/Pastor** concerning aspects of the **local church**.
- D. Much of what he says is **non-applicable** to the individual outside the local church.
- E. This Letter is not for **you**, but for **us**.

STRUCTURE

The structure of 1 Timothy follows a repeating pattern.

Notice the emphasis on DEALING WITH FALSE TEACHERS (1:3-17; 4:1-16; 6:3-10).

The Power and Glory of Christ in His Church

1 Tim. 3:14-16

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Theme: God's power and glory is in His Church and we would do well to align with it.

Outline:

I. The Church's [Common] Conduct (v. 15)

"Conduct" only time in pastorals. Means to 'busy oneself.' Where are we to busy ourselves [the church] and how is the church described?

- A. The Household of God
- B. The Church of the Living God
- C. The Pillar and Support of the Truth

II. The Church's Common Confession (v. 16)

"Great is the mystery of godliness [the gospel]" occurs several times in 1 Tim.

What three movements highlight the gospel?

- A. Incarnation – "Revealed in the Flesh"
- B. Resurrection – "Vindicated by the Spirit"
- C. Ascension – "Taken up in Glory"

How do we know this is true?

- 1. **Seen** by angels
- 2. **Proclaimed** among the nations
- 3. **Believed** on in the world

Notice the contrast in 4:1ff. Not all believe this. Thus, be on guard.

- I. Departure from the Common Confession to Corrupt Teaching (4:1-2)
 - A. Rejection of the Faith/Gospel (3:14-16)
 - B. Description of this departure from the faith in First Timothy

JESUS IN THE TEXT

The Garden in Eden will be reconstituted as described in Revelation 21 and 22. The means to that end began with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It continues through the establishing and strengthening of local churches. First Timothy describes what that looks like in “real time.”

Jesus is the gospel that must be protected and preserved. There is always a present assault against its purity. Jesus lies at the center of the circle and not on its circumference.

The local church is blessed and is blessing her surrounding communities as the gospel is protected and preserved.

APPLICATION

1. “Paul’s firm belief is that the truth of the Gospel should shape and influence the lives of Jesus’ followers and the church. Paul cares so much about the lives of individuals in the church, because he cares so much about the gospel.”²
2. The gospel is always under attack. There are always those who wish to undermine the gospel and as a result destroy the local church.
 - First, keep the main thing, the main thing.
 - Second, go to a church that keeps the main thing the main thing.
 - By going to church, you protect yourself from false teaching/teachers
3. If we desire to know how a local church is to conduct herself and what she is to confess, then this book is for us.
4. The Local Church is a vehicle, the means, God uses to accomplish His end.
5. The Local Church is not a “take it or leave it” element of the Christian life.
6. The Local Church is vital and necessary to your salvation experience and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

VISUALS | CRAFTS

1. Have the class write a letter to someone. It could be someone in Egypt. Explain how letters work, why we write them, what their intended purpose might be.
2. Draw a picture of something “scary.” False Teachers are scary. Why is your scary thing scary? Why are false teachers scary?
3. Glue two popsicle sticks together to show how the believing in Jesus and going to church make us stronger when we are with others who believe in Jesus.
4. Take three threads and braid them together. When we take the church, the home, and our personal faith in Jesus, it makes us stronger to withstand the onslaughts of the false teachers.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Tim. 3:14-16

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know **how one ought to conduct himself** in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ By **common confession**, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ Tenney, NTS, p. 333.

² An Overview of 1 Timothy, Jacob Michalski, June 27, 2020.