

# INTRODUCTION TO 1 TIMOTHY

Key Verse: 4:12

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Paul called Timothy "my true son in the faith." He led Timothy to Christ during his first missionary journey, when he pioneered the church in Lystra, Timothy's hometown. Timothy is the first “second generation” Christian mentioned in the Bible. His mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were Jewish Christians; his father was Greek.

When Paul stopped by Lystra on his second journey, he invited Timothy to join him on the journey as an intern shepherd. Timothy's training in obedience began when Paul circumcised him. Later, Paul wrote the Philippians (2:19-22), "I hope... to send Timothy to you... I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But... Timothy has proved himself..."

1 Timothy is one of the three pastoral letters of Paul (the other two are 2 Timothy and Titus). It is written from a pastor's point of view. This letter was written around A.D. 64 after Paul went to Macedonia, leaving Timothy to shepherd the church in Ephesus. Some of Timothy's flock were older and more experienced than he. But Paul exhorted him to lead by love, and by setting an example in speech and life, in purity and in faith (1Ti 4:12). A leader must continue to grow in faith and in love. Two times Paul told Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith." Paul gave advice about false teachers, and some specific directions about appointing and training leaders.

