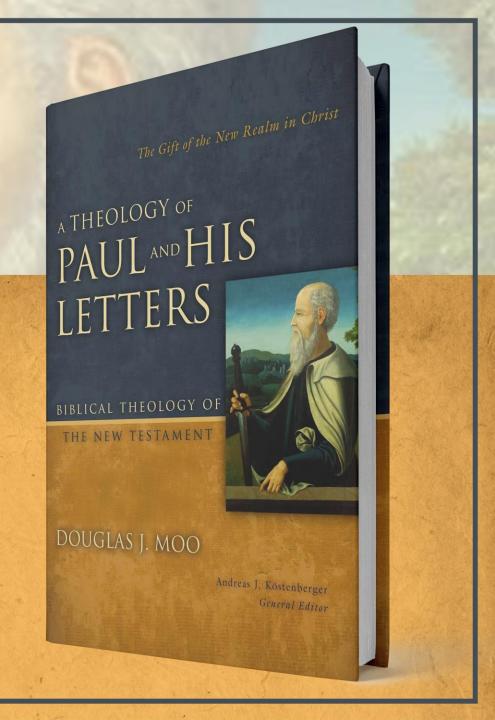
CHAPTER 14

1 Timothy



Locating the Letter

- There are differences in the Pastoral Epistles and Paul's other letters, which has prompted some scholars to question whether Paul truly wrote the letters to Timothy and Titus.
- It is believed that Paul left for Ephesus after his first imprisonment in Rome. He may have written to Timothy after they had spent some time ministering in Ephesus.

Isolating the Issues

- All the Pastoral Epistles focus on combating false teaching.
- While several types of false teaching are addressed in the letters, it is impossible to tell which groups were leading the churches astray.
- While it is important to understand that false teachings were one issue addressed in Paul's letters, scholars must be careful not to exaggerate their influence.

Analyzing the Argument

- Some scholars believe the Pastoral Epistles were written after Paul's death with an appeal to his authority, which would therefore cast Paul's theology into a "religion of tradition."
- The author believed Paul wrote letters to his trusted and qualified associates to combat false teachings. His goal was to maintain the purity of the gospel.

- The Pastoral Epistles also address church organization, leadership, and ethics.
- Paul also taught about ministry and effectively sharing the gospel in these letters.

Dealing with False Teachers (1) (1:1–20)

- Paul wrote the letter to encourage Timothy to combat false teachers.
- He believed that false teachers promoted "controversial speculations" that distracted members from the gospel.
- After encouraging Timothy to stop the false teachers, Paul celebrated God's mercy and grace in his life.
- The transmission of the gospel was in a chain: God to Paul to Timothy and Titus to others.

Congregational Life (1) (2:1-3:16)

- Prayer (2:1–7)
 - Paul emphasized the importance of prayer.
 - He taught that believers should pray for government leaders and all people.
 - "All people" has been a source of controversy among scholars.
 - All people can be saved? Or all kinds of people can be saved?

- Men and Women in the Worship Service (2:8–15)
 - Paul moved to the topic of right conduct while worshiping.
 - Paul taught that women should dress for worship in a way that reflected their humility and submission to Christ.
 - He wrote that women should learn with a teachable and submissive spirit.

- He warned Timothy against allowing women to assume authority over men or teach men in the church.
- Paul also taught that women do not have to abandon their roles as mothers and homemakers in order to experience salvation.
- These directives were likely given to Timothy in light of particular issues in the church of Ephesus.

- Overseers and Deacons (3:1–13)
 - Paul encouraged Timothy to carefully select those who would hold leadership positions in the church.
 - These overseers and deacons would help keep the church from following false teachers.
 - Paul listed moral virtues that should be exhibited by church leaders.

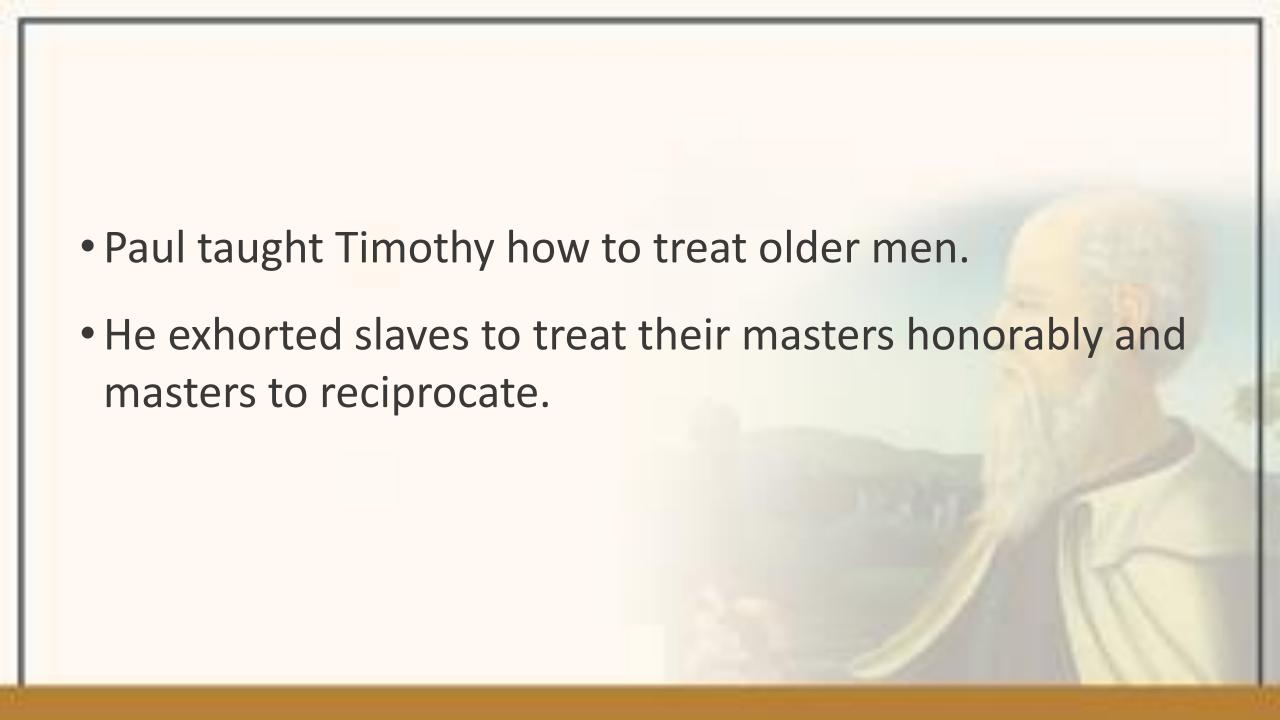
- Right Behavior in the Household of God (3:14–16)
 - Paul reminded Timothy that believers should "live appropriately as members of God's household."
 - This illustrates the "significance of the church as a pillar and foundation of the truth."
 - Paul included a hymn that contrasted the realm of the flesh and the realm of the Spirit.

Dealing with False Teachers (2) (4:1–16)

- Paul returned to the topic of false teachers.
- He outlined qualities and virtues that Timothy would need to exhibit in order to counter false teachings in the church.
- He reminded Timothy of the strength Timothy would receive as he recalled his initiation into ministry.

Congregational Life (2) (5:1-6:2a)

- Paul taught Timothy how to treat different groups in the Ephesian church.
- He alluded to the Old Testament when he encouraged Timothy to take care of the widows who were truly in need.
 - This indicates that some widows were taking advantage of the church's assistance.



Dealing with False Teachers (3) (6:2b-21)

- Paul returned to his instructions about false teachings.
- He encouraged Timothy to follow his example and learn to be content.
- He also told Timothy to guard the gospel.