

## **Introduction to NT Books**

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### **XIII. The Book of First Timothy**

#### **A. The Authorship of First Timothy**

1. The early patristics such as Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus attested to the Pauline authorship.
2. Post Reformation critics have rejected Paul's clear assertion (1:1; 2:7) and posited the following arguments for a second century pseudonymous writing:
  - a. The discrepancies between Acts and I Timothy are too many.
  - b. The local church organization is too advanced for the first century.
  - c. The content is too contrary to Paul's theology.
  - d. The style and vocabulary are too different to the Apostle's.

#### **B. The Date of First Timothy**

1. Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment around AD 61 and went to Ephesus (I Tim. 1:3).
2. He left Timothy there and hoped to return but did not. So he wrote I Timothy around AD 62.

#### **C. The Purpose of First Timothy**

1. He wanted to encourage and inform his son in the faith about the Ephesian church and its organization and administration.
2. This church needed ecclesiological structure and strong teaching against false teachers.

#### **D. The Characteristics of First Timothy**

1. The man Timothy was Paul's convert at Lystra where the Apostle was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:8, 19-20; 16:1).
  - a. His Jewish mother was Eunice and his grandmother was Lois (II Tim. 1:5). His father was a Greek (Acts 16:1).
  - b. He was circumcised because he went with Paul to the Jews (Acts 16:3).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>All of the Jewish men in the Messianic genealogy needed to be compliant to the sign of the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:4 ff.). Although the Cross did away with this physical distinction between Jew and Gentile (cf. 2:11, 14-16), the lack of its practice would have been a stumbling block for unsaved Jews.

2. Paul gave the qualifications for bishop (3:1-7), deacon (3:8-13), and widow indeed (5:3-16).

3. He taught the exclusivity of the NT Baptist assembly (3:15).

4. The apostle declared the deity of Christ, saying “God was manifested in the flesh” (3:16).

a. The modern versions following the CT change this wonderful truth, saying “he was manifest in the flesh.”

1) NASV: He who was revealed in the flesh

2) NIV: He appeared in a body

b. They have changed the noun Θεός (God) for the relative pronoun ὃς (who).

5. He encouraged Timothy to drink grape juice (οἶνος) for his stomach infirmities since the water supply was impure (5:22b-23).

6. He instructed the rich about the temptation of money, since the love of money is the root of all evil (6:9-10).

7. Finally, he warned Timothy about falsely named “science” (γνώσεως) which opposed the truth (6:20-21). This would include theological and scientific heresies such as evolution and heliocentricity.