

Message #2**I Timothy 1:1-2**

The Apostle Paul was a disciplined reader and a disciplined writer. Of the 27 books found in the N.T., he wrote at least 13 of them and if Hebrews is his, he wrote 14. He also had a great influence on Mark and Luke, who also wrote N.T. books, so we may accurately and honestly conclude that Paul was a man who believed in the pen.

Whenever Paul wrote a letter, he did so to make a point. In fact, we may say that whenever Paul wrote a letter of the Bible, he did so guided by God.

Now it was very typical in the first century to begin a letter by identifying the writer of the letter and the recipient of the letter. In this way the recipient would not have to unravel a scroll or a bunch of papyrus leaves in order to determine who wrote the letter.

I like what Walter Lock, of Oxford University said about these opening two verses back in the 1920's—the greeting is formal, elaborate, official and personal (Walter Lock, *The Pastoral Epistles*, p. 5)

THE ONE WHO IS WRITING THIS LETTER TO GET GOD'S CHURCH TO BECOME THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH IS ONE WHO HAS FULL AUTHORITY FROM GOD AND A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

The issue is not what you and I want in the church, the issue is what God wants in His church. How God wants His church run is not necessarily the same as how we want the church run.

HEADING #1 – The writer of the letter. **1:1**

It is very clear from the very first word of the text that the writer of the letter is Paul.

When we consider that he is writing a letter to Timothy, we may also admit that this would have been all Paul would have needed to write. “Paul, to Timothy” would have been enough to capture Timothy's interest. Timothy would have immediately sensed this letter was important and inspired if Paul would have just said that. After all, Timothy had closely worked with Paul for approximately 15 years (Acts 16 events somewhere near A.D. 50).

Way #1 - Paul identifies himself as an apostle. **1:1a**

By using this term, he is emphasizing that he holds the highest ranked gift in the N.T. (I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11), and that he is writing as one who has been fully called and commissioned by God.

(Reason #1) - Because Paul wanted Timothy to know that this was an authoritative letter from God.

Even though Timothy was a special friend and co-worker, Paul still outranked him and he wanted him to realize that this letter was not just one of friendship, but of full authority.

When Paul identifies himself as an apostle, he views himself in the following way:

1. As one directly appointed and authorized by Jesus Christ.
2. As one who was an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.
3. As one who held a foundational gift for the church.
4. As one who was first in leadership and authority for the church.

Dr. William Hendriksen writes: “Timothy needs to know that this letter is not just a substitute for a friendly, confidential chat, a tete-a-tete; even though its tone is naturally very cordial, for a friend is indeed writing to a friend. The letter, however, rises above the purely human level. The writer is a friend, to be sure, but also an apostle of Jesus Christ” (William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Pastoral Epistles*, p. 49).

Getting the church on the right track was not just some friendly suggestion; it was an authoritative assignment from God.

What we see immediately when Paul identifies himself as “an apostle” to Timothy is that intimacy will never replace authority.

(Reason #2) - Because Paul wanted Timothy to teach these things with apostolic authority.

Timothy was to take this letter very seriously and teach it to the church (1:3; 4:6, 11, 13, 16; 5:7; 6:17).

Church life is not to be governed by the emotional or the sensational, but by the Biblical. The authority for what we believe and what we do and how we are organized must always be the authoritative Word of God.

Way #2 - Paul identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus. **1:1b**

Twice in this verse Paul uses the word order “Christ Jesus” rather than “Jesus Christ.” This is no mere coincidence, for it is very important to Pauline thought and doctrine.

Jesus is the name which refers to the fact that He is the Savior. Christ is the name that refers to the fact that He is the Messiah.

This word order “Christ Jesus” suggests that Paul wanted to remind Timothy that the program of God was first Jewish, then Gentile.

Way #3 - Paul identifies himself as an apostle by commandment of God. **1:1c**

The word “commandment” is one that speaks of a divine command with all and full authority (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 175).

Paul is stressing that his apostleship was not due to his desire, goals or aspirations; neither was it due to his education or manipulation. Paul was an apostle because God commanded it.

Notice carefully only God can save you. You cannot save yourself. Notice also Jesus Christ is God. If you are putting your hope in Jesus Christ for your salvation, you are saved.

HEADING #2 – The recipient of the letter. **1:2a**

The word “true” indicates that Paul viewed Timothy as his legal, genuine son. This obviously has reference to a spiritual son-ship, not a physical son-ship.

Fact #1 - Timothy was originally from Lystra. Acts 16:1a

Fact #2 - Timothy was the son of a Jewish mother who was a believer. Acts 16:1c

Fact #3 - Timothy was the son of a Gentile father who was an unbeliever. Acts 16:1d

Fact #4 - Timothy came to faith as a result of Paul’s ministry in Lystra. Acts 14:6-7;
I Tim. 1:2; I Cor. 4:17

Fact #5 - Timothy came to faith after his grandmother Lois, and mother Eunice. II Tim. 1:5

Fact #6 - Timothy was taught the Scriptures from his youth. II Tim. 3:15

Fact #7 - Timothy initially grew in his faith under the elders of the church. Acts 14:21-23

Fact #8 - Timothy was a special disciple. Acts 16:1b

Fact #9 - Timothy was a man with a good reputation among many churches. Acts 16:2

Fact #10 - Timothy was a man Paul specifically wanted to travel with him. Acts 16:3a

Fact #11 - Timothy could be trusted with Pauline apostolic ministry. Acts 19:22; 20:4-5

Fact #12 - Timothy was Paul’s son in the faith. **I Tim. 1:2**; II Tim. 1:2; I Cor. 4:11

Fact #13 - Timothy was personally circumcised by Paul. Acts 16:3b

A question has arisen in theology as to why Paul did circumcise Timothy, and did not circumcise Titus (Gal. 2:3). The answer is Paul circumcised Timothy for ministry purposes and he did not circumcise Titus for doctrinal purposes.

Fact #14 - Timothy was a relatively young man. I Tim. 4:12

Many believe Timothy was about 30-35-years-old when Paul wrote I Timothy. This is based on the fact that Paul took Timothy with him on his second missionary journey about A.D. 50. Timothy must have been at least 20-25 then. If Paul writes I Timothy at A.D. 63-64, Timothy must be at least 33-years-old.

Fact #15 - Timothy was a spiritually gifted man. I Tim. 4:14; II Tim. 1:6; I Tim. 1:18

Notice in I Timothy 4:14 that Timothy's gift was recognized by the elders of the church and by Paul.

Fact #16 - Timothy was not a physically healthy man. I Tim. 5:23

Even though Timothy was a young age, he did not have strong health. Truth is he had "frequent ailments." A lack of health does not mean a lack of spirituality.

Fact #17 - Timothy was a timid man. II Tim. 1:7

Fact #18 - Timothy was, at times, somewhat afraid and discouraged. I Cor. 16:10-11;
II Tim. 1:8

Fact #19 - Timothy was a man who spent time in jail. Heb. 13:23

Fact #20 - Timothy could be trusted to straighten out various church problems in total apostolic fashion. I Cor. 4:16-17; 16:10; Phil. 2:19-24; Col. 3:2-5; I Tim. 1:3

Fact #21 - Timothy was the last man Paul wanted to see before his execution. II Tim. 4:9, 21

Fact #22 - Timothy is the only man in the Bible to have two letters written specifically to him.
I & II Timothy

HEADING #3 – The greeting of the letter. **1:2b**

Grace is usually in the context of the undeserved, non-merited, non-works salvation offered to sinners.

Mercy is usually in the context of that which emphasizes the sinners are helpless and hopeless.

Peace is the tranquility of mind and soul that comes when one is right with God.

The emphasis here is on the fact that the minister already saved still has and needs the grace, mercy and peace of God. A believer's tranquility is directly related to His relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is where it all begins. This is where the Christian life begins and this is where the Christian church begins and this is where this letter begins. The church must always be a pillar and support of these great doctrines.