**1 Timothy - Sussex GP TC**

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**1 Timothy Session 1: Setting the Scene**

1. **Approaching the Epistle**
* Context
* Purpose
* Structure
* Theme
* Relevance
1. **Preaching/Teaching the Epistle**
* *Purpose* – How does the letter seek to change the situation of the readers?
* *Point* – How does each section contribute to this overall purpose?
* *Practical Implications* – What action does each section demand of the reader?
* *Persuasion* – How does the rhetoric seek to persuade readers to take the action?
1. **The Context of 1 Timothy**
* Author
* Addressee
* Audience
1. **The Circumstances of 1 Timothy**
* 1 Timothy 1v3
* 1 Timothy 3v14-15
* 1 Timothy 6v11-16
* 1 Timothy 6v20-21
1. **The Major Themes of 1 Timothy**
* the “trustworthy sayings” - 1v15; 3v1; 3v9
* False Teachers - 1v3; 6v3
* Leadership in the Church - 3v1-13; 5v17-21;
* Women in the Church - 2v9-15; 5v3-16;
* Wealth & Money - 5v3-21; 6v3-10; 6v17-19;
* Honour - 5v3; 5v17; 6v1; 6v14
* God as Saviour of “all” - 1v1; 2v3; 4v10
* The Church as the “household” of God - 3v5; 3v15; 5v17
* Godliness - 3v16; 4v7-8; 6v3; 6v6; 6v11
* God as “living” - 3v15; 4v10;
* Salvation as eschatological/eternal - 1v16; 4v1; 6v19
* Goodness - 2v3; 2v10; 4v4; 4v6; 5v9; 6v12; 6v13; 6v18
1. **The purpose of 1 Timothy**

“SORT OUT THE CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL”

1. **The Nature of the False Teaching at Ephesus**
* Back-reading the nature of the false teaching
* Evidence from 1 Timothy itself

1v4 & 6v4

1v7

1v8-11

2v3-6?

3v3 & 6v3-5

4v3

4v7

* Evidence from the other Pastoral Epistles

2 Timothy 2v17-18

Titus 1v14

Titus 3v9

* Evidence from the rest of the NT

1 Corinthians

Galatians

Philippians

* Evidence from outside the NT
* Summarising the evidence
1. **The Structure of 1 Timothy**

*v1-2 – Greeting*

*1v3-3v13 – Tackle the False Teachers*

1v3-29- Silence and discipline the false teachers who deny the gospel

2v1-8 – Ensure that the church prays with gospel priorities

2v9-15 – Silence women from teaching in the church

3v1-13 – Appoint appropriate leaders for the church

*3v14-4v16 – Be a “Good Minister”*

3v14-15 – Paul’s purpose in writing

3v16 – The role of Jesus

4v1-5 – The goodness of creation

4v-6-16 – The life and work of a good minister

*5v1-6v10 – Tackle the Issues of Money in the Church*

5v1-21 – Proper Honour for Widows, Elders and Masters

6v2-10 – Resist the Love of Money

*6v11-21 – Final Charge to Timothy*

1. **Applying 1 Timothy Today**
* Difficulties applying 1 Timothy today

We don’t face exactly the same issues

Most of us are not in the position as Timothy

* The relevance of 1 Timothy today

We are living in the last days so will face similar issues- 1 Timothy 4v1

God’s saving purpose for “all men” has not changed

God’s purpose for the church has not changed

Paul intended the letter to be read to the congregation

1. **Using 1 Timothy Today**
* Personal reading as a church leader
* Preaching an expository series to a church congregation
* Studying together in a small group
* Teaching to a group of church leaders or potential leaders
* Reading 1 Timothy one-to-one
* Using 1 Timothy evangelistically?
1. **Commentaries on 1 Timothy**
* Technical Commentaries

George W Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (The New International Greek Testament Commentary)

*I Howard Marshall*, The Pastoral Epistles (International Critical Commentary)

R Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles* (Word Biblical Commentary)

Philip H Towner, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (New International Commentary on the New Testament)

* Semi-Technical Commentaries

Gordon Fee, *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus* (New International Biblical Commentary)

Walter Leifield, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus* (NIV Application Commentary)

Ben Witherington, *Letters and homilies for hellenized Christians: A Socio-rhetorical Commentary on Titus, 1-2 Timothy and 1-3 John: Vol. 1* (IVP)

* Popular Level Commentaries

Philip Towner, *1-2 Timothy and Titus* (IVP New Testament Commentary Series)

John Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus* (The Bible Speaks Today)

Michael Bentley, *PASSING ON THE TRUTH 1 AND 2 TIMOTHY: 1 and 2 Timothy Simply Explained* (Welwyn Commentary)