

# DEAR TIMOTHY

A FATHER'S FINAL WORDS TO HIS SON

Prepared by Dr. Andrew Corbett

*Dear Timothy, A Father's Final Words to His Son*

Ten Bible Studies, designed for small group interaction, with additional instructor guide.

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# Contents

Study #	Title, Reference	Page
	Preface and Introduction to Paul's Epistles To Timothy	4
1.	Forbid Different Doctrines, First Timothy 1:1-11	5
2.	Wage Good Warfare, First Timothy 1:12-20	10
3.	First of All, Pray, First Timothy 2:1-8	
4.	Paul's Attitude About Women, First Timothy 2:9-15	
5.	Elders and Deacons, First Timothy 3:1-13	
6.	How to Behave In The Household of God, 1 Timothy 3:14-4:16	
7.	Respect, Care, and Honour, First Timothy 5:1-25	
8.	Circumstances and Contentment, First Timothy 6:1-21	
9.	Why I Suffer As I Do, Second Timothy 1:1-18	
10.	Fight, Work, Preach, Second Timothy 2:1 - 4:22	
	Quizzes	

## PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION

The apostle Paul is often considered to be a rather cold-hearted man. On the occasions when I have asked different women if they would have appreciated being pastored by him, it has been met with a resounding “No!” I suspect this is because Paul is similarly perceived as a male-chauvinist due to his various comments about *women needing to be quiet in church and not permitted to teach a man*. If this is your opinion of Paul, it is my hope that you might come to soften your view of him after completing this study of what are his final surviving epistles before he was executed at the command of Caesar Nero in AD 64.

In addition to this negative opinion about the apostle Paul there are those who see him as a bigot and fundamentalist who has no place in shaping the Christianity of the current times. It is my hope that I can demonstrate that what Paul wrote in these epistles was indeed inspired by the Holy Spirit to a person and audience around AD 62 but still has divinely ordained relevance to our times. In fact, what I hope to demonstrate is that God largely used Paul to pen around 70% of the New Testament as the culmination of what I will suggest was the *progressive* revelation of the Bible. That is, the written truth of the God’s revelation to all mankind was given over time in a way that each stage of the unfolding revelation of God progressively built upon the previous revelation.

Therefore, the title of these Bible studies, *Dear Timothy*, is meant to convey an immediate warmth of relationship that he had over several decades with a young man whom he considered to be his *son*. Cold-hearted people are rarely characterised by long-term relationships. The fact that Timothy was just one of the many long-term friendships that Paul had with various men *and women* should tell us something important about the man who wrote to Timothy. Paul’s concern for his young lieutenant involved his concern for the Ephesians. The issues that he addresses to Timothy were really the issues that the church at Ephesus was grappling with. And it is my third hope that we come to see that they are the same issues we are also grappling with as a church today.

Andrew Corbett

February, 2021

## 1. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 8:08:24 pm

Acts 25:11 If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Acts 25:12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

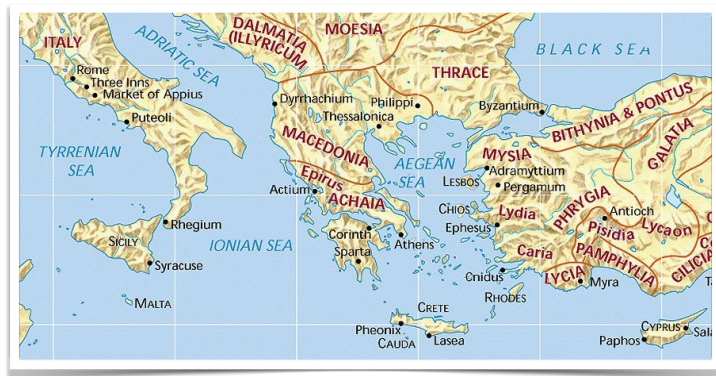
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# FORBID DIFFERENT DOCTRINES!

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## OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To describe the relationship between the apostle Paul and Timothy.
- ❖ To be able to define a doctrine and in particular what constitutes a *sound* doctrine.
- ❖ To describe what is meant by the term *progressive revelation* and how the writings of Paul contributed to it.
- ❖ To explain the link between false doctrine and immorality.



## BACKGROUND

The apostle Paul had been taken to Rome as a prisoner and was under house arrest awaiting his trial before Caesar Nero (Acts 25:11-12). On the way, he had left Timothy in Ephesus to deal with two problems in the church there. The first was the threat of false teachers and the second was the leadership structure of the church. His two letters to Timothy were written fairly close together and were obviously designed to be publicly read to the church. Thus,

2. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:02:29 pm  
1Tim. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,  
1Tim. 1:2 ¶ To Timothy, my true child in the faith: ¶ Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:04:18 pm  
Paul describes Timothy as his “true child in the faith”. This might imply that Timothy had proven himself to be reliable, trustworthy, and loyal over many years as a companion to Paul. It indicates their genuine closeness.

4. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:03:00 pm  
2Tim. 4:9 ¶ Do your best to come to me soon.  
2Tim. 4:10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.  
2Tim. 4:11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.  
2Tim. 4:12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.  
2Tim. 4:13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.  
2Tim. 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.  
2Tim. 4:15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.

5. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:06:53 pm  
It seems that Paul was lonely and feeling abandoned. While he had Luke with him, he was saddened by others who had left him and betrayed him. He urges Timothy to come to him ‘soon’ and to bring some of his most treasured possessions.

6. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:54:33 pm  
1Tim. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

7. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 3:55:05 pm  
Paul refers to himself as an apostle ‘by command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus’. His ministry was neither a self-appointment or an appointment by men. This then may have given Timothy greater respect among the Ephesians because he was carrying out Paul’s directives.

as Timothy carried out Paul’s instructions it would have been clear to everyone that he was doing so with apostolic authority.

INSTRUCTION

Objective 1. To describe the relationship between the apostle Paul and Timothy.

- 2 1. Note **First Timothy 1:1-2**. From what we read in verse 2, and Second Timothy 1:2, how might we describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy?
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 2. Based on what Paul wrote to Timothy in **Second Timothy 4:9-15** how much did Paul care about Timothy? Explain.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 3. How would Paul’s description of himself have added to the authority that Timothy had with the Ephesians? (Refer to **First Timothy 1:1**)
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 4. What challenges might Timothy have faced from being mentored by Paul? Reflect and discuss.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Objective 2. To be able to define a doctrine and in particular what constitutes a *sound* doctrine.

- 9 A doctrine is a \_\_\_\_\_ g. In the Christian sense, it is a teaching that
- 10 claims to be derived from the \_\_\_\_\_ e.
- 11 5. In **First Timothy 1:3**, Paul instructs to Timothy charge (“command”) certain people to stop teaching “different” doctrine? What would
- 12 constitute *different* doctrine? (Refer to **Galatians 1:6-7**.) Discuss.

**8. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 3:58:37 pm  
Timothy may have faced the pressure of Paul's very high expectations. He may have faced the pressure of representing someone who was a theological polymath (someone who knows everything there is to know). What other pressures might Timothy have faced?

**9. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 4:21:50 pm  
teaching

**10. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 4:22:29 pm  
Bible

**11. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 8:06:51 pm  
1Tim. 1:3 ¶ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

**12. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 4:33:35 pm  
Gal. 1:6 ¶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—Gal. 1:7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

13. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 8:07:02 pm

It is probable, if not certain, that these false teachers were preaching another gospel which would have denied the grace of God and salvation by faith in Christ alone.

14. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 4:42:41 pm

1Tim. 6:3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 1Tim. 6:4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 1Tim. 6:5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

15. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 8:18:02 pm

He describes them as arrogant and ignorant.

16. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 4:56:00 pm

Hopefully the discussion will point out the following: That there is one true God; that God is the Creator; That God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; That Jesus Christ is the Saviour; That salvation is by the grace of God and is received by placing our faith in Christ and His finished work. -The early Creeds of the Church, Nicene, Apostles, Athanasian, Chalcedon, are referred to as the 'ecumenical creeds of the Church' and to this day, define the basis of "sound doctrine".

13

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6. How does Paul later describe those who teach a *different* doctrine in First Timothy 6:3-5?

14

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15

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Christian doctrine is derived by considering the overall message of Scripture rather than being based on a single (sometimes obscure) verse of Scripture. The main doctrines of the Bible are the plain doctrines of the Bible! That is, they stated, or illustrated many times in many ways throughout the Bible.

7. What are some of the main doctrines of the Bible which makes Christianity distinct from all other religions? Discuss.

16

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17. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 5:52:34 pm

5.  
Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,  
Gal. 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

18. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 5:48:19 pm

2.  
Gen. 12:1 ¶ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.  
Gen. 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.  
Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

19. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 5:55:06 pm

7.  
Rom. 16:25 ¶ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages  
Gal. 1:12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.  
Gal. 2:2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.  
Eph. 3:3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

20. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 5:47:10 pm

1. God gave Adam and Eve just two commands - (i) Be fruitful and multiply; (ii) Do not eat of the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

21. Dr. Andrew Corbett

6 February 2021 at 5:49:43 pm

3.  
Ex. 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.  
Ex. 3:3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."  
Ex. 3:4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

Someone has estimated that despite there being so many Christian denominations (who usually have at least one point of doctrinal difference with another denomination), they all 85% agreement of what constitutes *sound doctrine*.

**Objective 3. To describe what is meant by the term *progressive revelation* and how the writings of Paul contributed to it.**

Progressive revelation means that the Lord chose to reveal His identity and plan of salvation in stages.

8. Put the following 8 stages of God's progressive revelation in sequential order:

- 17.  God sent His Son, born of a virgin, to be the Saviour of the world.
- 18.  God called Abram to move to Canaan to begin a family in what would one day become Israel.
- 19.  God gave the apostle Paul revelation and insight into His plan of salvation through Christ which he then showed in his various epistles how Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who was the Saviour of both Jews and Gentiles, who God was now making one people.
- 20.  God spoke directly to mankind and gave them just two commands.
- 21.  God called Moses to deliver Israel out of Egypt and to write down His laws which would be based on ceremonies and animal sacrifices.
- 22.  God instructed the apostle John to record that the day will come when God will resurrect and judge all mankind and the redeemed will enter into their eternal bliss where there will be no more sin, pain, sorrow, or weeping, and they will each have unimpeded access to God.
- 23.  God sent prophets to His rebellious people and called some of them to write historical and prophetic contributions to His Word. Several of them foretold of the coming Saviour who would be the Son of God.
- 24.  God used eyewitnesses and others who verified with eye-witnesses about the life, ministry, and atoning work of Christ, to write down 'Gospels'.

Ex. 3:5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Ex. 3:6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Ex. 3:7 ¶ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

Ex. 3:8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

**22. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 5:58:18 pm

8.

Rev. 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

**23. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 5:51:10 pm

4.

2Chr. 24:19 Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

**24. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

6 February 2021 at 5:53:33 pm

6.

Luke 1:2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,

2Pet. 1:16 ¶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [The Gospel of Mark was based on Peter's eyewitness account.]

25. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 6:08:07 pm  
shadows
26. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 6:07:04 pm  
Col. 2:17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
27. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 8:11:11 pm  
1Tim. 1:5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
28. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 8:11:30 pm  
It produces the godly fruit of love, a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.
29. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 6:10:41 pm  
idolatry
30. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**  
6 February 2021 at 6:12:30 pm  
sexual immorality

*Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies*

25 26 God used the apostle Paul to show others that all that happened in the Old Testament were \_\_\_\_\_ s of what Christ was to do (Col. 2:17, 1Cor. 10:1-6).

27 9. According to **First Timothy 1:5**, what is fruit that comes from living according to sound doctrine?

28 \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective 4. To explain the link between false doctrine and immorality.**

29 The ultimate false doctrine recorded in the Old Testament was \_\_\_\_\_ y. As you read through the Old Testament you will notice that there is a repeated link between idolatry and \_\_\_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_\_ y (note Colossians 3:5; 1Peter 4:3).

10. Considering First Timothy 1:9-10, what does embracing false teaching often lead to, and why might this be?

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**APPLICATIONS**

Discuss-

11. Timothy was mentored by Paul. Are you being mentored? If so, what do you most challenging about it?
12. Timothy was instructed by Paul to correct to those teaching false doctrine. Have you ever been corrected by someone who did it well? If so, how did they do it? If not, how would you have preferred to have corrected?
13. Paul could take it for granted that Timothy knew what *sound* doctrine was. Why could he take it for granted? If you were called up to defend the doctrines of Christianity, which one might you struggle with and why?