

## 1 Timothy Part 1

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to Ephesians 3

In Ephesians 3, the apostle Paul gives a summary of the purpose of his service as a visionary in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 3:1

- 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
- 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship (*administration*) of God’s grace that was given to me for you,
- 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.
- 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
- 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
- 6 **This mystery is** that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

“The gospel” mentioned here is not the four gospels that appear in the new testament of our Bibles. “Gospel” means “good news”. By revelation, Paul refers to this gospel in several different ways in his epistles, as follows:

“my gospel”, “gospel of God”, “gospel of the grace of God”, “gospel of his Son”, “gospel of Christ”, “the gospel of the glory of Christ”, “gospel of your salvation”, “the gospel of peace”, “gospel of our Lord Jesus”, “gospel of the glory of the blessed God”.

It is through Paul's gospel that we obtain a knowledge of the mystery.

Ephesians 3:7

- 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

Paul was not made a minister by any man or any organization. He was not authorized or commissioned by man.

Now remember, this epistle was written in the first century. The body of Christ was never directed or instructed to have religious clergy as we have today. Paul was not a minister of any religious organization; he was a minister of “this gospel”, serving by the free, undeserved favor of God.

Ephesians 3:8

- 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,
- 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (*NOW, right NOW, TODAY, the church*

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*is to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the devil spirit realm.)*

Ephesians 3:11

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through ~~our faith in him~~ (the faith of Jesus Christ).

Turn to Ephesians 4

God has an eternal purpose that has been realized in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is an ETERNAL purpose, so the realization of this purpose continues to this day in Christ Jesus.

In Christ Jesus we have boldness and access to God with confidence through the faith of Jesus Christ which has been given to every believer. Not only do we have this access, but we are to make use of this access to accomplish the work He has enabled us to do.

Notice that nowhere is mentioned the establishing or building of a religious organization.

Ephesians chapter 4 does mention "building".

Ephesians 4:11

11 And he (*Christ*) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Turn to Matthew 20

Who gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers? Christ did. The church did not give them, nor did any organized religion.

In 1 Corinthians 12, it says that God appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets and third teachers. How did he do this? By way of Christ!

When it comes to Godly service, we have the example of Jesus himself and his words which he spoke about service and authority to his apostles.

Matthew 20:25

25 But Jesus called them (*his apostles*) to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It **shall not be so among you**. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

God appointed the apostles, prophets and teachers to be first IN SERVICE; He called and sent them to SERVE, NOT to be served.

Turn back to 1 Timothy 1

Who is to do the building? The saints! What are the visionaries supposed to be doing? Equipping the saints so that THEY can do the building; specifically building up the body of Christ (not the bride).

As the visionaries become completely equipped for every good work, walking in newness of life by

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way of the operation of holy spirit, they labor, they serve, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ. The saints, the believers, are to function in the body of Christ by way of the newly created spiritual self, by the operation of holy spirit. In this manner the body of Christ is built up and made strong to declare the manifold wisdom of God to the devil spirit realm, among other things.

Turn to 1 Timothy 1

The apostle Paul's ministry, his writings, the gospel of God and the mystery it reveals, brings life, grace, peace, justification, righteousness and the power of God to those who are called.

Nothing mentioned here has anything to do with religion or religious organizations. The accomplishments of Jesus Christ set people free from the bondage, the slavery, of religion and religious commandments contained in ordinances.

Therefore, none of the spiritual knowledge, wisdom, guidance or instruction contained in the epistles to Timothy can be correctly applied to the establishment or functioning of any aspect of religion or religious authority in any day or time.

Christ Jesus is the end of the law, any religious law. None of the epistles in the Bible are to be understood or handled as law of commandments contained in ordinances.

Timothy was called to serve as a visionary in the body of Christ who was trained by the apostle Paul.

1 Timothy 1:1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is interesting that Paul mentions his apostleship to Timothy who knows him so well. Paul received apostleship by the command of God and Christ Jesus. God is our savior by way of the accomplishments of his son, Jesus Christ. Christ Jesus is our hope; without the reality of his existence and functioning as Lord and savior, the head of his body, we have no future, nothing to look forward to, and then all our labor would be useless. He IS our hope.

God has provided grace and mercy for us by way of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. As a result we have wonderful peace from God and from His son. We have peace between the believers and God, not between the believers and the world. You can check Luke 12:49 – 53.

Now, to whom is this epistle written? It is directly addressed to Timothy. Paul taught Timothy and worked with him for several years as they moved the gospel of God and ministered within the body of Christ together. Timothy had become to Paul a true child in the faith of Jesus Christ. They had endeared themselves to each other as a father and son in the Lord.

This relationship was personal between Paul and Timothy. There is no license here for the establishment of any tradition of addressing a believer as “father” or “child” or “son”.

As we will see, this epistle is addressed to Timothy in regards to his service in the body of Christ as a visionary. It deals with specific assignments which Paul delegated to Timothy and guidance

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regarding specific issues that needed to be addressed.

Is there truth and guidance regarding the functioning of visionaries within the body of Christ which can be applied today? Of course there is. However, these two epistles are not a complete curriculum on how to function in the body of Christ as an apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelists and shepherds. They do not answer every question that may arise in regards to the service of a visionary in the church.

These epistles are **part** of a curriculum, which, if handled correctly, will serve to completely equip the visionary for every good work. It does not say that it will completely answer every question regarding the service of a visionary.

Furthermore, in Philippians 4:9 it is written:

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me (Paul) —practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

What the believers learned was how to walk in newness of life. What they received was salvation, Christ in them, the love of God and the power of God in operation. What they saw in Paul was his example of living a life of love, service, and walking in newness of life. Now this record is in the context of “...the peace of God which surpasses understanding...” guarding your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Paul taught, ministered, and shared his life as an example, so that Timothy and others could serve with peaceful hearts and minds.

This epistle of 1 Timothy is as much about Paul as it is about Timothy. It is a record of two visionaries working together to effectively serve in the body of Christ. We should not view one man as being greater than the other, because they are both identified with Christ, they both have Christ in them and the same authority and ability to effectively manifest the power of God in the locations where they are both serving.

Paul is strengthening his fellow worker so that he can serve with great strength and peace.

1 Timothy 1:3

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,

If you read Acts and these epistles it is clear that Timothy was of great help to Paul in his service. If it were possible, Paul would rather have Timothy with him than being away on assignment. Both men are submitting to the will of God and are following the spiritual word of knowledge and word of wisdom regarding this assignment for Timothy.

Paul is reminding Timothy of his assignment to remain at Ephesus for the purpose of giving a charge to certain people who are functioning as teachers, not to teach any different doctrine. It is very instructive here that Timothy was not ordered to stop these people from teaching! They were to correct themselves and continue to serve as teachers of the gospel of the grace of God!

Turn to Acts 20

Now this epistle to Timothy was written about 8 or 9 years after Paul's last meeting with the elders of Ephesus. The record of this meeting is in Acts 20.

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Acts 20:17

**17** Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

**18** And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

**19** serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

**20** how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

**21** testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul reminded the elders of his service there in Ephesus. He taught them everything that was profitable, both in public and in private. These elders had been fully instructed in the gospel of the grace of God, in the mystery, and how to walk by the spirit.

Acts 20:25

**25** And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. (*Paul revealed to them that they would never see each other again*).

**26** Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you,

**27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

As a watchman, Paul had completely declared to the believers in Ephesus the whole counsel of God – everything that God commanded Paul to teach them. Therefore he was innocent of their blood. If they chose not to listen and heed the counsel of God which Paul had imparted to them, then the consequences were on their own heads.

Acts 20:28

**28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to **all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God (*not your church, not Paul's church*), which he obtained ~~with his own blood~~ (through the blood of His own).

**29** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

**30** and from among your own selves (*the elders*) will arise men speaking twisted things, (*why?*) to draw away the disciples after them.

**31** Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.

Turn back to 1 Timothy 1.

Paul prepared the elders of Ephesus for the spiritual attack which was forming against them and which would be confronting them. They were to pay attention to themselves and to all the flock. This requires diligence and hard work. Some among the elders, who knew better, would arise and

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begin speaking twisted things. They were not attempting to bring people into freedom or bring them to the Lord, or to see the power of God move. They were seeking to draw the disciples, in bondage, after themselves.

So, WHO was responsible to deal with this spiritual attack? The elders of Ephesus! Who needed help when the attack came about? The elders of Ephesus.

This is the nature of the spiritual attack which is unfolding at Ephesus, which Timothy is assigned to confront and deal with. Timothy was sent to HELP those serving in the body of Christ in Ephesus. He had specific assignments to HELP fend off this spiritual attack; he needs strengthening, encouragement and a peaceful mind and heart.

### 1 Timothy 1:3

3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may (*warn, admonish and*) charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship (*administration*) from God that is by faith.

These teachers were devoted to just talking, holding forth opinions about the gospel of the grace of God – there was no action, no genuine spiritual functioning produced. The endless genealogies was an activity which the older believers used to indicate who was superior, due to their length of time as a believer. This even involved tracing back the family ancestors who had stood as well. This practice is still prevalent in some denominations today. The believers were becoming divided by these practices; speculation was promoted instead of walking by the spirit. What the teachers are to promote is the gospel of the grace of God and how to walk by the spirit.

### 1 Timothy 1:5

5 The aim (*purpose, goal*) of our (*instruction and*) charge is love that issues from a pure heart (*this is in the new spiritual self*) and a good conscience (*sound mind – remember, we have the mind of Christ*) and a sincere faith (*sincere – no hidden agenda, no hypocrisy in our christian practice, which is walking in newness of life, walking by the spirit*).

The aim, the goal of Timothy's assignment is to open their eyes so that they can turn away from the power of Satan to God and His power. They have been deceived and have been ensnared in bondage. Timothy must expose and deal with the deceiving spirits, spirits of slumber and spirits of error in pursuing this goal.

### 1 Timothy 1:6

6 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion (*purposeless talk – again, no action*), 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding (*no more sound mind*) either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

These false teachers had forgotten the gospel of God, the mystery, and were no longer walking by the spirit. They were no longer sound minded as they were desiring to teach religion, to bring people into bondage under religious law. Paul is exposing the functioning of the spirits of error, slumber and bondage which have captivated these persons.

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These certain people were to be confronted, admonished, instructed and charged by young Timothy. The goal was that they would turn from their wanderings and desires of the flesh, and return to walking by the spirit manifesting love from a pure heart and a sound mind. As he works Timothy will encounter the spiritual causes of the error and bondage. As he walks by the new self of the spirit, he will be ready with the power of God to bring deliverance to these people.

### 1 Timothy 1:8

**8** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,  
**9** understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just (*that's us, the believers; the law has nothing to do with us*) but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,  
**10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine (*the gospel of God, the mystery, etc.*),  
**11** in accordance with the gospel of the glory (*the exercised power*) of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

Timothy has been instructed with words of wisdom which will enable him to confront the religious legalism which was beginning to run rampant in the area. There were believers who had been hurt by these false teachings who needed healing and teaching to help strengthen them.

Paul was entrusted with the gospel of God. He is a visionary who served by example. Here he shares his story of his salvation and what Christ did for him.

### 1 Timothy 1:12

**12** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, (*again, Paul was appointed as an apostle by the Lord and no other. Service requires great spiritual strength which comes from the Lord.*)  
**13** though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,  
**14** and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.  
**15** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am the foremost.**  
**16** But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.  
**17** To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Timothy did not have a sordid background like Paul. In Paul the **perfect patience of Jesus Christ** was on display as an example to those who were to believe. This should speak loudly to anyone called and strengthened to serve as a visionary in the body of Christ. Jesus Christ has perfect patience with all of us. He even has patience with the “certain persons” referred to in this epistle! So, as Timothy started out to carry out his assignment, he can have peaceful certainty regarding

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the patience of Jesus Christ. Timothy is not required to walk perfectly – he will make mistakes at times, which is why we have grace and mercy from God and from Jesus Christ.

Even with his sordid background, Paul was entrusted with the gospel of the Grace of God. Now Paul is entrusting this assignment to Timothy, who never did anything resembling the wickedness Paul had done in his past. Timothy can walk with peaceful confidence, knowing that he walks with the authority of Christ in Him.

### 1 Timothy 1:18

**18** This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, Prophecies had been made about Timothy – in accordance with these prophecies, by holding them in his sound mind, Timothy is urged to wage the good warfare. This is a spiritual battle which Timothy is to wage as he walks by the spirit, not the flesh. He is to remember who he is, holding on to the word of God which had been addressed to him and about him.

Timothy was not going into battle against people, against the flesh, but against “...the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places...” as it says in Ephesians 6:12. We are not in an athletic competition with these forces of evil, we are at war with them. They are at work 24 hours a day 7 days a week to wipe out the word of God and its impact. That includes you and me. Paul made sure that Timothy knew what he was getting into and that he was mentally and spiritually strengthened and prepared to prevail.

### 1 Timothy 1:19

**19** holding faith (*the christian practice, walking by the spirit*) and a good conscience (*sound mind*). By rejecting this (*rejecting walking by the spirit, having a sound mind*), some have made shipwreck of their faith,

**20** among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

“Shipwreck” indicates that they have utterly ruined their christian practice by their rejection of walking by the spirit, and rejection of the sound mind of the new spiritual self. Paul is teaching Timothy that he may not be able to fix all the problems he encounters. He is dealing with people, some who may prove to be unworkable. It can be quite a blow to a man or a woman who is walking in love, to encounter believers who do not want help, who do not want to recover themselves from bondage. It can be a shock to receive revelation, spiritual wisdom, to hand someone over to Satan. So, Paul is preparing Timothy for these things; Paul has traveled this road before and is teaching by example.

There is another account of this term in 1 Corinthians 5:5

**5** you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit (*the new spiritual self*) may be saved in the day of the Lord.

The believers in Corinth were charged to do this, it was their responsibility to carry it out, not Paul.

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Turn to Romans 6

What is it to hand someone over to Satan?

Lets consider the record in Romans 6

Romans 6:15

**15** What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

**16** Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

**17** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

**18** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

We are no longer enslaved and in bondage to the rulership of sin and the flesh. But, after we became born again, we decide by the freedom of our will to become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6:19

**19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members (*your old self of the flesh*) as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members (*your new self of the spirit*) as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

It is by the freedom of our will as we walk in newness of life, to present our members, our selves as slaves of righteousness. This is what we are doing as we walk by the spirit.

This verse is very encouraging to me, because it shows that we all have the capability to walk by the spirit. In the same manner in which we presented ourselves to lawlessness, we now present ourselves to righteousness. It's the same process, the same mechanism; the difference is that we are yielding ourselves to a different Lord!

Romans 6:20

**20** For when you (*the old self of the flesh*) were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (*we had no righteousness at all*)

**21** But what fruit (*benefit, result*) were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

**22** But now that you (*the new self of the spirit*) have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit (*the benefit, result*) you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. (*In the flesh? No, in the newly created spiritual self*)

**23** For the wages of sin is death, (*Where? In the flesh!*) but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*remember we have Christ in us, the new self of the spirit*)

If a person chronically rejects walking by the spirit, with a sound mind, deciding instead to be ruled by the flesh, what can anyone do for that person? Nothing at all! We are beings with freedom of will. If someone decides that they do not want the word of God from us or anyone else, there is

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nothing that can be done except to part company with that person.

There can come a point when God shows you that there is nothing more you can do for that person but walk away. That means no prayer, no word of God, no contact. They are then free to receive their wages which are paid out from the god of this world. That is what it is to “hand someone over to Satan”; it's nothing magical or mystical.

The decision to completely part company with someone is not something to be decided by physical appearances. It is a decision to be made as you walk by the spirit. When you part company, you also leave behind any hurt feelings, anger, animosity, or grudges. That sort of weight is not something that we should carry. The devil would love for us to hang on to past hurt, as it will continue to hurt and hinder us in our walk with God.

So far we have learned from Paul's that service requires spiritual strengthening from the Lord. The visionaries are to be first in service, not in rulership over the believers.

In 1 Timothy, Paul has provided a wonderful example of what it is to lovingly strengthen and prepare a fellow worker for service in the body of Christ.

Finally, we learned that Paul had been the foremost sinner; as such he received mercy so that Jesus Christ could display his perfect patience as an example to us! If Jesus Christ can work so mightily in a man like Paul, do you think he will have any difficulty or objection to work mightily in us? Would he love us any less than Paul? Of course not!

Jesus Christ has just as much perfect patience with the believers of today as he did in the first century. Lets remember that as we serve with great strength and peace of mind, in the body of Christ.