

“THROUGH THEM MAY YOU FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT”

The First Letter to Timothy

Who wrote The First Letter to Timothy?

The First Letter to Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul.

How did The First Letter to Timothy get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The First Letter to Timothy was named for its recipient, Timothy, Paul's disciple who was the pastoral administrator of the community at Ephesus.

When did these events take place?

The First Letter to Timothy was written while Paul was in Macedonia sometime after 60 A.D.

For more about The First Letter to Timothy:

See page 1306 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

If you ever get the chance, take a look at what happens in the back of the bowling alley. Or, ask if you can glance into the kitchen of a busy restaurant. What you will quickly realize in either case is that the quiet, smooth and efficient operation you see out front doesn't happen by accident. A lot of planning, skill, energy and time is expended to make the presentation you see out front look simple. Behind the scenes, every move is for a reason. Wasting time is not an option. If a problem is detected, it is addressed immediately or the whole operation might shut down.

Have you ever thought of your parish this way? We come to church on Sunday to join as a community at Mass, and, there he is, our pastor, serving as celebrant and encouraging us from the pulpit. But to a lot of us, that's the only way we can picture him. It's as if our handshake and pleasantries after Mass allow us to forget his importance again until next Sunday. It all seems so peaceful and so simple. It all seems so pastoral. Actually, it isn't!

The First Letter of Paul to Timothy reveals that it has never been that simple, that quiet or that easy. Like your pastor is today, Timothy was faced with many challenges with his congregation in Ephesus. Paul recognized this and, like our current Bishops do, wrote Timothy this first letter of encouragement to “keep up the good fight.” Much of the content in this first letter to Timothy is no different than the content your pastor probably receives from the Bishop in your diocese several times a year. It dealt with the details of the roles of different ministers, the importance of prayer and warnings about the need to follow old traditions and practices. Paul even addresses the rules for widows, ministers, slaves and masters. Paul concludes his letter with some advice for how to teach about wealth and what God expects of us as good stewards. Most importantly, the First Letter to Timothy advises him to beware of false teaching and to be sure to counter it with determination.

The next time you hear your pastor caution your parish community about the evils like abortion and euthanasia, or even the greed and envy that are all around us today, think of him as a modern day Timothy.

Interesting Fact: The Latin term for “those who shepherd a flock” is pastores. That is why we call our parish priest a pastor.

Bonus Point: Where in the First Letter to Timothy does it say that women should not adorn themselves with pearls?