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## How then shall we live?

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As we recognise that Jesus is the only Saviour, Mediator, and King, how should we respond?

### **Be concerned about the teaching of the church**

If we are to be a healthy church which makes disciples, we need to make sure the gospel is preached, and sound doctrine is taught.

“As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine.” (1 Timothy 1:3)

### **Be concerned about the prayer life of the church**

If we are to be a healthy church which makes disciples, we need to make sure that we are praying for the freedom to preach the gospel and for fruit.

“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

### **Be concerned about the leadership of the church**

If we are to be a healthy church which makes disciples, we need to make sure that we have men who are qualified as elders.

“(If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?)” (1 Timothy 3:5)

### **Be concerned about the godliness of the church**

If we are to be a healthy church which makes disciples, we need to make sure that we are living godly lives that do not damage the witness of the church.

“I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household...” (1 Timothy 3:15)

# THE BIG READ – 1 TIMOTHY

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## Introduction

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The New Testament begins with the four Gospels which tell the story of Jesus’ earthly life, and Acts which traces the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome.

The remainder of the New Testament is made up of epistles or letters that were sent to individual Christians or churches. These letters addressed specific situations in the lives of believers and local churches, and through them we are taught how to live as God’s people in response to what Christ has done for us.

1 Timothy is the first of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote which are known as the Pastoral Epistles. The Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) are the only letters addressed to individuals in positions of church leadership.

Timothy, who this letter is addressed to, was converted during Paul’s first missionary journey when he visited Lystra. He had a godly mother and grandmother who taught him the Scriptures (see 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15), but it was after hearing Paul preach the gospel that he put his trust in Jesus, which is why Paul often refers to Timothy as his ‘son’ (see 1 Timothy 1:2, 18).

When Paul returned to Lystra on his next missionary journey, he found that Timothy had made such progress in the faith, that he took him with him as his apprentice, and later co-worker (see Acts 16:1-3).

Fast forward the years to AD62. Paul had been released from his two-year imprisonment in Rome (where the book of Acts ends) and has travelled to Macedonia. It is from here that he writes this letter to Timothy who had been left behind in Ephesus to pastor the local church there.

This was a tricky assignment. Why?

The false teaching, which Paul had previously warned the elders at Ephesus about (see Acts 20:29-30), had infiltrated the church (see 1 Timothy 1:3-4, 6-7).

The source of the false teaching was two of the elders, Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom Paul had already excommunicated (either in person or by giving instructions to the church). But the false teaching had not gone away with their removal, and the church was being distracted by it from its mission of making disciples.

Something needed to be done, and it was Timothy's job to do it.

### **The purpose of 1 Timothy**

Paul wrote this letter to encourage Timothy to get on with the job of sorting out the church for the sake of the gospel, and to instruct him how he was to go about doing this.

### **The story of 1 Timothy**

There are four parts of the letter, and in each part, Paul instructs Timothy how he is to sort out the church.

#### *Chapters 1-2: By fighting for the gospel*

Paul instructs Timothy to fight for the gospel (see 1 Timothy 1:18-19) by silencing the false teachers (see 1 Timothy 1:3), by leading the church to pray for all people, especially those in authority (see 1 Timothy 2:1-2), and by teaching the church how to display the gospel (see 1 Timothy 2:8-15).

#### *Chapters 3-4: By appointing appropriate leaders*

Paul instructs Timothy to appoint appropriate leaders – elders who are supported by deacons. Good leadership is vital if the church is going to be focussed on its mission of making disciples, so Paul outlines the qualities elders (see 1 Timothy 3:1-7) and deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13) are to have.

#### *Chapters 5:1-6:10: By teaching the church how to be godly*

Paul instructs Timothy to teach the church how to be godly.

He focuses on 5 areas of life where the church's witness could be damaged:

- a) their relationship with one another (see 1 Timothy 5:1-2)
- b) their relationship with those in need (see 1 Timothy 5:3)
- c) their relationship with the elders (see 1 Timothy 5:17)
- d) their attitude to work (see 1 Timothy 6:1)
- e) their attitude to money (see 1 Timothy 6:10)

#### *Chapters 6:11-21: By setting an example to follow*

Paul finishes off the letter by instructing Timothy to set an example for the church to follow (see 1 Timothy 6:11-12, 1 Timothy 4:12).

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## **Jesus in 1 Timothy**

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Jesus is revealed in 1 Timothy as the only Saviour, Mediator, and King.

### **He is the only Saviour**

If Jesus can save Paul, He can save anyone (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

He can save you and me!

### **He is the only Mediator**

There is a problem between God and us, that is caused by our sin. The perfect mediator needs to be able to represent both God and man perfectly. Only Jesus who is fully God and fully man can do this (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

### **He is the only King**

Jesus is the King of the church, ruling His people through His Word. The church is ruled by King Jesus, whose voice is heard through the faithful preaching of His Word by His appointed servants. This is what Paul was, and what he calls Timothy to be (1 Timothy 2:7).