



THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

16A

1 TIMOTHY

SESSION 16A

THE SITUATION IN EPHESUS

- (Historical setting and repetition in the Pastorals lend credibility to their authenticity.)
- Acts 20:30 is being fulfilled – this is not just an infiltration (as with Galatia and Corinth), but a mutiny.
 - The very leaders they had put in place were now leading the flock astray.
- *Thoughts from Gordon Fee's commentary.*

OVERVIEW OF TIMOTHY'S JOB IN EPHESUS

- (1) Stop the false teachers
 - (1a) Order them to stop
 - (1b) Rebuke publicly those that continue
- (2) Replace those who won't stop with true teachers
- (3) Set the example of true teaching and living yourself
 - (3a) Teach, teach, teach
 - (3b) Watch *yourself* and your teaching

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER?

- To encourage Timothy to carry out this difficult task
- To give him Paul's authority to carry it out with, if needed, which is why the letter is not just a personal one to Timothy, but also to the church.
 - The final verse: The Lord be with your (SINGULAR) spirit. Grace be with you (PLURAL).
- Paul's apostolic credentials being mentioned is a sign that this is for more than Timothy – Paul mentions this when necessary or contested.

EXPLORING 1 TIMOTHY

- How do the parts fit with the whole?
- What do we learn about Timothy?

REMINDERS OF THE PAST FOR THE CHALLENGE OF THE PRESENT

- 1 Tim. 1:18-20 – Prophecies to fight the good fight [possibly at baptism]
- 1 Tim. 4:11-16 – Prophetic utterance and laying on of hands by board of elders, spiritual gift within him [at his sending]
- 1 Tim 6:11-16 – The good confession, and “fight the good fight” [at his baptism]

INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 2

- Instructions for men and women – Why? What is he counteracting?
- Men exhibiting wrath and dissension (not respectful of authority or concerned about the reputation of the church to the world)
- Women, particularly the prominent and widows, may be giving place to the false teachers and voicing their error (note the lack of directly speaking to marriage but the church role, the contrast to Paul's other statements in 1 Cor. 11:5, cf. 5:1-16 regarding widows)

INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

- Elders and deacons are determined by qualities that were a demonstration of integrity to the surrounding culture.
- This is in contrast to what was going on – the church was falling into disrepute because of the erring lives of the elders.
- In contrast to having spiritual giftedness being the requirement, here it is necessary to see demonstrated spiritual character to bear this role, this “fine work”.

INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 4

- The “later times” are here:
 - These “liars” are the deceived elders.
 - They are perpetrating the words of demons in the form of:
 - Asceticism – forbidden marriage and certain foods
 - Worldly fables (probably referring back to the endless genealogies and speculations of Ch. 1)

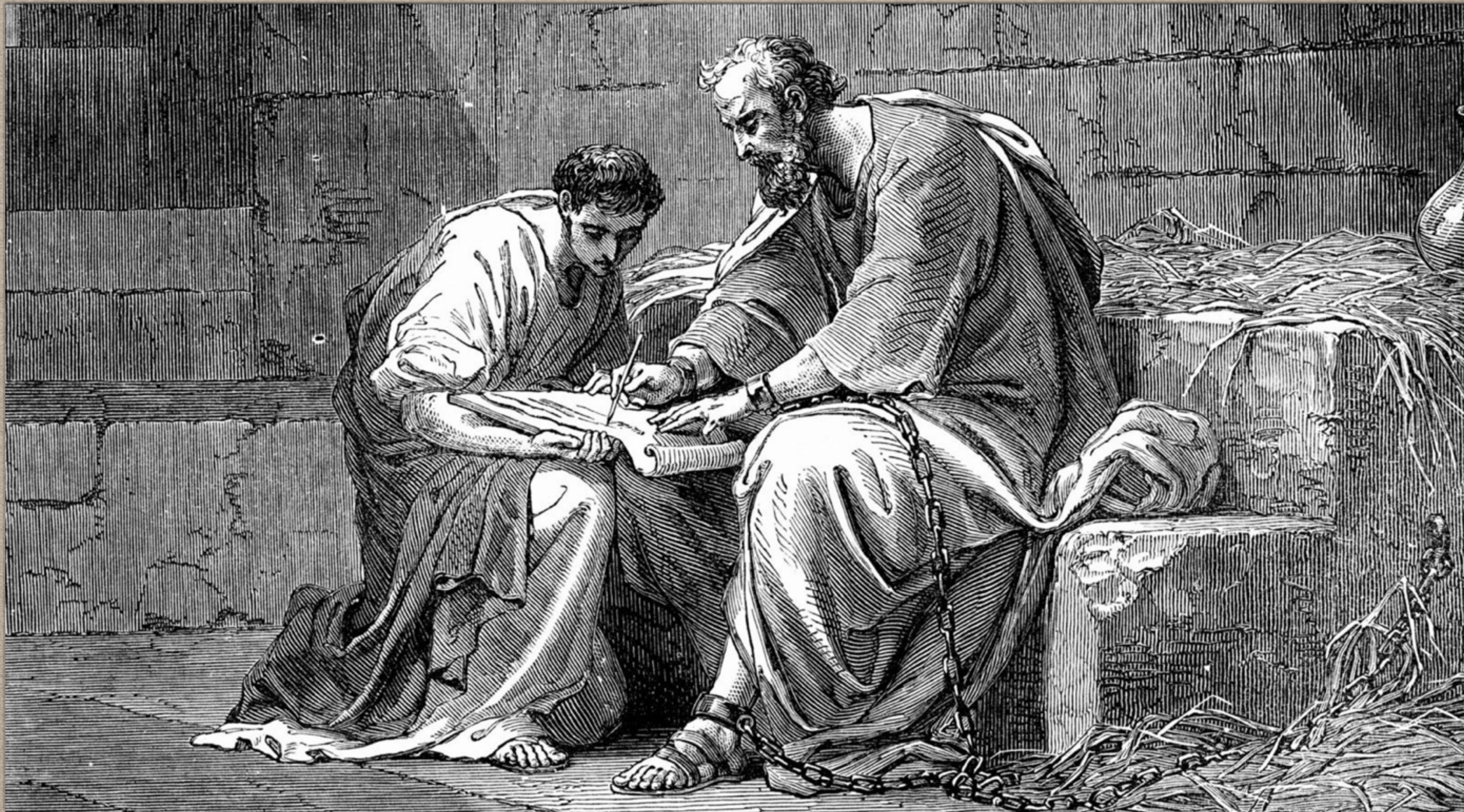
INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 5

- **Widows:** Curb the "busybody", pleasure seeking, idleness. Genuine widows should be cared for, but the church should be the last on the list. Younger widows should be useful in the home environment rather than pursuing the other things, which is giving place to the false teachers.
- **Elders:** Reward the good ones (especially if they work hard at this). Rebuke the erring that continue in sin. Don't be too quick to replace them. Your stomach has probably been in knots for months now.

INTEGRATING 1 TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 6

- More warnings against these erring leaders, in terms of: The reputation of true teaching to those outside, the content of the teaching to those inside, the root problem of greed for many of them.
- Final appeal to Timothy in this letter ends with a charge and doxology.
- Instructions for the rich.
- Summary closing.

ANYTHING FROM EPHESIANS?



THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

16A