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Structural Analysis of 1 Timothy via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: 1:1-2
- A. To Timothy, true son in the faith
- B. Paul, and apostle by commandment
- Paul encourages Timothy with such language as “son in the faith”. We have no records of Paul having children, so Timothy appears to have been taken under Paul’s wing like a son, having a close relationship as between a son and father in the faith.
- II. REMAIN IN EPHESUS 1:3-11
- A. Charge to remain in Ephesus in order to correct
1. There is no other doctrine than that which has been taught
 2. Avoid fables
 3. Avoid genealogies
 4. Stick only to what leads to godly edification (love, pure, good conscience)
- Paul reminds that there are no teachings other than those of sound doctrine that Timothy is already well aware of. He is to avoid new teaching and not go down rabbit trails that some are starting to think up to no profit of the hearers.
- B. Some have strayed
1. Idle talkers
 2. Desiring to teach but understanding nothing
 - i. Thinking they know something (prideful, arrogant)
 3. The law is good only is used correctly
(to point out sin)
 4. They are unholy, profane, contrary to sound doctrine
- The danger Paul speaks of here is that the false teachers actually think they are right. It is not simply the case of a fraudster selling an idea to make a quick buck (although some still may), but instead, these teachers have truly bought into the false ideas they’ve conjured up in their own depraved minds.
- III. THANKFUL/CHARGE TO PRAY 1:12-2:15
- A. Paul is thankful that God enabled him and put him into ministry
1. Being formerly a sinner
 - i. Having received mercy
 - ii. Previously ignorant
 2. Christ came to save sinners, Paul saying he’s the worst
 3. Paul was shown mercy so that he could witness to others concerning God’s mercy
- Paul presents a great reminder here, that he was a sinner, even persecuting and killing Christians – in Paul’s mind the worst of sinners. This seems unforgiveable. Who better to be forgiven with Christ’s great love and to be able to testify to this amazing forgiveness to the Gentiles, than Paul.
- B. Glory be to God, the King, Eternal, Alone wise
1. Some have shipwrecked their faith (thinking themselves wiser than God)
- Paul speaks here of the idea that man’s wisdom is folly compared to God’s. False teachers have claimed and advanced wisdom, this was the reason they were able to “discover” some new understanding of Scripture, but in reality, their perceived wisdom was simply foolishness.
- C. Pray for all men
1. Pray for kings/leaders
 2. Pray for a peaceable and quiet life

3. Pray for all men (God desires all to be saved)
Reminder that there is One God, One Mediator – Christ.
Christ gave Himself up for man/all.
This is Paul's message he preaches to the Gentiles.
4. Women to be modest and in propriety

IV. CHURCH LEADERSHIP 3:1-13-4:16

A. Bishop/Elders and Deacons

1. Desiring to be an elder is a good thing
2. Requirements for elders:
 - Blameless • one wife • temperate • not greedy • not covetous • not a novice • sober minded • good behavior • hospitable • gentle • rules home well • not prideful • able to teach • not a drunk • not violent • not quarrelsome • children submit with reverence • good testimony

3. Requirements for Deacons:

- Reverent • not greedy • blameless • not double-tongued • pure conscience • not drunk • first tested • wives reverent – not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things • husbands of one wife • ruling children and house well.

While differing slightly, both elders and deacons have specific requirements that many in the general membership within the church body may not be able to meet. If these qualifications were to be faithfully required in the church today, I wonder how many issues might be avoided at the onset.

B. Paul writes this in case he is delayed 3:14

C. False Teachers (disapproved)

1. Some will depart from the faith
 - i. Follow deceiving spirits
 - ii. Doctrines of demons
 - iii. Hypocrites, without conscience
 - iv. Placing false restrictions on foods and marriage

Paul provides unique insight into the spiritual battle at play here. It is not just that mankind has invented his own alternative to sound doctrine, in some cases demons have introduced false doctrine which has been readily accepted by men.

D. Teach the things I have taught you

1. Reject old wife's tales
2. Exercise towards godliness, this is profitable
3. Be an example in faith and conduct.
4. Read, exhort, give attention to doctrine
5. Do not neglect God's gifting
6. Meditate on and give yourself fully to these things.

Paul reminds Timothy, of all the things you can discuss and meditate on, ignore that which does not lift up or encourage, stick to sound doctrine and meditate on it.

V. GENERAL PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION 5:1-6:19

A. Relationships

1. Treat older men as fathers
2. Treat younger men as brothers
3. Treat older women as mothers
4. Treat younger women as sisters

Treat everyone with kindness and honor, as family – either older as a parent, or younger as a sibling.

B. Honor

1. True Widows

- i. Her family/children should first care for widows
- ii. Don't provide for widows until 60
- iii. Don't provide for widows who are worldly
- iv. Widow's families are responsible for them if still around

Paul's intent here was to prevent the abuse of the church either by widows who were capable of working, nonbelievers, or who had children who were more than able to responsibly take care of their mothers but were choosing to burden the church with the task instead, placing the burden on the congregation. It's one thing to provide a helping hand, it's another to be taken advantage of.

2. Elders who serve well

- i. Accusations against need 2-3 witnesses

C. Rebuke those who are sinning

- 1. Without partiality – treat all the same

D. Do not hastily commit support or fellowship or sin

E. Permissible to have a little wine for health

F. Reminder that all sin becomes evident, nothing remains hidden

- 1. Some shows now
- 2. Some shows later on, but all shows

G. Bondservants should serve well, especially other believers

H. False teachers are proud

- 1. Knowing nothing, seeking gain, obsessed with evil things.
- 2. Stay away from them.

I. Learn to be content

- 1. Do not love money
- 2. Pursue righteousness
- 3. Focus on your eternal life (not this worldly one)
- 4. Keep this charge/command until Christ returns

The last several exonerations were fairly self-explanatory – be content with your circumstances, remaining that way until Christ's second coming.

VI. CONCLUSION

6:20-21

A. Guard what has been entrusted to you (the gospel, sound doctrine)

B. Avoid idle babblings and false knowledge (they waste time and tear down rather than build up).

C. Grace be with you. Amen.