

January 27, 2013
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 Timothy 1:1-2

“A Glorious Greeting”

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a “Pastoral Epistle”? How many are there? In what sense are they different from other New Testament Epistles? What do we have to keep in mind when interpreting and applying the Pastoral Epistles?
2. Most letters begin with a “salutation.” Since people are so familiar with salutations they can mentally “skip” them when reading. Why would that be a mistake when it comes to Scripture? (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
3. How is the salutation in 1 Timothy similar to other salutations Paul wrote? How is it different?
4. What is an “apostle”? Were there different levels of New Testament “apostles”? Why did Paul emphasize that he was an apostle in the salutation? How would this help Timothy with his responsibilities in Ephesus?
5. The word “commandment” in v. 1 refers to a royal command that is not negotiable, but mandatory. Who made the decision for Paul to be an apostle? Did Paul have any say in the matter? (Compare Jeremiah 1:5) What impact does that have on your concept of God’s sovereignty?
6. The commandment for Paul to be an apostle came both from God and Christ Jesus. What does this say about the deity of Jesus? Why is this important in dealing with the false teaching in Ephesus?
7. God is called our Savior and Jesus is called our hope. What is the significance of these terms? Do you normally think of the Father as our Savior? What is the Father’s role in our salvation? What does the word “hope” mean? How is Jesus our hope? What other New Testament passages speak of our hope in Christ? How does that hope impact the way you live right now?
8. Who was Timothy? How did he come to saving faith? What was his relationship like with Paul? How long had he been ministering with Paul by the time this letter was written? What other difficult assignments had he been given prior to this one? (See Acts 14:6ff; 16:1ff; 17:13-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4; Rom. 16:21; 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1; Phile 1; 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thess. 3:2; Phil. 2:19)
9. Why would Paul call Timothy a “true child in *the* faith”? Is it possible to be an illegitimate child in the faith? What examples of this do you see in 1 Timothy and other parts of the New Testament?
10. Are you a true child in the faith? If not, what needs to change in your life to become one? If so, who influenced you the most to become a true child in the faith?
11. Paul ends the salutation with “Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” Are those just filler words? If not, what is the significance of those words to any true believer? What impact should each of those words have on our lives? How do they help us when doing battle with false teachers and negative influences in the local church?
12. Reading Assignment: **Read 1 Timothy every day this coming week.** Write down questions that come to your mind. Send your best questions to Pastor Paul so he can answer them in upcoming sermons or in blogs.