

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle (one who is sent as an ambassador, emissary, on an official mission) **of Christ Jesus** (Paul used this way to speak of the Lord; the other apostles used Jesus Christ) **by command of** (Gk. literally, by royal commission) **God our Savior** (Normally we think of the Son as the Savior, which of course he is. But since God is Trinity in unity, all members of the Trinity in some way participate in the divine works of God, even though the role of One Member of the Trinity plays a dominant role in a specific action. For instance, God the Father planned salvation in eternity past, God the Son purchased our redemption and God the Spirit applies the salvation to our hearts in regeneration. Or more succinctly - The Father planned it, the Son purchased it and the Spirit applies it, "it" of course is our salvation. Puritan writer John Owen helps us understand the interrelationship of the Trinity writing that "Everything God does He does as the triune God. Each Person of the Trinity is involved in every action of God. Yet at the same time each Person has a special role to fulfill in that work...)

and of Christ Jesus our hope, (The literal rendering that describes "Christ Jesus our hope" is a beautiful truth, for what Paul is saying is that hope is not a vague, abstract concept but ultimately finds its very essence and fulfillment in the Person, Christ Jesus. Jesus is the basis of our hope of all things. Indeed "As God is the Author of our salvation, so Christ is the embodiment of our Hope.")

***AUTHORITY:** In the salutation, Paul declares his apostolic authority—and therefore, the authority of the letter itself. It is not simply a personal friendship of the letter, even though it is written to Timothy. Instead, it is official in nature: to certify to those with whom Timothy is dealing that the instructions it contains are authoritative and that Timothy is authorized to act as the personal delegate of Paul himself.

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith (one he has nurtured and disciplined who has not abandoned him): **Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Grace, mercy, and peace are the three sisters of salvation. In these three words we have the gospel in capsule form. They sum up our complete salvation in Jesus Christ.

Grace is the foundation of our redemption, mercy is the manifestation of our redemption, and peace is the consummation.

Grace points to the past—our salvation goes back "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). Mercy speaks of the present—it is manifested to us day by day. And peace is the consummation because it makes our future secure.

Grace is receiving what we do not deserve. Mercy is not receiving what we do deserve. We deserve to go to hell, but by His mercy we shall never go there. We do not deserve to go to heaven, but by grace we'll spend eternity there. Grace justifies. Mercy pardons. Grace admits us to heaven. Mercy saves us from hell. The death of Christ was enough to pardon us in mercy, but it took the resurrection to effect our justification. He "was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification" (Rm 4:25).)

And now, by faith, we have “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rm 5:1).

***PURPOSE:** To deal with a once-great and influential church that had now been infiltrated by false teachers and false teachings by shoring up and instructing Timothy how to handle the situation. At the time of the writing, Timothy faced increasing opposition from those within the church who had rejected his leadership, rejected the truth of Scripture, and embraced—and were teaching—false doctrine and he was ready to give up and leave.

Eusebius wrote that Timothy was later beaten to death by a mob in Ephesus because of he followed through on the instructions of Paul and opposed the idolatrous immorality of the worship of Diana.

Warning Against False Teachers

³ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship^[a] from God that is by faith. ⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers,^[a] liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound^[a] doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

Christ Jesus Came to Save Sinners

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.^[a] Amen.

¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.