

1 Timothy

First Timothy gives Timothy instruction for confronting false teaching and ordering worship, leadership, care, wealth, and the guarding of the entrusted message.



Interpretive reconstruction. The scene shows the recipient context without visualizing Paul or turning a proposed post-Acts itinerary into a recorded journey.

Date · Confidence: Inferred
c. AD 62–64

The letter does not identify the city from which it was written, Acts does not narrate the proposed release or later itinerary, and other direct-Pauline chronologies place it nearer AD 65.

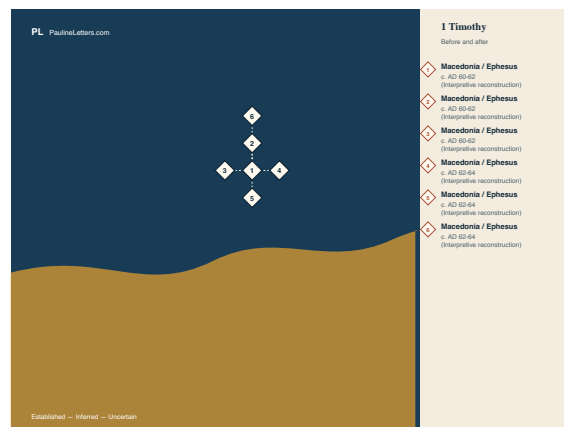
Place · Confidence: Inferred

The letter presents Paul going into Macedonia after leaving Timothy in Ephesus. The traditional post-Acts reconstruction shown here places it around AD 62–64.

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Before and after

- 1 **c. AD 60–62** Philemon says that Paul is sending Onesimus back to Philemon. Overlapping names with Colossians suggest a connection but do not establish a shared delivery, completed route, or prison city.
· Inferred
- 2 **c. AD 60–62** Ephesians presents union with Christ and Jew–Gentile unity. Direct Pauline authorship, destination, and prison setting are debated.
· Inferred
- 3 **c. AD 60–62** Philippians presents imprisonment as advancing the gospel and includes the Christ hymn. The prison city is debated.
· Inferred
- 4 **c. AD 62–64** On a traditional direct-Pauline reading of 1 Timothy and Titus, their letter settings imply post-Acts ministry: Timothy in Ephesus, Titus in Crete, and a winter plan at Nicopolis. Acts narrates neither a release nor the itinerary, and Nicopolis is not a composition city.
· Inferred
- 5 **c. AD 62–64** First Timothy presents Timothy in Ephesus; direct Pauline authorship and the proposed post-Acts itinerary are debated.
· Inferred
- 6 **c. AD 62–64** Titus presents Titus in Crete to appoint elders; direct Pauline authorship and the proposed post-Acts itinerary are debated.
· Inferred



What the text establishes

Established

First Timothy gives Timothy instruction for confronting false teaching and ordering worship, leadership, care, wealth, and the guarding of the entrusted message.

The immediate recipient is Timothy, portrayed as serving among believers in Ephesus rather than as a letter addressed to one whole congregation.

Leading reconstruction

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Other credible readings

Most critical scholarship sees First Timothy as written after Paul's lifetime by an author working in Pauline tradition, often citing vocabulary, church order, and itinerary.

A ten-minute teaching plan

1. First Timothy gives Timothy instruction for confronting false teaching and ordering worship, leadership, care, wealth, and the guarding of the entrusted message.
2. The traditional chronology puts First Timothy after Roman house arrest and near Titus, before the final Roman setting associated with Second Timothy.
3. The letter presents Paul going into Macedonia after leaving Timothy in Ephesus. The traditional post-Acts reconstruction shown here places it around AD 62–64.
4. Most critical scholarship sees First Timothy as written after Paul's lifetime by an author working in Pauline tradition, often citing vocabulary, church order, and itinerary.

Primary texts

Romans through Philemon, World English Bible (public domain).

Acts 7–28, World English Bible (public domain).

Sources

Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Doubleday, 1997). — Chapter 30, “Pastoral Letter: The First to Timothy,” “General Analysis of the Message”
Brown surveys the letter's argument and pastoral occasion.

Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, *Paul: A Critical Life* (Oxford University Press, 1996). — Chapter 1, “The Chronological Framework,” “The Evidence from the Pauline Letters” and “The Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles”

Murphy-O'Connor explains why chronology must weigh the letters and Acts without treating either as a complete timetable.

Scripture references only; no protected Scripture body is included.

<https://paulineletters.com/explore/1-timothy>

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Questions for discussion

Why was this letter written?

What is secure, and where do careful readers disagree?