

1st Timothy

Salutation

- Author [1:1]
 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, *who is* our hope,
 - The first word of this letter clearly identifies the author as Paul.
 - The “higher” critics assume that this was deceitfully done to make the audience believe this letter was from Paul, but there is no rational reason for making such an assumption.
 - As is his practice, Paul identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ [1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1; 2 Tim 1:1; Titus 1:1].
 - This is an affirmation of his authority over the matters of the Church that he will be addressing in this letter to Timothy.
 - Paul makes it clear that he is an apostle according to the Father’s commandment, not by his choice.
 - The phrase “God our Savior” harkens back to some O.T. passages [Psalm 106:21; Isa 45:15, 21], but is actually quite common in the pastorals [1 Tim 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3; 2:10; 3:4].
 - Paul adds that Jesus Christ also commanded that he would serve as an apostle [Gal 1:11-2:2].
 - He also affirms that Jesus Christ is the hope of everyone who has believed in Him [Col 1:25-27].
- Recipient [1:2]
 - To Timothy, my true child in *the* faith: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Paul clearly identifies the direct recipient of this letter as his protégé, Timothy.
 - It is obvious from the content of the letter that this was also intended as a message for congregations throughout Asia Minor.
 - Paul refers to Timothy as his true child in the faith.
 - Timothy was likely saved before he and Paul ever met [2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15], but Paul took him under his wing and mentored him in spiritual matters, so he thought of himself as Timothy’s spiritual father.
 - Paul completes the salutation with a fairly standard greeting.
 - He uses various forms of this greeting in all of his letters [Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Phil 1:2; 1 Th 1:1; 2 Th 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4; Phlm 3].