

PREFACE

The Bible expositions that formed the basis for this book were first preached during Sunday evening services in the early years of my pastoral ministry at Philadelphia's Tenth Presbyterian Church. Preaching through 1 Timothy was as much for my own benefit as it was for anyone else's. Like Timothy, I was just beginning to learn how to pastor a church by reading and preaching the Scriptures, defending sound doctrine, developing godly leadership, and caring spiritually for every member of God's household. To study this epistle was like sitting shoulder to shoulder with Timothy during his pastoral internship with the best of teachers: the apostle Paul.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to return to 1 Timothy and contribute this volume to the Reformed Expository Commentary. The original manuscript was greatly improved by suggestions from Rick Phillips, Iain Duguid, and Dan Doriani, who worked especially hard to make sure that my exegesis was informed by the best and latest scholarship. The following people also deserve special thanks: the session and congregation of Tenth Church, for their prayers, encouragement, and the gift of sabbatical time to complete a final revision of the manuscript; the staff at P&R Publishing, for their labors in bringing the book to press; and Lisa and the children, for their constant faith and abiding love. Together we are all members of the household of God, and confessors of "the mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16).

One special debt of gratitude remains. During the last year of my doctoral studies at Oxford University I traveled into London every Monday to listen to Dick Lucas lecture on preaching at the Cornhill Training Institute. For decades Reverend Lucas has had an influential preaching ministry at St. Helen's Bishopsgate, in the heart of London's financial district, and also more widely among evangelicals in England and America. By the

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grace of God, his ministry has been a model of excellence in Scripture exposition, and studying with him each week was an important part of my final preparation for gospel ministry. Reverend Lucas is also well known for his generous encouragement of younger ministers—a living example of what Paul said to Timothy: “Treat younger men like brothers” (1 Tim. 5:1). His willingness some years ago to read and comment on my exposition of 1 Timothy is typical of his kindness and commitment to expository preaching. To me and many others, he has been a true father in the faith.