A STUDY OF 1 TIMOTHY

FIGHT FOR GODLINESS

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Ephesus was one of Paul's most beloved churches. He spent over two years there ministering to and training the Ephesians (*Acts 19:10; 20:31*). Paul loved these people and cared for them deeply.

Timothy was one of Paul's closest friends and disciples. Paul took him along on his missionary journeys while Timothy was still a young man. Paul wrote that he had no one else like him *(Philippians 2:19-20)*. When one of Paul's churches had need for a personal visit and Paul could not personally go, he often sent Timothy in his stead *(1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10; Philippians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:2)*.

So, when Paul passed through Ephesus and discovered they had need for extra pastoral care and direction, it was perfectly natural that Paul would entrust this church to Timothy. The letter of 1 Timothy is Paul's direction to Timothy on how to address the issues he found in that church.





A LETTER FROM ONE PASTOR TO ANOTHER

So why should I care? 1 Timothy is basically a correspondence between two pastors talking shop. How do you confront bad teachers in the church? How do you structure a worship service? How do you set up leadership structures in a church? How should you handle different generations interacting in a church gathering?

What relevance could this letter possibly have for anyone not responsible for leading a church? Despite its target being a young pastor, this letter has abiding relevance for all believers, whatever role one plays in the local gathering of God's people. In setting out priorities for a young pastor, Paul gives the priorities for the church itself. It is far too easy for us to imagine that the direction and life of the church rests on the pastor's shoulders. In reality, God expects His church to function much more like a family or a body, with each part making a unique contribution to the whole. If the health and direction of our local church stirs little interest in us, perhaps we need to rediscover Jesus' heart for His people.

THE THINGS WE ARGUE ABOUT

Ironically, many disputes in the church move forward with little guidance sought from the Scriptures. 1 Timothy is a gold mine of wisdom and guidance from God on many of the issues that so perplex us today. How exactly should we handle controversies and wrong ideas that creep into the church (1 Timothy 1:3-11)? What should our priorities be when we gather for worship, and who should lead (1 Timothy 2:1-3:13)? How should different

generations interact with one another (*1 Timothy 5:1-21*)? These are not obscure leadership discussions that pertain only to pastors but are the kinds of questions that still trip up people in the church today. A remarkable number of our longstanding debates would be eased if we listened well to the direction Paul is providing Timothy in this inspired letter.

TIMOTHY'S CHURCH AND OURS

So as we move forward in studying Paul's letter of 1 Timothy, we must read with two simultaneous truths in mind. First of all, Ephesus in the first century is not America in the twenty-first century. Their problems were different from ours. We must look for clues to understand exactly what issues Paul is addressing in this early church, rather than applying verses blindly out of context.

The second truth is that our church is not so different from Timothy's. Humanity's basic needs and God's basic provisions have not changed. Therefore, the challenges Paul addresses in this letter will have many corresponding parallels to present-day circumstances, and the direction provided in 1 Timothy will serve as a guide when facing similar challenges today.

So, as readers we must travel back and forth between Timothy's world and ours. We must step into his time and listen in on his conversation with Paul. As insightful readers we look to follow the details of Paul's advice. However, through prayer and community discussion, we must make the journey back to today, asking how our church can be more faithful to Jesus Christ, who has saved us for Himself.

For further study, see the Outline of 1 Timothy in Appendix A.



DESIGN INSPIRATION

The theme for the 1 Timothy Study Journal is "Fight For Godliness." The inspiration for this theme comes from Paul's important instruction to his young apprentice, Timothy, to both "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12) and to "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11) as he shepherds the Ephesian church. He encourages Timothy to "fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience..." (1 Timothy 1:18-19) knowing that many serious challenges lay ahead. And yet, the Book of 1 Timothy is one of the most important, inciteful letters on Christian leadership in the church within the whole Bible. It provides a wealth of counsel on how to live godly lives as a part of Christ's Body, the Church. The theme of this journal is intended to bring out this juxtaposition in language within 1 Timothy. The words "Fight" and "Godliness" are very different in feeling and definition. In addition to this contrast, we also want to emphasize that pursuing godliness is a battle worth fighting, requiring daily commitment and submission to God's instruction through His Word and work of the Holy Spirit.

The design and artwork within this journal are intended to further accentuate the juxtaposition found in *"Fight For Godliness."* The high-contrast artwork consists of black and white photographs, ink paintings, and charcoal or graphite drawings. The color palette is predominantly black, white, gray, or neutrals to emphasize contrast and bring cohesion to all the pieces. The charcoal drawings and ink paintings are particularly noteworthy as they communicate the idea of a *"work in progress."* The pieces within this journal have been provided by Fellowship artists committed to communicating God's Truth through their craft. We are so thankful to Brandon Jennings, Caroline Wright, Chris Gross, and Liz Cox for their incredible, generous leadership (*see page 84 for more details*).

HOW TO USE THIS JOJRNAL

THE PURPOSE

The accurate study and application of God's Word, the Bible, is a foundational part of the Christian life. The challenge of 2 Peter 3:18 is to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," and that is exactly what the 1 Timothy Study Journal is designed to help you do. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul instructs the young pastor that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." A careful, intentional study of 1 Timothy will help you mature as a follower of Jesus. It will help you express the real Jesus where you live, work, and play.

THE PLAN

The 1 Timothy Journal is designed to help you understand and apply the Scriptures accurately to your life using the Inductive Bible Study Method. This method helps you make key observations in a passage of scripture, interpret it within its proper context, and then apply it to daily life. For a brief introduction to Inductive Bible Study, The Training Center of Fellowship Bible Church has prepared a helpful video to get you started. You can watch the video at **fellowshipnwa.org/ltimothy** or simply scan the QR code with your smart phone camera to access the link.



5 1

Additionally, The Training Center offers Personal Bible Study, a class that goes much deeper into this method of study. If you have not yet taken this class, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible to experience the riches that come from intentional exploration of God's written Word. Visit **trainingcenternwa.org/events** to sign up for a Personal Bible Study class today or contact our Training Center team at **training@fellowshipnwa.org** for more information.

THE PARTICULARS

The 1 Timothy Study Journal is laid out in weekly sessions with resources for daily engagement. Each session includes the following:

- Contextual introduction to aid in the study of the week's passage.
- Scripture passage for the week formatted with plenty of space to record insights and responses.
- Inductive study prompts (*observation*, *interpretation*, *and application*) to help you systematically and thoughtfully engage with the passage, along with a "*Study Tips*" section to aid you if you get stuck.
- Daily reading guide for the week.
- Notes page for use in personal and small group study (*also a great place to record weekly sermon notes*).
- Discussion questions to help you process the passage in personal and small group settings.

Additional study resources can be found in the appendices of this book.

We invite you to use this journal in your personal time with God; take it to your small group; bring it when we gather for worship on the weekends. Our hope is that you will find this journal useful wherever you study 1 Timothy, and that you will discover how Paul's instruction and encouragement to Timothy can guide and encourage you today.

WEEK ONE

In Paul's opening, he challenges Timothy to stand firm in opposing those who teach falsehoods. What might this have looked like in Paul's day? There were any number of false teachings that would draw attention. Some of them outright denied the gospel by denying Jesus is the Son of God Incarnate who died for sins. Others led astray not by denying the gospel but by distracting from it. Obscure and controversial topics have a certain allure. They are exciting and give the hearers the sense that they have *"insider information"* that others lack. The gospel Paul preached was public and available to everyone, so any hint of secret knowledge should be suspect.

A particular controversy in the early church was the place of the law of Moses from the Hebrew Scriptures (*Old Testament*). What role should those rules and regulations play in Christ's church?

Notice as you read that Paul's primary counter to these teachings is not to tear them apart but to highlight *"sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel."* Look for the marks of the true teaching that Timothy is to be an advocate for, and think about how we advocate for that same gospel today.

WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

² To Timothy my true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

TIMOTHY CHARGED TO OPPOSE FALSE TEACHERS

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

What does this passage tell you about God, others, and yourself? How could you respond in faith today?

NOTES

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 1:1-11
- T 2 Timothy 1:1-8
- **W** 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- **FH** Ephesians 4:11-16
- **F** Galatians 3:10-14

STUDY TIPS

In verses 3-7, Paul gives commands and the reasons for those commands. Try listing both the commands and reasons aiven.

This passage lists several qualities of false teaching and several qualities of good teaching. Make a list of each group to get a sense of how they differ.



QUESTIONS



- 1. What does the passage teach us about the relationship between Paul and Timothy? What can we learn about our spiritual relationships from them?
- 2. In the opening portion of this letter, what was the challenge that Paul issued to the young pastor named Timothy? Why is this important to the church?
- 3. What are the outcomes or results of teaching false doctrine or speculation? Have you ever observed this in real life?
- 4. How would you classify something as orthodox (*sound doctrine*) or heresy (*false doctrine*)?
- 5. What is the proper role of God's law? Who is it made for? How can it help them?

WEEK TWO

1 Timothy 1:12-17 is one of the most moving testimonies to God's grace. Read it slowly, considering the details of Paul's story. Consider how your story may parallel the grace shown to Paul.

Paul's challenge to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:18-20) is to press on in faithfulness. Paul uses military metaphors about fighting here. A key point to notice is that Paul does not direct the military fighting language against other people. When we adapt this language today, we must be careful not to make ourselves out to be warriors against some evil "they" out there. Elsewhere, Paul will say that our battle is not against flesh and blood (*Ephesians 6:12*). The greatest threat to the church does not come from those outside the church but from disloyalty to Christ within the church.

PAUL'S STORY & TIMOTHY'S CHARGE

WEEK TWO 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

THE LORD'S GRACE TO PAUL

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CHARGE TO TIMOTHY RENEWED

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, ¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

What does this passage tell you about God, others, and yourself? How could you respond in faith today?

NOTES

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 1:12-20
- T Hebrews 12:1-3
- W Galations 5:16-25
- TH John 15:1-5
- **F** Joshua 24:14-18

STUDY TIPS

This testimony of God's grace is filled with descriptions of actions and character qualities that bring home the impact of the story. First, list how Paul describes himself and how Paul describes Christ.

Second, list the actions Christ has taken on Paul's behalf.







- 2. What do you think the *"trustworthy saying"* found in verse 15 can teach us?
- 3. What is Timothy commanded to do in verses 18-19? What are some reasons that people lose the battle for being faithful in their walk with Jesus?
- 4. In contrast to Paul's example and Timothy's challenge, there are two other characters in this passage. Who are they and why did Paul use them as examples?
- 5. In your experience, what are some things that help you stay faithful on your spiritual journey?





WEEK THREE

In this section, Paul turns his attention to directing Timothy on what believers should do when they gather, and his emphasis is on prayer. Note the particulars of how we are to pray and why we are to pray.

The increasing tension in the Roman Empire around Judaism and Christ-followers likely stands in the background of this passage. In Jerusalem, fervor was growing for a revolt against Rome. The early church was decidedly against participating in this revolution *(which led to disastrous results for Israel in AD 70)*. In Rome persecution was starting to rise or would soon rise up against Christians under the reign of Emperor Nero *(AD 54-68)*.

So as we read about Paul's vision for a praying church in the midst of a public life, consider well the context of this church. Consider how Paul encourages them to interact with a government and culture prepared to attack and even kill them.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

PART ONE **INSTRUCTIONS** ON WORSH IP

WEEK THREE 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

INSTRUCTIONS ON WORSHIP

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

⁸ Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

What does this passage tell you about God, others, and yourself? How could you respond in faith today?

NOTES

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- **T** Philippians 4:6-7
- W Acts 12:1-16
- **TH** Acts 4:1-12
- F John 14:6-7

STUDY TIPS

This passage starts and ends with related commands in verses 1 and 8. What is the connection between the two verses?

In verses 2-7, Paul gives the reasons for the commands. What reasons does Paul give?







- 1. In Paul's call to prayer, what is the tone of the request? Who should we pray for? Who specifically is mentioned and why is this important?
- 2. What is the effect of prayer on our heart?
- 3. How does God feel about prayer? Why do you think this is true?
- 4. Verses 4-6 describe both the breadth of God's love and the narrow pathway to salvation. How can God be both inclusive and exclusive all at the same time?
- 5. Paul, who was a follower of Christ with a Hebrew background, lived in a secular Roman world. What was the goal of his prayer and ministry? Why is this significant?

WEEK FOUR

Few passages in Paul's letters cause as much controversy and discussion today as his instruction on the roles of men and women in the community of the church. Multiple difficulties face us in reading his texts on this subject.

First of all, there are multiple texts addressing women's leadership in the church, most of them positive and celebrating women leading. Numerous leadership roles and influences are described! One in three people greeted in Romans were women. They were benefactors and disciples of Jesus (*Luke* 8:1-3, 10:38-42). Women served as patrons/benefactors of church planting (*Mary in Jerusalem, Acts 12:12; Nympha in Laodicea, Colossians 4:15; Lydia in Philippi, Acts 16:14-15).* Women exercised teaching and leadership consulting roles (*Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26*). Women were prophets (*Acts 21:9),* prayer leaders (*1 Corinthians 11:5*), evangelists (*Philippians 4:2-3*), deaconesses (*Romans 16:1; 1 Timothy 3:11*), and teachers (*Titus 2:3-5*).

There are only three core texts that prescribe what a woman can or cannot do in church leadership: 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Interpreting the prescriptive passages in light of the larger descriptive context honors women and focuses on what a woman can do, rather than what they cannot do.

What we find in the New Testament is a dramatic shift from the practice of Jewish Rabbis at the time. Women had been forbidden to learn under Rabbis, but Jesus broke from this tradition in teaching women and engaging with their questions. ¹ So this passage simultaneously invites women into the learning and discipleship community alongside men in a new way while still reserving the teaching role for men. It is the challenge of the 21st century church to learn to honor the leadership value given to women in the New Testament while also honoring the distinction in gender roles presented in passages like this one.

¹ Yarbrough, Robert W. *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. Edited by D. A. Carson. Pillar New Testament Commentary. (Grand Rapids, MI; London: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos, 2018), 170.



1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

INSTRUCTIONS ON WORSHIP

PART TWO

WEEK FOUR 1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.
¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.
¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

What does this passage tell you about God, others, and yourself? How could you respond in faith today?

NOTES

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 2:9-15
- **T** Genesis 1:26-31
- W Genesis 2:18-25
- TH Genesis 3:1-20
- **F** Ephesians 5:21-33

STUDY TIPS

List the verbs in this passage and attempt to define each of them.

Looking at verse 13, what is the significance of the word "for"?






QUESTIONS

- 1. What is modesty and why is it important? What were the 1st century modesty standards? What would be an example of a modesty standard for today?
- 2. Which does the instruction on modesty emphasize more: the internal character or the external appearance? Why do you think this is important?
- 3. Before we discuss the passage on women, why do you think this is a sensitive subject and why is it important to discuss? What is the primary or central issue in the passage? Is it authority in the church or quietness? What argument does Paul use to support his assertion?
- 4. Is it possible to have distinction in gender roles for the home and church while maintaining equality and value? Explain.
- 5. Verse 15 has perplexed many Bible teachers. What are some possible interpretations of this verse? What are some things the verse could not possibly mean?

WEEK FIVE

Here, Paul describes the qualifications of overseers and deacons, two roles of leadership designated in the early church. Notice two keys as you read.

First, aspiring to these roles is a noble goal for everyone. The attributes described here are not just for leaders in the church. All of these character traits are prescribed for all believers. So it is inappropriate for any Christian to skip over this list and say, *"This only applies to leadership."*

Second, the primary focus of leadership qualification is not talent or skill but Christlike character. On lists like these, it is easy to skim quickly, but great fruit can come from reading slowly and reflecting on each attribute listed.

INSTRUCTIONS ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13



QUALIFICATIONS FOR OVERSEERS AND DEACONS

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

⁸ In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

¹¹ In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

¹² A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- **T** Titus 1:5-9
- W 2 Peter 1:5-11
- TH Hebrews 13:17
- **F** 1 Peter 5:1-9

STUDY TIPS

When we encounter lists like these, it is easy to go into skim mode, quickly reading through the list. Slow down and list each character quality and attempt to define each one

Thinking through each quality, ask God to give you insights into your own character and how you might grow.





QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the two offices of church leadership mentioned in the passage? What is your understanding of the differences between these two roles?
- 2. What does the passage focus on more: qualifications or functions of the two offices? Why do you think the passage put the spotlight there?
- 3. What are the qualifications for church leadership? Overseer *(Elder)*? Deacon?
- 4. If you were to use the qualifications for church leadership as an evaluation tool for yourself, how would you measure up? If this were a list for all of us to aspire to, where do you need to focus the most?
- 5. Why are godly elders so essential to church health?

WEEK SIX

Notice that verses 14-15 highlight again Paul's primary purpose for writing. This connects back to chapter 1 verse 3 where Paul mentioned his reason for this letter. Both sections highlight the need to stand against false teaching in the church.

A similar pattern emerges from chapter 1 where the central truth of the gospel of Jesus (1 Timothy 3:16) is contrasted against the silly controversial teachings being put forward by others (1 Timothy 4:3). Verses 4-5 stand as a positive statement as to how the church should receive gifts from God.

Legalism is often defined as any rule created by humans apart from God's Word and made binding on others. These extra rules and teachings threaten to hamper the gospel itself, less by outright denial than by distraction and weakening.

THE CHURCH AMIDST APOSTASY 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5



REASONS FOR PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. ¹⁶ Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

CH.4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- T Ephesians 3:14-20
- **W** 2 Timothy 2:15-26
- **TH** 1 John 2:18-27
- **F** 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

STUDY TIPS

This passage contrasts good doctrine and bad doctrine. What are the marks of good doctrine you see? List or number them.

Though we don't know the details of the false teaching Timothy was facing, we can begin to sketch it out. What elements of the false teaching does Paul describe?







QUESTIONS

- 1. Why did Paul write this letter to Timothy? What was the central focus of his instruction?
- 2. The passage forecasts that some people will abandon the faith. According to the passage, what are some reasons people will leave the faith? In your experience, what causes people to abandon the faith?
- 3. What is the difference between someone who rejects the faith or denies the Lord and someone who falls into temptation for a time?
- 4. Have you experienced someone teaching that certain foods or experiences are *"forbidden*" even though the Scriptures do not teach that standard?
- 5. How can prayer, the Word, and consecration guide us in whether to partake or not partake in certain foods or experiences?

WEEK SEVEN

This section prescribes what Timothy's primary responsibility is as a pastor. It could be summed up in the words of 1 Timothy 4:16 – "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

If this is what Paul expected of Timothy, what ought we to expect of our leadership? It could be a fruitful devotional exercise to compare the things we want from our church leadership with what Paul prescribed. What do we celebrate in our church? Do we guard these things in our own lives?





WEEK SEVEN 1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 4:6-16
- T 2 Timothy 2:1-10
- W Ephesians 1:18-23
- TH Hebrews 4:12
- **F** Titus 2:1-15

STUDY TIPS

The end of chapter 4 is full of commands for Timothy. Number the commands you see in the passage. Then slowly read through each one.

As an interpretive step, attempt to summarize the priorities Paul gives Timothy in these commands This process will help you get an overall feel for the passage.





- 1. In this letter, called a pastoral epistle, Timothy is instructed about how to minister to the church. According to verse 6, what should be the source of Timothy's training or nourishment?
- 2. Paul encourages Timothy to pursue training in godliness over myths and even physical training. How can one be trained in godliness?
- 3. How can godliness offer hope for the life to come?
- 4. As a young man in ministry, what was he told to do concerning his age?
- 5. What was Timothy encouraged to focus on in verses 11-16?



WEEK EIGHT

This section is interesting in its multiple directions. Notice that it is expected that the church will be filled with people from multiple different phases of life and life circumstances, and the church is expected to behave like a family, wisely accommodating the needs of its people based on where they are. Notice that the church became its own *"social safety net"* ready to help those who were in a helpless situation.

A useful exercise would be to list each different group addressed and the instructions and provisions given for each. Then consider the different groups present in your own church family. Do the same varieties exist?

EADING VARIOUS CHURCH MEMBERS 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

WEEK EIGHT 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

WIDOWS, ELDERS, AND SLAVES

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

³ Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁵ The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. 8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known

for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

¹¹ As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. ¹² Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. ¹³ Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. ¹⁴ So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵ Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

¹⁶ If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the...

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

CONTINUED WEEK EIGHT 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

...church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

¹⁸ For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." ¹⁹ Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. ²⁰ But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. ²¹ I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

²³ Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

²⁴ The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. ²⁵ In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden forever.

CH. 6 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. ²Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves. These are the things you are to teach and insist on.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2
- T Mark 12:28-31
- W James 1:22-27
- TH 1 Kings 17:7-24
- **F** 1 Peter 1:1-9

STUDY TIPS

This chapter gives specific instructions for different groups in the church. Put a box around each group as they are introduced to help distinguish the sections.

Make comparisons and contrasts between the commands given to different groups. How does the focus change?





QUESTIONS

- 1. Paul gave Timothy relational coaching for which types of people in the church?
- 2. How should Timothy relate to older men/women? Younger men/women? Why on each one?
- 3. How does God feel about caring for widows? What are some specific instructions on caring for widows?
- 4. How should Timothy treat his elders as they lead the church?
- 5. What are Paul's instructions for slaves and masters?

WEEK NINE

This passage follows a regular biblical theme of connecting false teaching to greed. Paul is going to have some harsh words to say about seeking to get rich. However, verses 17-19 will describe a godly life of wealth. The issue is not wealth versus poverty but rather greed versus contentment. It is the obsessive seeking of wealth that is the problem. Paul charts a path for godliness in wealth that includes hoping in God for all things and a life of generosity.



WARNING AGAINST HERESY & GREED

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10, 17-19

WEEK NINE 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10, 17-19

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

V. 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 6:3-10
- **T** 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- **W** Matthew 16:24-27
- **TH** Matthew 19:16-26
- **F** Matthew 25:14-30

STUDY TIPS

This passage gives several cause and effect relationships where one thing leads to another. Identify the causes and effects. Think on the significance of these relationships.

Note and list the commands given in verses 17-19.





QUESTIONS

- 1. According to verses 3-5, what is the motivation for and result of false teaching?
- 2. What is the secret of finding contentment?
- 3. How can greed be a trap in our lives?
- 4. Is having money or using money wrong? Why is the *"love of"* money a root of all kinds of evil?
- 5. What are the instructions for the rich in verses 17-19? Why are these critical to understand?

WEEK TEN

This final section is Paul's charge to Timothy to continue in faithfulness. It includes a series of commands to Timothy: *"Flee"* from sin and *"pursue"* the things of God (1 Timothy 6:11). *"Fight the good fight of faith"* and *"Take hold of eternal life"* (1 Timothy 6:12). Finally, Timothy is commanded to *"guard"* what has been entrusted to him (1 Timothy 6:20). In the early church, the New Testament had not been written and circulated. The teachings about Jesus, his life, death and resurrection were all entrusted to local church leaders orally, and they were to be guardians of that truth. The Christian faith was seen as a confession, a body of truth to be passed on from one generation to the next, and as Paul coaches Timothy he wants to ensure that transferral goes well.
CHARGE: FAITHFULLY PURSUE GODLINESS 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21



FINAL CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

OBSERVATION

Notice key words, people, actions, and ideas. Notice connections and relationships.

INTERPRETATION

Write down questions you have about the passage's meaning. Look to see if the answers can be found in the context.

APPLICATION

What does this passage tell you about God, others, and yourself? How could you respond in faith today?

NOTES

DAILY READING

- M 1 Timothy 6:11-21
- T Acts 20:28-31
- W Romans 5:1-5
- TH Psalm 103
- **F** 2 Timothy 1:13-14

STUDY TIPS

Observe how Paul's tone shifts in verses 11-16. What feeling does this passage have?

How do verses 20-21 summarize the message of the letter?



QUESTIONS



- 2. What do you think it means to *"fight the good fight of the faith"*?
- 3. Verses 12-14 are a call for Timothy to persevere in the faith and the ministry. What are some pressures that cause some ministers to give up? What are some challenges that cause believers to *"opt out"* of the faith?
- 4. Verses 14-15 contain a beautiful description of God. How is He described here?
- 5. The book closes with a challenge for young pastor, Timothy. What is it and why do you think Paul closed the letter so intensely?





OUTLINE OF 1 TIMOTHY

APPENDIX A

Ι.	SALUTATION 1 Timothy 1:1-2
Π.	NEGATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: STOP THE FALSE TEACHERS 1 Timothy 1:3-20
	A. Warning Against False Teachers 1 Timothy 1:3-11
	1. The Charge to Timothy Stated 1 Timothy 1:3
	2. Their Wrong Use of the Law 1 Timothy 1:4-7
	3. The Right Use of the Law 1 Timothy 1:8-11
	B. Paul's Experience of Grace 1 Timothy 1:12-17
	C. The Charge to Timothy Repeated 1 Timothy 1:18-20
	POSITIVE INSTRUCTIONS: REPAIR THE CHURCH 1 Timothy 2:1-6:10
	A. Restoring the Conduct of the Church 1 Timothy 2:1–3:16
	1. Instructions on Public Worship 1 Timothy 2:1-15
	a. Concerning Prayer 1 Timothy 2:1-7
	b. Concerning the Role of Men and Women 1 Timothy 2:8-15
	1) Men: Pray in a Holy Manner 1 Timothy 2:8
	2) Women: Quiet Conduct 1 Timothy 2:9-15
	2. Instructions on Church Leadership 1 Timothy 3:1-13
	a. Qualifications of Overseers 1 Timothy 3:1-7
	b. Qualifications of Deacons 1 Timothy 3:8-13
	3. Summary 1 Timothy 3:14-16
	a. Conduct of the Church 1 Timothy 3:14-15
	b. Hymn to Christ 1 Timothy 3:16

B. Guarding the Truth in the Church 1 Timothy 4:1-16

- 1. In the Face of Apostasy 1 Timothy 4:1-5
- 2. Timothy's Personal Responsibilities 1 Timothy 4:6-16

C. Dealing with Groups in the Church 1 Timothy 5:1–6:10

- 1. Men and Women, Young and Old 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- 2. Widows 1 Timothy 5:3-16
 - a. Older Widows 1 Timothy 5:3-10
 - b. Younger Widows 1 Timothy 5:11-16
- 3. Elders 1 Timothy 5:17-25
 - a. The Reward of Elders 1 Timothy 5:17-18
 - b. The Reputation of Elders 1 Timothy 5:19-20
 - 1) The Reputation of Elders Protected 1 Timothy 5:19
 - 2) The Sins of Elders Publicly Rebuked 1 Timothy 5:20
 - c. The Recognition of Prospective Elders 1 Timothy 5:21-25
- 4. Slaves 1 Timothy 6:1-2
- 5. False Teachers 1 Timothy 6:3-10

IV. PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS: PURSUE GODLINESS 1 Timothy 6:11-21

- A. Fight the Good Fight 1 Timothy 6:11-16
- B. A Final Word to the Wealthy 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- C. Guard What Has Been Entrusted 1 Timothy 6:20-21

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Daniel Wallace, bible.org

TOOLBOX RESOURCES

WORD STUDY AND THEOLOGICAL TOOLBOX

- 1. New Unger's Bible Dictionary, R. K. Harrison, ed. Moody
- 2. Baker's Encyclopedia of the Bible (2 vols.), W. Elwell, ed. Baker
- 3. V
- 4. *Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words*, W.E. Vine, ed. Revell
- 5. Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, W. Elwell, ed. Baker

HISTORICAL TOOLBOX

- 1. The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook (Hays and Duval, eds.), Baker
- 2. *A Popular Survey of the OT*, Norm Geisler, Wonder Book
- 3. New Testament Survey, Robert Gromacki, Baker
- 4. *Bible Knowledge Commentary (2 vols)*, Walvoord and Zuck, *(eds.)*, Victor
- 5. soniclight.com

GOOD BIBLE TRANSLATION

1. NASB, NIV, NET, ESV, NKJV

GEOGRAPHICAL TOOLBOX

1. Baker's Encyclopedia of the Bible (2 vols), W. Elwell (ed.), Baker

- 2. *NIV Atlas of the Bible*, C. Rasmussen, Zondervan
- 3. Bible Maps (in the back of most Bibles)
- 4. bibleplaces.com
- 5. preservingbibletimes.org

CULTURAL TOOLBOX

- 1. *NIV Application Commentary: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus,* W. L. Liefeld. Zondervan
- 2. *The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus*, J. R. W. Stott. Inter-Varsity Press
- 3. *Preaching the Word: 1-2 Timothy & Titus: To Guard the Deposit,* R. K. Hughes & B. Chapell. Crossway
- 4. *IVP Bible Background Commentary* (Old and New Testament available), Keener (ed), IV Press

ARTISTS

Brandon Jennings *

Fellowship Mosaic Artist for Week Three and Six

Caroline Wright

Fellowship Bentonville (FSM) Artist for Week Four and Nine

Chris Gross * Fellowship Rogers

Artist for Week Two

Liz Cox *

Fellowship Rogers

Artist for Week One, Five, Seven, Eight, and Ten

* Member of Spectra

Spectra is a community of Northwest Arkansas Christian Artists all with the same goals. We seek to fellowship with like-minded artisans and create art as a way to praise, serve, and foster spiritual growth. We typically meet each month to encourage one another and collaborate. We also install themed gallery exhibits regularly with the hope of inspiring the viewer toward deeper reflection of God's goodness.

For more information, contact spectra@fellowshipnwa.org.