



GOD-SHAPED CHURCH

1 TIMOTHY

ev/youth

1 TIMOTHY: GOD-SHAPED CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

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Week 5	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Respectable Leaders
Week 6	1 Timothy 3:14-4:16	Protecting God's Household
Week 7	1 Timothy 5:1-16	Individualised Love
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble on printed out passage each week to get your head around it.
- Write down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by his Spirit, through his word.

2. Gteams and Youth

- Take this guide with you to your Gteam each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your gteam.
- Ask your leader the questions that you wrote down during the week

"I am writing you these instructions so that, 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" (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

Who's Timothy?

Timothy was the pastor at the church in Ephesus appointed by the apostle Paul.

Timothy was a young man whom Paul met on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:4-14-27). Timothy's Jewish mother and grandmother were both believers, but not his Greek father (2 Timothy 1:5 and Acts 16:1). Paul and Timothy's relationship was warm and close, so that Paul would often call Timothy his "son" or "my true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2:1).

Paul often took Timothy along on special assignments to difficult ministries such as Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1-10), Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:17), Macedonia (Acts 19:22), Philippi (Philippians 2:19-24) and, as shown in this letter, to Ephesus.

Why was 1 Timothy written?

Timothy was facing intense opposition in Ephesus. Paul wrote these instructions to encourage Timothy to stand for and proclaim the truth (1 Timothy 1:3, 18, 19; 6:11-16).

Various issues of misconduct within the church seem to have arisen as a result of false teaching (e.g. 1 Timothy 5). It's a personal letter written to a dear friend and a mature Christian, who needed to know how to lead people in God's church.

For members of God's church today, there are great ways that this letter will help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

1 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. 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word. Connecting words join one idea to another, but they can do that in lots of different ways. Examples include “but”, “and”, “so”, “because” and “then”.

Highlight the themes. Pick, colour and find words and ideas that are repeated here. You can include opposite words in a single colour, if you think they're part of the same theme. For example, “false doctrines” (1:3) and “sound doctrine” (1:10) could be included in the same theme. Don't overthink it, just notice the connected themes.

Underline anything interesting you want to come back to later

?? Write a question mark where you get confused

DAY 1 - Stay In Ephesus!

Read: 1 Timothy 1:1-2

1. Why might Paul say these things about himself at this point in the letter?
2. Why might Paul say these things about Timothy at this point in the letter?
3. What do you think of the similarity between the beginning of verse 1 and the end of verse 2?

Prayer: Praise God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope for his grace, mercy and peace.

DAY 2 - Speculation Versus Faith

Read: 1 Timothy 1:3-4

1. What does Paul say Timothy's task is?
2. What do we learn about these "certain people" here?
3. Why could Paul be contrasting speculation with faith here?

Prayer: Thank God for the true doctrine we have in the Scriptures, which advances his work.

DAY 3 - Background

Read Acts 16:1-5 and Acts 19:1-41

1. What did you learn about Timothy in Acts 16?
2. What did you learn about Ephesus in Acts 19?

Prayer: Praise God for transforming lives (and for disrupting economies) by the gospel.

DAY 4 - A Command For Love

Read: 1 Timothy 1:5-7

1. What is the command Paul is talking about? (verse 3)
2. Where does love come from?
3. Where do meaningless talk (verse 6) and speculation (verse 4) come from?
4. How could Paul's command have love as its goal?

Prayer: Thank God for the beautiful fruit of the gospel.

DAY 5 - Using The Law Properly

Read: 1 Timothy 1:8-11

1. How similar is this list of lawbreakers to the list of laws in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7-21)?
2. How is the Law useful to sinners?
3. How does the Law (verses 8-10) help us towards to the gospel (verse 11)?

Prayer: Thank God for his good Law, and his good gospel.

¹² 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. 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.

Mark up the text

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DAY 1 - I Was Shown Mercy

Read: 1 Timothy 1:12-14

1. What does Paul say about his past life?
2. What does Paul say about his present life?
3. In what sense could Paul have been considered “trustworthy” when he was a blasphemer, persecutor and a violent man?

Prayer: Thank God for his mercy, that he treats us better than we deserve.

DAY 2 - The First Trustworthy Saying

Read: 1 Timothy 1:15

Read the other four “trustworthy sayings” in 1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Timothy (4:8-9 or 4:9-10); 2 Timothy 2:11-13; Titus 3:4-8.

1. What is so “trustworthy” about this saying in 1 Timothy 1:15, that it’s worth highlighting by Paul?
2. Why might Paul mention it at this point in 1 Timothy?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for Christ’s coming into the world to save us – sinners.

DAY 3 - I Was Shown Mercy (part 2)

Read: 1 Timothy 1:16

1. Which very reason does “that very reason” refer to in verse 16?
2. Why was Paul shown mercy in verse 16 and also in verse 13?

Prayer: Thank God for his mercy again, that he treats us better than we deserve.

DAY 4 - The King

Read: 1 Timothy 1:17

1. How is this verse similar to, and different to 1 Timothy 6:15-16?
2. What do each of these key words mean here?
 - king
 - eternal
 - immortal
 - invisible
 - honour
 - only
 - glory
 - forever and ever
 - amen
3. What is it about the verses before verse 17 that make it fit right here?

Prayer: Pray verse 17.

DAY 5 - Fight The Battle Well

Read: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

1. Which command is Paul talking about in verse 18?
2. Why does Paul give Timothy this command?
3. What lesson does Paul want Timothy (and us) to learn from blasphemers like those in verse 20 and also in verses 9 and 13-16?

Prayer: Thank God for his patience with blasphemers.

2 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.

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DAY 1- God's Heart

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

1. The word “then” is being used here to connect Paul's urge with something from chapter 1. What could it be?
2. What is Timothy being urged to do?
3. Why is Timothy meant to pray for them?

Prayer: It's hard to think of anyone to pray for from today's passage...

DAY 2 - Good Pleases God

Read: 1 Timothy 2:3

1. What could "this" refer to in this passage? Could it be prayer (verse 1), quiet lives (verse 2), or something else?
2. What does this verse imply about God's character?
3. Paul seems convinced that God is good: God is our saviour (1:1), the source of grace, mercy and peace (1:2); his work is advanced by faith (1:4); it produces love, pure hearts, good consciences and sincere faith (1:5); his Law is good (1:8); the gospel of his glory produces beautiful lives (1:11); he gives strength for service (1:12); he shows sinners mercy (1:13); he pours out his grace, faith and love abundantly (1:14); he came to save sinners (1:15); he is patient with the worst sinners for the sake of other sinners (1:16); he wants us to pray for everyone (2:1-2); good things please him (2:3). Do you believe that God is good?

Prayer: Praise God for his goodness. Pray again for all people – those with authority and those under authority.

DAY 3 - What God Wants

Read: 1 Timothy 2:4

1. Who does the "who" refer to from this verse?
2. What does God want?
3. Do you want what God wants?

Prayer: Pray for what seems appropriate from this passage.

DAY 4 - One God and One Mediator

Read: 1 Timothy 2:5-6a

1. Go back from the start of chapter 2 and find every time the word "all" appears. What do you notice?

2. Verse 5 starts with the word "for". How does this passage (verses 5-6a) connect with verses 1-4?

Bonus question: What does Galatians 3:20 add to our understanding of 1 Timothy 2:5?

Prayer: Thank God that Christ gave himself for all of humanity, to reconcile us with him.

DAY 5 - Getting The Message Out

Read: 1 Timothy 2:6b-7

1. What does the word "this" refer to at the end of verse 6?

2. What does the word "this" refer to at the start of verse 7?

3. Is the "witnessing" (verse 6) the same as Paul's ministry as a herald (verse 7)? What is Paul's task?

Prayer: Thank God for ensuring that the news of Christ's ransom has spread to so many. Ask that it would continue to spread to all people.

⁸ Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹ 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word. Connecting words join one idea to another, but they can do that in lots of different ways. Examples include “but”, “and”, “so”, “because” and “then”.

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DAY 1 -

Quiet and Peaceful Lives

Read: 1 Timothy 2:8

Note: The Greek word “anthropos” can be translated as “man” or “mankind” or “people”. So “Man” can be describing someone’s gender (man rather than woman), or it can be describing someone as human. This word has been used a number of times so far in 1 Timothy to mean people generally.

The Greek word that definitely means “a male human” (not a woman) is the word “aner”. That’s the word used in this verse.

1. Who is this verse addressed to?
2. What does Paul want that group to do?
3. What is the “therefore” there for? How does verse 8 connect with the ideas that Paul has been talking about?

Prayer: Pray for the men. Pray they would live “quiet and peaceful lives.” That they would “pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing”.

DAY 2 - Quiet and Peaceful Lives (part 2)

Read: 1 Timothy 2:9-10

1. The word translated "woman" here ("gynaikos") is very clearly the female equivalent to "aner". It refers to female humans, women. What does Paul want women to do?
2. It makes sense to assume that Paul thinks this application for women somehow matches his desire for men in verse 8 as an application of living "peaceful and quiet lives" from verse 2. What similarities can you see?
3. What questions do you have about these two verses? Try and answer them!

Prayer: Pray that women who profess to worship God would "dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds".

DAY 3 - Quiet and Peaceful Lives (part 3)

Read: 1 Timothy 2:11-12

1. What are the basic instructions for women in these verses?
2. These are the second and third times "quietness" or "quiet" have come up in this chapter (2:2 has the first). In other places Paul encourages women to speak (1 Corinthians 11:4-5, 14:3-5, 12-19, 24-26, 31; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 5:9-10; 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15; Titus 2:3-5). What can't Paul mean by learning "in quietness" and "she must be quiet"?
3. What does he mean?

Prayer: Pray that the women in our church would "learn in quietness and full submission." That they would not "teach or assume authority over a man." That they would "be quiet."

DAY 4 - Quiet and Peaceful Lives (part 4)

Read: 1 Timothy 2:13-14

1. Do Paul's claims about Adam and Eve check out? (Genesis 2:7, 22, 3:6, 13)

2. Why would Paul go to Adam and Eve's order of creation to explain verse 12?

3. Why would Paul go to Adam and Eve's sin to explain verse 12?

Prayer: Thank God for his mercy to us beyond Eve's deception and Adam's sin. Ask that he'd cause us to do what is good, to live "quiet and peaceful lives" as men and women in his good creation.

DAY 5 - Quiet and Peaceful Lives (part 5)

Read: 1 Timothy 2:15

1. What other passages are there in the Bible (especially 1 Timothy) that explain how people are saved?

2. What connection is there between verse 14 and "childbearing"?

3. What can't this passage be saying about salvation for women? What could it be saying about salvation for women?

Prayer: Pray that women would live quiet and peaceful lives, and that through all of the particular challenges of life for women, they'd persevere in the faith and be saved.

3 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.

Mark up the text

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DAY 1 - Respectable Leaders

Read: 1 Timothy 3:1-3

1. What is the content of the trustworthy saying here?
2. What is noble about the task of the overseer of a church?
3. Why would each of these qualifications be important for an overseer?

Prayer: Pray that every overseer in every church, especially ours, would be "above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money."

DAY 2 - Managing His Own Family Well

Read: 1 Timothy 3:4-5

1. What must the overseer do from these verses?
2. Why is that important?
3. If an overseer's children don't obey him, what motivations (good and bad) might stop him being immediately removed from the role?

Prayer: Pray that every overseer in every church, especially ours, would manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and that he'd do so in a manner worthy of respect, and that he'd take care of God's church.

DAY 3 - Beware The Devil

Read: 1 Timothy 3:6-7

1. What are the two qualifications here?
2. What are the reasons for each of those qualifications?
3. Why might the devil be mentioned in each of these reasons?

Prayer: Pray that God would protect churches from appointing recent converts as overseers. Pray that every overseer in every church, especially ours, would be humble and have a good reputation with outsiders.

DAY 4 - Others Worthy Of Respect

Read: 1 Timothy 3:8-12

1. What qualifications are required of deacons?
2. The qualities God wants in the leaders and serving members of the church give a good indication of what God wants in every person in the church. Where do you see these qualities in your life?

Prayer: Pray that everyone serving as a deacon would fulfill these qualifications, and keep fulfilling them.

DAY 5 - Serving Well

Read: 1 Timothy 3:13

1. The word “served” here is the word “deaconed”... If that was an English word. They’ve deaconed well. What kind of excellent standing would be gained by deaconing well?
2. Why would someone like this gain great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus?

Prayer: Pray that all deacons would deacon well! And that they’d receive the things God has said they’d receive.

¹⁴ 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.

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. ⁶ 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word.

Highlight the themes.

Underline interesting things and note your questions

DAY 1 - Protecting God's Household

Read: 1 Timothy 3:14-15

1. Why did Paul write this letter to Timothy?
2. Why does Timothy need to know these things?
3. What could it mean that God's household is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth?

Prayer: Pray that we'd know how to conduct ourselves in God's household. Thank God for instructions to know what to do!

DAY 2 - The Mystery From Which True Godliness Springs

Read: 1 Timothy 3:16

1. There are no connecting words here to help. What could the connection be between verse 16 and verses 14-15?
2. What could each part of the "mystery" mean?
 - 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
3. Why would Paul call this the "mystery from which true godliness springs"?

Prayer: Ask that you'd understand this mystery, and that true godliness would spring from this understanding in your life.

DAY 3 - True Evil

Read: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. What does the Spirit "clearly say", and where does he say it?
2. What is the content of this deceptive and demonic teaching? Are these the kinds of things you think of when you think of demonic teaching?
3. What makes this teaching so evil?

Prayer: Thank God that everything he created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. The next time you marry or eat, give thanks!

DAY 4 - Godliness Has Value For All Things

Read: 1 Timothy 4:6-11

1. What do "these things" (verse 6) and "these things" (verse 11) refer to here?
2. What connections are there between this passage and 1 Timothy 1:4-6?
3. What different things from this passage are worth putting sustained effort towards?

Prayer: Ask God to nourish you on the truths of the faith and good teaching, that you'd be godly!

DAY 5 - Life and Doctrine

Read: 1 Timothy 4:12-16

1. What are the things Timothy should not do, and should do?
2. What could it mean in 4:16 that Timothy will "save his hearers"?
3. Have a look back from 3:14-4:16. Which things could be categorised as "life" (the way a person lives) and which could be categorised as "doctrine" (the things a person believes)?

Prayer: Pray that we would help one another in how we live and what we believe. Pray that we, as a church, would always be devoted to "the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching."

5 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.

Mark up the text

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Highlight the themes.

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DAY 1 - Individualised Love

Read: 1 Timothy 5:1-2

1. Why would Paul give these instructions to Timothy?
2. Paul only gives proper "instructions" for how to treat two of these groups, the first and the last people listed. What are they?
3. If we were wanting to be like Timothy in our relationships, how would we do it?

Prayer: Pray that we would all relate to people in honourable and pure ways.

DAY 2 - Which Widows?

Read: 1 Timothy 5:3-4

1. For the two different “types” of widows in these verses, work out:
 - a. Who should care for them?
 - b. What is the care they should receive?
 - c. What is Timothy meant to do in each case?
2. If your mum was (or is) a widow who needed care, and there were other widows at church who needed care, and you could only look after one widow, which widow should you look after?

Prayer: Pray for the widows in our church family. For those “really in need” and those with children and grandchildren. Pray also for those children and grandchildren, that they would learn to put their religion into practice (which they may already be doing).

DAY 3 - Hopeful and Hopeless Widows

Read: 1 Timothy 5:5-8

1. How are the two groups of widows in verses 5-8 similar and/or different to the two groups in verses 3-4?
2. What instructions is Timothy meant to give to the people according to verse 7?

Prayer: Pray that widows in our church would put their hope in God and pray night and day for God’s help. Pray that any widows living for pleasure would repent and also hope in God. Pray that we’d all provide for our own families.

DAY 4 - The List

Read: 1 Timothy 5:9-12

1. What do all of these “good deeds” have in common?
2. What could verses 11-12 mean?
3. What benefits could these widows be receiving when they’re put on the widows’ list?

Prayer: Pray that the women in our church would be devoted to “all kinds of good deeds.” Also pray that we would all be faithful to our commitment to Christ, in whatever circumstances we’re in.

DAY 5 - Younger Widows

Read: 1 Timothy 5:11-16

1. How old are these younger widows?
2. What are all of the things women should be busy doing in the church community?
3. The first women Paul is talking about in verse 16 are believers. So, what could the phrase “the church” mean? It appears twice in verse 16.

Prayer: Pray that we’d be busy in all of the right ways, and idle from sin. Pray we’d know how to help each other in all the different relationships we have.

¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the 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.

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.

² Those 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word.

Highlight the themes.

Underline interesting things and note your questions.

DAY 1 - Elders

Read: 1 Timothy 5:17-18

1. Verse 18 starts with the word "for". What is it doing here?
2. Where are these quotes from?
3. Why do those who preach and teach well especially deserve "double honour"?

Prayer: Pray for those who direct the affairs of church, that they'd do it well. Especially pray for those whose work is preaching and teaching.

DAY 2 - Accusations and Sin

Read: 1 Timothy 5:19-21

1. Why should Timothy not entertain single-witness accusations?
2. Do you think the “others” in verse 20 are other elders, or all other believers?
3. Why would Paul point out that this charge to Timothy is in front of these three?

Prayer: Pray that those leading church wouldn't sin, that God would lead them away from and out of temptation.

DAY 3 - They Cannot Remain Hidden Forever

Read: 1 Timothy 5:22-25

1. What do the three commands in verse 22 have in common?
2. Verse 23 is a good example of a descriptive rather than a prescriptive Bible verse. What could be some wrong and right ways to “apply” this verse to believers today?
3. Why put verses 24 and 25 at this point in the section? What do they contribute?

Prayer: Pray that we would not become complacent in fighting sin just because it doesn't always come to light immediately.

DAY 4 - For God's Name

Read: 1 Timothy 6:1

1. Who is this command to? What is the command? Why does Paul command it?
2. Who are your masters? How should you treat them? Why should you treat them this way?
3. What makes that hard? What helps?

Prayer: Pray that you'd consider your masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and Biblical teaching would not be slandered.

DAY 5 - Believing Slaves and Masters

Read: 1 Timothy 6:2

1. Who is this command to? What shouldn't they do? What should they do? Why?
2. Do you have any Christians in authority over you? Are they dear to you as fellow believers?
3. Do verses 1-2 talk about actions or mindset? Which is easier?

Prayer: Pray that God would help you to respect those Christians that lead you, and that they'd be dear to you as brothers and sisters.

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. ³ 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word.

Highlight the themes.

Underline interesting things and note your questions.

DAY 1 - True Gains

Read: 1 Timothy 6:2c-5

1. What does Paul think of his own teaching?
2. What does he think of people who oppose his teaching?
3. Why does rejecting Paul's teaching lead to all of these problems?

Prayer: Pray that we'd agree with the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAY 2 - Great Gain

Read: 1 Timothy 6:6

1. How are the words “godliness” and “gain” being used here in comparison with how they’re used in verse 5?
2. Contentment in verse 6 is the opposite to envy in verse 5. How does the “sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ” lead to contentment?
3. This verse isn’t quite saying “godliness + contentment = great gain.” What is Paul saying?

Prayer: Pray that we’d have godliness with contentment.

DAY 3 - A Little More than Nothing

Read: 1 Timothy 6:7-8

1. Why should we be content with food and clothing?
2. Do you have food and clothing?
3. Are you content?

Prayer: Pray that you’d be content with food and clothing in this life.

DAY 4 - The Poor Rich

Read: 1 Timothy 6:9

1. Who falls into what?
2. What plunges people into what?
3. How do you tend to feel about riches and rich people?

Prayer: Pray for people who want to get rich; they are in a miserable position. Pray for a heart that is concerned for these people. Pray that God would spare them from ruin and destruction.

DAY 5 - The Love of Money

Read: 1 Timothy 6:10

1. People often say that "money is the root of all evil." Is that right?
2. How could the love of money pull someone away from Christ?
3. What kind of griefs could these people have pierced themselves with?

Prayer: Pray for those who have been, or are being pulled away from the faith by their eagerness for money. Pray for your own feelings about money.

¹¹ 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.

Mark up the text

Circle every connecting word.

Highlight the themes.

Underline interesting things and note your questions

DAY 1 - The King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Read: 1 Timothy 6:11-12

1. What does “all this” refer to in verse 11?
2. What binds the three commands in verses 11-12 together? (Verse 11 is one command and verse 12 contains two commands.)
3. How could someone take hold of eternal life?

Prayer: Pray that we'd fight the good fight of the faith.

DAY 2 - Keep This Command

Read: 1 Timothy 6:13-14

1. What does “this” in verse 14 refer to?
2. Why does Paul mention these particular works of God and of Christ Jesus in verse 13?
3. Paul could have called Timothy to keep this command for all of his life. What effect does it have to charge him to keep it until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Ask God, who gives life to everything, and Christ Jesus, who made the good confession, that you too would keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAY 3 - The King

Read: 1 Timothy 6:15-16

1. What does it mean that God is “the King of kings and Lord of lords”?
(See the phrase also in Deuteronomy 10:17, Ezra 7:12, Ezekiel 26:7, Daniel 2:37, and Revelation 17:14 and 19:16.)
2. What does it mean that God alone is immortal? Wasn't Timothy told to take hold of immortal life in verse 12?
3. Can we see God? (Exodus 33:11 and 20, and 1 John 1:1-3, 4:12.)

Prayer: Pray the prayer of 1 Timothy 1:17, “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

DAY 4 - Un-Solid Hope

Read: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. What commands is Timothy commanded to command?

2. Who is he meant to command?

3. Why these commands?

Prayer: Pray for those who are rich in this present world, that they'd be rescued from the uncertainty of wealth, and that they'd put their hope in God.

DAY 5 - Grace Be With You All

Read: 1 Timothy 6:20-21

1. What has been entrusted to Timothy's care?

2. How should he do that?

3. What is at stake?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus.

