

Tapes For Growing Christians 

# 1 TIMOTHY

Study Guide for

Growing Christians Ministries  
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## lesson 1

# The Salutation to the Letter and a Warning Against False Teaching 1 Timothy 1:1-4

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal / teaching points

1. False teaching is controlled by silencing.
2. False teaching is characterized by squabbles.

### practical application

1. When was the last time you wrote a follow up letter?

### questions

1. List the three "Pastoral Epistles" in the New Testament. Why are they called Pastoral Epistles?
2. What is the theme that emerges from 1 Timothy?
3. Why did Paul remind Timothy that he was an apostle of Christ "according to the commandment of God"?
4. Was this only a private letter from Paul to Timothy?
5. What is the clue that there was a genuine father-son relationship between Paul and Timothy?
6. Where do we read more about Timothy's background?
7. About how old was Timothy when he joined Paul on his missionary travels?

**answers**

1. 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus. They were written to Timothy and Titus concerning their pastoral responsibilities in the churches they served.
2. Church order. This epistle is a handbook for setting up a church.
3. To give Timothy the authority he needed to direct the church at Ephesus, and to let the church know that Timothy had the authority of the apostle Paul behind him.
4. No. It was to be read publicly in the church at Ephesus. One clue: in Greek, the original language, the “you” in 6:21 is plural.
5. The terms of tenderness and endearment in verse 2.
6. Acts 16:1-3, 2 Timothy 1:5; and 2 Timothy 15.
7. In his late teens or early twenties.

**discuss / consider**

1. False doctrine was beginning to be a problem for the early church. The apostle Paul charged Timothy to deal with these false teachers. How? By silencing them. The same is true today. Biblical doctrine and no other doctrine is to be taught or tolerated in the church. Heresy only happens when false teaching is not stopped. Are false teachers and their doctrines silenced in your church?
2. During the inter-testamental period there were a number of books written which were not Scripture. False teachers were promoting these over biblical teaching. False teaching results in disputes and squabbles. Is your church free from false teaching and its results? Is your church growing in the faith because of sound doctrine?

**challenge**

1. Paul wrote to Timothy to remind him of his responsibilities in the church and to encourage him in the faith. When was the last time you wrote to a younger believer to encourage him in the faith?

**memorize**

*“Charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. ” - 1 Timothy 1:3-4*

## lesson 2

### **Instruction as to the Goal of Sound Biblical Teaching in the Church, and the Purpose and Right Use of the Law 1 Timothy 1:5-11**

#### **background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### **doctrinal / teaching points**

1. The goal of sound biblical teaching should be love.
2. The purpose of the law is to set forth God's moral standards.

#### **practical application**

1. Does your philosophy of ministry have a biblical goal?

#### **questions**

1. When did the apostle Paul write this epistle? Who did he write to, and where was the letter sent?
2. False teachers who were becoming a problem in the church. Who were these false teachers?
3. Was Timothy told to excommunicate these false teachers?
4. What were some of the false teachings in the church?
5. The Judaizers brought Jewish beliefs and practices into their new Christianity. Not all Judaizers were as extreme as others. List the range of Judaizers.

**answers**

1. About 63 A.D., to Timothy who was in Ephesus.
2. Most likely believers who had strayed from the truth.
3. No, but he was told to confront them and to silence their false teaching.
4. Judaizers were putting a great emphasis on the Mosaic law and thus mixing up grace with law.
5. On one extreme was the Non-Christian Judaizers, who had no time or place for the gospel in their teaching. The other side was Christian Judaizers. These were true believers in Christ, but were putting the wrong emphasis on keeping the law. They were also emphasizing the legends and the endless genealogies of extra-biblical literature, thus straying from the faith.

**discuss / consider**

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:4-5. Thus purpose and goal of sound biblical teaching is love, and agape love of the will, characterized by self-denial for the interest of others. Are you reaching out to others in love from a pure heart (no hidden motives), from a good conscience (righteous living), and from a sincere faith (no masks)?
2. The purpose of the law was given to set forth God's moral standards. The law convicts us of sin. The right view of the law in no way takes away from the gospel, which manifests the glory of God. Are some sins that are condemned in the Bible condoned in your church, such as homosexuality? See Romans 1:26, 27, 32 and Leviticus 18:22,30. What should be done about such sins?

**challenge**

1. See 1 Timothy 1:5. Is this your philosophy of ministry? Does your church have a mission statement?

**memorize**

“ The purpose of the law is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a pure faith. ” - 1 Timothy 1:5

“ The law is good if one uses it lawfully. ” - 1 Timothy 1:8

**lesson 3**

**Paul Writes His Experience Both Before and After Becoming a Christian  
1 Timothy 1:12-17**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. God's mercy does take into account the ignorance of man.
2. God's mercy is not separate from the sovereign plan of God.

**practical application**

1. Do you have periodic bursts of praise?

**questions**

1. Why is this section sometimes called "Paul's delayed thanksgiving"?
2. What is Paul thanking and praising the Lord for in this passage?
3. Is this a change of subject from his case against false teaching?
4. What is the purpose of the law?
5. What does Romans 7:7 tell us about Paul?
6. Does ignorance change God's standards?
7. Is anyone actually ignorant of God?

**answers**

1. First century letters would normally have a section of thanksgiving following the salutation.
2. For his salvation and for being put into Christian service.
3. No. Actually, it's part of his argument against false teaching, because false teachers did not understand the purpose of the law.
4. To act as a mirror to show that we are unclean. The law cannot save us, but it points out sin.
5. That Paul kept the law before he met Christ. He was sincere, but sincerely mistaken.
6. No. But God takes into account a person's ignorance when dealing with him.
7. No. See Romans 1.

**discuss / consider**

1. Paul thought he was doing God's will before he became a Christian. See Acts 26:9. God took this ignorance into account and saved him. How did God save you?
2. Paul actually delighted in getting Christians killed (see Acts 26:10-11). But Paul received God's mercy. This is a pattern for believers. How did God show you mercy when you were ignorant of Him?

**challenge**

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:17. A doxology of praise is typical of Paul. He praises God for His character and attributes. When was the last time you had a burst of praise?

**memorize**

*"I thank Jesus Christ our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." - 1 Timothy 1:12*

*"I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." - 1 Timothy 1:13*

*"The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant..." - 1 Timothy 1:14*

*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." - 1 Timothy 1:15*

*"Jesus Christ showed all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life." - 1 Timothy 1:16*

*"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." - 1 Timothy 1:17*

lesson 4

**Paul Again Reminds Timothy of His Responsibility to Deal with the  
Problem of False Teaching at Ephesus;  
He also Mentions a Couple of Men Who Had Made Shipwreck of  
Their Lives in Regard to Their Faith (Now Under Discipline)  
1 Timothy 1:18-20**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Motivation is provided to fight the good fight.
2. Keeping faith and good conscience are necessary to avoid shipwreck.
3. Excommunication is not punitive, but remedial.

**practical application**

1. Are you involved in blasphemy right now?

**questions**

1. What is the theme that emerges from Paul's first letter to Timothy?
2. What important matter did Timothy have to deal with first?
3. Was this part of waging a good warfare?
4. See 1 Timothy 1:18. What are these prophecies concerning Timothy?
5. What did the brethren think about Timothy?
6. Does shipwreck mean that you lose your salvation?

**answers**

1. Church order. That is, how to properly set up and organize a New Testament church, the recognition of elders and deacons in the church, and other important matters about church order.
2. Silencing the false teachers in and around the church at Ephesus.
3. Yes, and the same is true today. Stopping false teaching is part of fighting the good fight of faith.
4. Certain prophecies were made about Timothy concerning his call into the ministry.
5. He was well spoken of.
6. No, but it means to end up on the rocks with respect to your Christian life and testimony.

**discuss / consider**

1. Paul encouraged Timothy to be motivated by the prophecies and to fight the good fight. Whenever Timothy was discouraged, facing burnout, or tempted to quit, he was to look back and remember these prophecies, given by the Holy Spirit. The Lord does the same for us today by giving us events to look back on to motivate us to continue on. How about you? What events in your life motivate you to continue on?

2. Paul exhorted Timothy to keep the faith (remain orthodox and not to stray from sound teaching) and to keep a good conscience (do what he know to be right). In 1 Timothy 4:2, we read about a seared conscience. In contrast, a believer's conscience is enlightened by the word of God. Are you keeping the faith and a good conscience? Avoid shipwreck!

3. Paul gives examples of two believers who made shipwreck of their lives, Hymenaeus and Alexander. They were delivered over to Satan so that they might learn not to blaspheme. In other words, they were put out of fellowship and into the world. On the contrary, church fellowship is a sanctuary from Satan's domain. If the "blasphemer" is a true believer, he will not find happiness in the world. Church discipline is remedial wants to see people return to the Lord. It promotes repentance and a return to fellowship.

**challenge**

1. Blasphemy includes more than just taking the name of the Lord in vain. It includes all those things does by Christians who do not honor God (immorality, unethical business practices, lying, stealing, etc.). God is mocked when an unethical, compromising Christian is exposed, and it brings shame upon the name of the Lord.

**memorize**

*"By the prophecies made concerning you, wage a good warfare, having faith and a good conscience." - 1 Timothy 1:18-19*

*"...concerning the faith some have suffered shipwreck." - 1 Timothy 1:19*

**lesson 5**

**The Importance of Public Prayer in the Church- The Distinctive Role of Men  
1 Timothy 2:1-8**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. The role of men in the church demands public praying.

**practical application**

1. Let's pray more now so that we will have less regret in heaven.

**questions**

1. The distinctive roles of men and women in the church are given in 1 Timothy. Are these roles only applicable for the early church?
2. See 1 Timothy 2:8. Does the word "man" mean mankind in general, or does it mean males and not females?
3. Is public praying optional for men?
4. What does "everywhere" mean?
5. "Lifting up holy hands." Is this a physical position or a spiritual condition?
6. What should we pray for in reference to those in authority and for mankind in general?
7. What kind of prayer should be made in light of perilous times and persecution of believers?
8. Is there more than one road that leads to heaven?

**answers**

1. No. These guidelines are standard for the church today as well.
2. It means males as distinct from females. It is a different Greek word than the word translated man in verses 4-5.
3. No, it is not an option.
4. All functions and meetings of the church.
5. It is a spiritual condition, but it does not exclude a physical position.
6. For peace and quiet so believers can live out their lives in godliness and reverence.
7. We should pray that the work of God will continue.
8. No. There is one God and one Mediator, the Lord Christ Jesus.

**discuss / consider**

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:4-7, 2 Peter 3:9, and Ezekiel 33:11. What is the Bible telling us in these verses?
2. The full humanity of Christ and the full deity of Christ is of utmost importance.  
Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6. Jesus was both man and God. Why is it important that He is both man and God?

**challenge**

1. Are the men in your church praying publicly? Do their prayers follow the pattern outlined in this section of scripture? How could you encourage men to pray publicly?
2. When we get to heaven, we will wish that we would have prayed more now. Keep your personal times of prayer sacred. Don't let "things", even important things keep you from these necessary times of prayer.

**memorize**

"I exhort that supplication, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." - 1 Timothy 2:1-2

"God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:4

"There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." - 1 Timothy 2:5

"Men should pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." - 1 Timothy 2:8

**lesson 6**

**The Distinctive Role of Christian Women in the Church  
1 Timothy 2:9-15**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. The role of women in the church is supportive and important.

**practical application**

1. Are you content to be a woman (in view of this supportive role)?

**questions**

1. What is the distinctive role of men in the church, as discussed in 1 Timothy 2?
2. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 gives the dress code for women in the church. What is the idea here?
3. Does silence mean no talking?
4. What is the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:12?
5. When may women teach? Give examples from Scripture.
6. How do the teachings of questions 4 and 5 differ?
7. A woman is not to have an upfront teaching position or authoritative leadership in the church. What is the basis for this?
8. Does subordination mean inferiority?

**answers**

1. It demands public praying.
2. Christian women are not to draw attention to themselves by their looks, but rather by their godliness and good works. Scripture teaches a modest, not ostentatious policy for women's dress.
3. Not necessarily. It means not being disruptive, but rather having a gentle, quiet and teachable spirit.
4. Women are not to teach from the pulpit or have authority over men.
5. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos (Acts 18:24-26). The older Christian women are to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-5).
6. In the church, the women are not to have an upfront teaching position or one of authority, whereas in the home, husband and wife may have a combined ministry, and women are encouraged to teach women in godliness.
7. Adam was formed first, then Eve, and Eve was deceived. This argument is more than an illustration; it is based on creation, which is before culture.
8. No. Even Jesus was subject to God the Father while on earth.

**discuss / consider**

1. The role of women in the church is supportive and important. Read then discuss 1 Timothy 2:10, concerning the good works of Christian women. Consider some examples from Scripture: Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42), Lydia (Acts 16:9-15), and Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2). Can you think of other examples from Scripture or life?
2. Discuss the two-fold creation argument concerning the silence of Christian women:
  1. The Order of Creation
  2. The matter of the Fall

What happened when Eve stepped out of her God-given role of subordination?

3. Review the section from the tape on the promise to Christian women, 1 Timothy 2:15. Remember that godly women who raise their children for the Lord have a tremendous effect on the world.

**challenge**

1. Are you content to be a woman (in view of this supportive role)?

**memorize**

*"Women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, which is proper for women professing godliness." - 1 Timothy 2:9-10*

*"Women should adorn themselves with good works." - 1 Timothy 2:10*

*"Let a woman learn in silence with all submission." - 1 Timothy 2:11*

*"A woman is to continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control." - 2 Timothy 2:15*

**lesson 7**

**Qualifications for Elders or Overseers of the Local Church  
1 Timothy 3:1-7**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Elders are responsible for spiritual leadership.
2. Elders are characterized by moral integrity and ability to teach.

**practical application**

1. Watch out for the snare of the devil.
2. Who wants to be an elder?

**questions**

1. There are only two offices in the church today according to the New Testament. What are these offices?
2. What terms are used interchangeably for elders?
3. What is an elder's responsibility?
4. Does the Bible envision some ecclesiastical hierarchy? What is the line of authority?
5. What does it mean that a church is autonomous?
6. Is one elder per church sufficient?
7. Is the role of elder open to both men and women?
8. Is an elder elected or voted into office? What makes a man an elder?

**answers**

1. The office of elder and the office of deacon.
2. Overseers and bishops.
3. They are the spiritual authority in the church. "Elder" emphasizes their maturity and dignity; "overseer" emphasizes their function.
4. No, the Bible teaches that every New Testament church is directly responsible to Christ. The line of authority goes directly from Christ, the head of the church, to the elders, the spiritual leaders of individual churches.
5. The church is self-governing before the Lord.
6. No. The Bible teaches the plurality of elders.
7. No. the Bible teaches that the office of elder or overseer is limited to men.
8. No. The Holy Spirit makes a man an elder or overseer (Acts 20:28). It is the responsibility of the church to recognize them (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

**discuss / consider**

1. As shepherds lead their physical sheep, so elders are to give spiritual leadership to their spiritual sheep. Discuss the responsibility of elders to care for the flock. Remember, it is not an easy role, but it is a fine and noble work, which earns a reward. See 1 Peter 5:4.
2. Qualifications of elders include moral integrity and the ability to teach. Discuss the meaning of moral integrity. Discuss the ability to teach. Are your elders characterized by these qualifications?

**challenge**

1. Be careful to rightly recognize the elders in your midst. Satan loves to trap a church leader into making a mistake that ruins his reputation, thus bring shame on him, on the church, and on the Christian community. Pray earnestly and continually for your elders.

**memorize**

*"An elder must be blameless, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach...gentle, not quarrelsome or covetous...not puffed up with pride..." - 1 Timothy 3:2-6*

*"An elder must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. "*  
*- 1 Timothy 3:7*

**lesson 8**

**The Qualifications for the Deacons of the Local Church  
1 Timothy 3:8-16**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Deacons are responsible for spiritual services.
2. Deacons are characterized by moral integrity and ability to manage.

**practical application**

1. Do you know the secret of godliness?

**questions**

1. The theme verse of this book is 1 Timothy 3:15. What is the theme?
2. Is the church the source of truth?
3. The church is the house of God. What else is it know as?
4. How are believers to conduct themselves in the house of God?
5. What is the responsibility of deacons?
6. What is the difference between the office of an elder and a deacon?
7. What is the meaning of the word "deacon"?
8. How are deacons selected?

**answers**

1. How to conduct yourself in the house of God.
2. No. It is the pillar and ground of truth; it supports the truth.
3. The body of Christ, the bride of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.
4. Believers are to follow the order of that house as laid out by God in the Bible.
5. They are responsible for spiritual services.
6. The difference has to do with their function. Elders are responsible for spiritual leadership of the church. Deacons under the elders in various areas of service.
7. "Deacon" means "servant".
8. Because they function under the elders, they are generally asked and appointed by the elders.

**discuss / consider**

1. The Hellenists in the early church complained because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution . The first deacons were appointed by the apostles to serve in the Jerusalem church. See Acts 6:1-5. Are there areas of neglect in your church today?
2. Re-read 1 Timothy 3:8-13. what does it mean to be double-tongued? Why must deacons not be greedy for money? It is a wise idea to observe men in church service before they are appointed as deacons. Several questions should be asked. Can they do the job? Do they quit when the going gets tough? Do they have what it takes to carry through? Can they manage when they are put in charge? If the answers are affirmative, they might make good deacons.

**challenge**

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:16. The secret of godliness is Christ. List and meditate on the doctrines here. Do you want to be more godly in your life? Keep these truths before you at all times.

**memorize**

*"Deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience...faithful in all things. " - 1 Timothy 3:8-9,11*

*"Let them first be tested, then let them serve as deacons. Those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. " - 1 Timothy 3:10,13*

*"You know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God. " - 1 Timothy 3:15*

*"Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up to glory. " - 1 Timothy 3:16*

**lesson 9**

**A Warning About Doctrines of Demons that Would Come in Latter Times;  
An Exhortation to Reject Myths and Fables  
1 Timothy 4:1-9**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. There are doctrines of demons to refute.
2. There are myths and fables to be rejected.

**practical application**

1. Stay in spiritual shape.

**questions**

1. When are the "latter times" spoken of in 1 Timothy 4:1?
2. Who were the false teachers?
3. Are there false teachers in the churches today?
4. Who are demons?
5. List two examples of the doctrines of demons.
6. Are these examples relevant today?

**answers**

1. They had already started in Timothy's day, but they would continue to get worse and worse. See 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
2. Both believers and unbelievers who were teaching false doctrine.
3. Unfortunately, yes.
4. They are fallen angels who are involved in many different wicked activities, under the guidance of Satan.
5. They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from certain foods.
6. Yes. Many cults and some New Age groups promote these ideas.

**discuss / consider**

1. False teachers will give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. There are many different kinds of demons, and many false teachings that influence men. For example, all throughout Church History celibacy and abstinence from certain foods has been promoted. What should be done about these false teachings? They should be refuted with the truth. These gifts from God are to be received with thanksgiving. Both marriage and food are sanctified.
2. During Timothy's time, there were a lot of inter-testamental writings containing myths and fables. These were to be rejected. The same is true today, not only of the same apocryphal writings but more. How? By reading, coming to know, and obeying the word of God.

**challenge**

1. It's OK and even good to stay in physical shape, but not at the expense of your spiritual life. Keep your priorities straight. Godliness is what really counts. Discipline and guard your spiritual life.

**memorize**

*"The Spirit says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." - 1 Timothy 4:1*

*"Reject profane and old wives' fables." - 1 Timothy 4:7*

*"Exercise yourself toward godliness...for godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which will come." - 1 Timothy 4:7-8*

**lesson 10**

**Further instructions Concerning Christian Leadership,  
Particularly in View of the Dangers of False Teaching  
1 Timothy 4:10-16**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Church leaders must labor for godliness.
2. Church leaders must be a good example.
3. Church leaders must set the right agenda.
4. Church leaders must exercise their spiritual gifts.
5. Church leaders must be fully committed.

**practical application**

1. Keep an eye on yourself.

**questions**

1. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy to refute the false teaching in Ephesus. Was Timothy successful in carrying out Paul's instructions? Show this from Scripture.
2. How old was Timothy when this letter was written?
3. List the five instructions for all church leaders given in this portion of Scripture. Are these instructions applicable to more than the church leaders?
4. What is the root of the word "strive"?

**answers**

1. Yes, he and other leaders did a good job because about thirty five years later the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation and referred to the church at Ephesus. See Revelation 2:2-3.
2. Probably between 30-35 years old.
3. Church leaders must
  - a. labor for godliness
  - b. be a good example
  - c. set the right agenda
  - d. exercise their spiritual gifts
  - e. be fully committed.

Yes these standards are applicable for all Christians.

4. It comes from the Greek word from which we get “agonize”, like a runner nearing the goal.

**discuss / consider**

1. We are to labor and strive for godliness in our lives. We are to bring people to the living God and see them live godly lives. Is this being accomplished in your life?
2. Don't give anyone opportunity to criticize you because of your age. Are you setting a good example, regardless of your age?
3. “Give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine.” This is the agenda for the church. Is this being done in your church?
4. “Do not neglect your gift.” Timothy, like all Christians, had a spiritual gift, and was told not to neglect this gift. (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6) Are you exercising your spiritual gift by being involved in serving the Lord?
5. Church leaders must be fully committed. When you give yourself entirely to the things of the Lord, even your recreation and secular jobs can be a way to serving the Lord.

**challenge**

1. If your conduct does not match your doctrine, you can do great damage to yourself and to fellow believers. On the other hand, when you watch yourself, you and others will be preserved from false teaching. Watch how you live out your faith.

**memorize**

*“ We labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, our Savior. ” - 1 Timothy 4:10*

*“ Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ” - 1 Timothy 4:12*

*“ Give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. ” - 1 Timothy 4:13,15*

*“ Do not neglect the gift that is in you... ” - 1 Timothy 4:14*

**lesson 11**

**Instructions for the Care of Widows in the Church  
1 Timothy 5:1-16**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Some widows should be supported by the church.
2. Some widows should not be supported by the church.

**practical application**

1. Remember, we are family.

**questions**

1. Read Acts 6:1-6. How did the church handle this problem with widows?
2. Is this still a problem today?
3. What is a “widow indeed”?
4. List the three categories of widows that are not to be supported by the church.
5. Why should younger widows not be supported by the church?
6. Should the family be responsible for widows?

**answers**

1. The first deacons were appointed specifically to care for the widows of Jerusalem. 1 Timothy gives guidelines on how to care for them.
2. Yes. Churches still have a responsibility to care for widows. They should follow the same guidelines today.
3. One who has no means of support.
4. Categories of Widows
  - a. widows who have another means of support
  - b. widows who are not characterized by a godly life style
  - c. younger widows
5. They may want to remarry, which was encouraged. If they remained unmarried there was a greater chance of idleness and gossip. In order to avoid these potential problems, it was best then and now to “wait and see” how these young widows would commit themselves to church service.
6. Yes. If, for example, grown children do not take care of their aging parents, they not only sin, but are worse than unbelievers. In fact, 1 Timothy 5:8,16 indicates that the responsibility should continue into the extended family.

**discuss / consider**

1. Is your church supporting “widows indeed”? Has the criteria been met— that they are living godly lives and are looking to God to meet their needs? Are they praying for fellow believers night and day? How are they being supported in your church? And is the support more than just financial?
2. Review the categories of widows that should not be supported by the church. Do you have some who fit into these categories? How is the church responsible to minister to them?

**challenge**

1. Review 1 Timothy 5:1-2. Is your church following these exhortations? As you deal personally with individuals, follow these guidelines.

**memorize**

*“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.” - 1 Timothy 5:1-2*

*“Honor widows who are really widows.” - 1 Timothy 5:3*

*“If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” - 1 Timothy 5:8*

**lesson 12**

**The Subject of Elders or Overseers  
1 Timothy 5:17-25**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Elders who rule well should receive double honor.
2. Elders who do not rule well should be rebuked publicly.

**practical application**

1. Don't judge a book by its cover.

**questions**

1. What medical advice is given in this section?
2. What is meant by "double honor" for elders?
3. Cite at least one other Scripture that supports the principle of honoring an elder.
4. What are the steps for rebuking an elder who does not do his job?
5. Why should an elder who rules poorly be publicly rebuked?
6. Who does the disciplining in such a case? Why?
7. How might you prevent a situation where you need to discipline an elder?

**answers**

1. Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake. Timothy was still expected to do his job in spite of his stomach problems and frequent infirmities.
2. The double honor is for elders who rule well. They should receive both respect and financial gifts.
3. Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7.
4.
  - a. make sure he is really guilty of the accusation
  - b. discipline him publicly if the sin continues
  - c. do not rejudge the situation or play favorites.
5. It acts as a deterrent to other elders, and the rest of the congregation.
6. The other elders. This is one of many reasons for having a plurality of elders.
7. By not recognizing elders too quickly. A man should be given time to prove himself before being recognized as an elder.

**discuss / consider**

1. Elders are to rule like shepherds. When an elder rules well he should receive double honor. Do you respect the elders of your church? Do you help support your full time workers?
2. Review the disciplinary steps for an elder who does not rule well. The need for disciplining an elder should be a somber moment for all elders and the congregation.

**challenge**

1. Be sure that you give your potential elders time to prove themselves before recognizing them as elders. This could save a lot of trouble and heartache. Avoid pre-judging, either for good or bad. Encourage Christians who are serving well at any level within the church.

**memorize**

*"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor." - 1 Timothy 5:17*

*"Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. Observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality." - 1 Timothy 5:19-21*

*"Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure." - 1 Timothy 5:22*

*"Some men's sins are clearly evident...but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden." - 1 Timothy 5:24-25*

**lesson 13**

**Exhortation to Christian Slaves to Honor Their Masters, and Paul's Instruction to All Believers to Live a Godly Life Style and Be Content with What They Have  
1 Timothy 6:1-8**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Believers should honor authority structures.
2. Believers should heed sound doctrine.
3. Believers should harbor godly contentment.

**practical application**

1. Remember, you are saluting the office, not necessarily the officer.

**questions**

1. If the theme of 1 Timothy is church order, why was the apostle Paul writing to Timothy about the responsibility of slaves to serve their masters?
2. Why might this be awkward in a church situation?
3. How could this matter affect a church's testimony?
4. What is the evidence that Paul's exhortation was heeded?
5. Does this exhortation mean that slavery is taught in the Bible?
6. When the Lord Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," was He condoning everything that Caesar and the Roman government represented?
7. Is there a time when it is acceptable to refuse to do what your employer demands of you?

**answers**

1. Because a good percentage of the first century church was made up of slaves, some of whom would become church leaders.
2. Both slaves and masters became Christians. At home, the slave would be subject to his master, but in the church the roles could be reversed if the slave was one of the spiritual leaders in the church.
3. If Christian slaves were known to revolt or not serve their masters well, it would give a bad name to the Christian faith in general, and a bad reputation to the local church in particular.
4. History shows that Christian slaves were very responsible and served their masters well, even bringing higher prices on the slave market.
5. No. In fact, as the teachings of the New Testament gradually penetrated Roman society they eventually brought an end to slavery.
6. Not at all.
7. Only when his demands are contrary to the word of God.

**discuss / consider**

1. Believers should honor authority structures because "All authority has its source in God," (Romans 13:1). God has ordained four lines or structures of authority:

- a. of the family, or parental authority
- b. of the state, or civil authority
- c. of the church, spiritual authority
- d. in the area of labor, or social authority

Discuss how at least one of these authority structures functions in your life.

2. Sound doctrine is teaching that leads to the spiritual health of the believer. It does not get involved in nit-picking arguments that lead to jealousy and strife. Do you guard sound doctrine and avoid arguments that lead to jealousy and strife?
3. Believers are admonished to harbor godly contentment. Remember, true contentment is independent of outward circumstances. See Philippians 4:11. Contentment finds its roots in the all-sufficiency and sovereignty of God. How about you? Are you content?

**challenge**

1. Remember, you salute the office, not necessarily the officer. When you do this, you are honoring God-ordained authority structures.

**memorize**

*"Let bondservants under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed." - 1 Timothy 6:1*

*"Do not be proud, knowing nothing, obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions. From such withdraw yourself." - 1 Timothy 6:4-5*

*"Godliness with contentment is great gain." - 1 Timothy 6:6*

**lesson 14**

**Further Exhortations for the Believer in Reference to a Godly Life and Godly Lifestyle  
1 Timothy 6:9-16**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Godly believers flee the evil love of money.
2. Godly believers fight the good fight of faith.

**practical application**

1. Don't try to get rich.

**questions**

1. List some of the instructions and exhortations the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy to help him pastor and build up the church in Ephesus.
2. What is the additional challenge of this letter to individual believers?
3. Is money the root of evil?
4. What is the believer to do about the love of money?
5. What are the implications of the word "fight" in 1 Timothy 6:12?
6. Does "to lay hold on eternal life" mean to strive to earn salvation?

**answers**

1. Refute false teaching in the church, recognize elders and deacons, differentiate between the roles of men and women in the church, care for widows, and discipline elders in the church.
2. Because 1 Timothy is a personal letter, there are instructions that apply to individual Christians, challenging believers to be characterized by godly living.
3. No. It is the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil.
4. He is to flee from it and all its associated problems. He is to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
5. Fight means to agonize, like in the athletic arena, exerting every ounce of energy, being disciplined and dedicated in lifestyle.
6. No. It means to live out your salvation following a public confession of faith.

**discuss / consider**

1. The Bible tells us to flee the love of money. Have you ever been hung up on wanting money in order to purchase things of no lasting value? How has this impacted your life? If you have such a problem, have you considered going on a short-term mission? It could enlighten your values and change your priorities to count for eternity. If going on a short-term mission is not feasible, try getting more involved in Christian service locally.
2. Timothy was reminded by the Apostle Paul that he was being charged before God. We, too, are charged before God to serve Him. This alone should give us motivation to fight the good fight of faith. Can you imagine standing before the Lord and hearing the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" How much do you value this?

**challenge**

1. It's not wrong to be rich, but it's wrong to try to get rich. Desiring to be rich will cost you a life of ruin and loss. How seriously do you take this biblical advice?

**memorize**

*"Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. " - 1 Timothy 6:9-10*

*"Flee these things...and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. " - 1 Timothy 6:11*

*"Fight the good fight of faith. " - 1 Timothy 6:12*

*"You are charged before God.. " - 1 Timothy 6:13*

*"Be blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time. " - 1 Timothy 6:15*

lesson 15

**An Exhortation to Christians Who Are Rich, As to what to Do and what Not to Do with Their Money; and the Closing of the Letter  
1 Timothy 6:17-21**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal / teaching points**

1. Riches are uncertain as to their future existence.
2. Riches are unnecessary for present enjoyment.
3. Riches are unlimited in their potential use.

**practical application**

1. Are you guarding the gospel?

**questions**

1. What is the difference between the people mentioned in verse 9 and verse 17?
2. Is it wrong to be rich?
3. What are the consequences of verse 9?
4. What does God's word say to those who are rich?
5. What is the believer to trust in?
6. Are riches necessary for present enjoyment?
7. Refer to 1 Timothy 6:18. What does the word "snare" mean?

**answers**

1. Verse 9 speaks of those who desire to be rich; verse 17 speaks of those who are rich. The difference is in wanting to be rich and being rich.
2. No. But it is wrong for the Christian to desire to become rich.
3. Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.
4. That they might be tested in this area. See 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
5. In the living God, not in uncertain riches.
6. Absolutely not! God gives us richly all things from His storehouse to enjoy. As Christians, our inheritance is in Christ.
7. It means more than sharing your money; it means getting involved.

**discuss / consider**

1. Discuss the uncertainty of riches in today's world. Consider the pitfalls of trusting treasure of this world and of becoming proud. See 1 Corinthians 4:7
2. Consider the statement, "Riches are unnecessary for present enjoyment." What really gives you pleasure?
3. Whatever God has given you, are you using it to His glory? This would include not only riches, but spiritual gifts, abilities, and time. Do not just give token contributions in any of these areas. See Matthew 6:19-20

**challenge**

1. Timothy was to guard the content of the faith that had been entrusted to him. The gospel was being attacked in the first century in the areas of the Person and Work of Christ. Some were being taken in by false teachings, and they were straying from the faith. The same is true today. The gospel is under attack. Are you alert to false teaching? Guard the faith!

**memorize**

*"Trust in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy." - 1 Timothy 6:17*

*"Do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share. " -1 Timothy 6:18*

*"Store up a good foundation for the time to come...lay hold on eternal life. " -1 Timothy 6:19*

*"Guard the gospel ... Grace be with you." -1 Timothy 6:20-21*