

1 & 2 Timothy Study Guide



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- Weekly Scripture Reading Guide
- Questions for Self Study
- Easy to read and understand commentary on 1 & 2 Timothy
- Tips for Parents with Young Children



Week One

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 1:1-20

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners- of whom I am the worst.”
(1 Tim 1:15b)

Dominate Theme:

God has taken the craziest, most violent, blaspheming persecutor of the church and transformed him by grace to be a trusted evangelist and Apostle. If God can do that to Paul then there is no heart too hard; no anger so bitter; no action so awful; that God cannot redeem, restore, and forgive.

Explanation of Text

1:3-7: After the salutation of verses one and two, Paul launches into his task of cautioning Timothy about certain men who are teaching falsely in the church. Referring to “false doctrines” (teachings) and “myths” and “endless genealogies” Paul points out that these things spark controversies rather than God’s work. Note that Paul’s priorities all focus on God’s work; which is accomplished by faith, and not by controversies relating to speculations and nonsense. The church is to focus on God’s real work by faith; it is not to indulge in things which draw our focus away from our mission. In other words, the church is made up of people who are to be in fellowship together and with God. Since fellowship is relationship with purpose, we cannot be in fellowship apart from God’s purpose.

1:5-7: Paul’s goal in forbidding these practices is love. How can the congregation be filled with love in the midst of controversies and falsehoods? Controversies and falsehoods pull us away from God’s purpose which endangers fellowship. Without being in fellowship, we cannot maintain love with a pure conscience and a sincere faith: we will be compromised. The “teachers” who are doing this are trying to portray themselves as great scholars, but they lack a real understanding of the scope, intent and purpose of the Scriptures, and like some modern day preachers they lose the Gospel in all the minutia they spew forth.

1:8-11: Paul wants to ensure that we understand that he is not saying that the Law isn’t important, but that it must be understood properly. It gives us a view of what it means to be righteous by teaching us what God disapproves of. It is there to restrain those who would do wrong. For those who are “in Christ” and who are His followers, there should be no need of the Law, for to imitate Christ is to keep it’s requirements without any Law. Those teachers who go on endlessly about rules and regulations hamper spiritual growth by focusing on statute rather than encouraging the people to grow in relationship with Christ. By growing in relationship with Christ, we lose the desire to rebel against God and have little or no need of the regulation of the Law.

1:12-17: In this section, Paul uses his own experience as an example for us to follow. Verse 12 is a transitional verse, leading into his point. In verse 13a, he reminds his reader of what he had been; a sinner among sinners. Then he shows what the grace and love of Christ can do to transform a sinner into a follower of Christ. Then in verse 14 he goes on to complete the story by showing that it was by the grace and mercy of Jesus that was poured out on him that the transformation was completed. In the next verse, he gives us a “trustworthy saying” which is that Christ came into the world to save sinners. This of course is the heart of the Gospel which we preach. Then Paul returns to his own story to point out that if he, the greatest of sinners can be saved by Christ, then so can we be saved. He concludes in verse 17 giving all praise and glory to God for this great divine work of redemption.

1:18-20: In this final portion of the chapter, Paul returns to the discussion of vv. 3-5. Paul here demonstrates his concern over the spiritual “fight” that Timothy will undertake, hoping to encourage and equip him to remain steadfast. Paul’s instructions (“commands” in verses 3 and 5) are not his alone, but are “in keeping with the prophecies once made” about him. In 4:14 Paul refers to Timothy’s “gift” that was bestowed upon him by the elders with the laying on of hands. Many commentators believe this to be a reference to Timothy’s ministry, although the text is not explicit. Paul mentions that there have been some who have ruined their faith by teaching falsely, naming two, and expresses the hope that Timothy will fight the good fight against their influence. In verse 20, he says that these two were “handed over to Satan” meaning most likely that they have been cut off from fellowship so that they may be taught not to blaspheme, indicating that their removal was not merely for punishment, but that they might learn and repent.

Questions for Personal Study:

- What did Paul command Timothy to do? (1:3-4)
- Paul stated that some want to be teachers of the Law, but do not understand the law. What then is the purpose of the law? How does the Old Testament law differ from the terms of the New Covenant? (1:8-11)
- According to the text, what changed Paul’s life? (1:12-14)
- Why did Paul receive such mercy from God? What difference does it make to us that a person like Paul received such mercy? (1:15-16)
- What are some of the attributes of God listed, and what do they mean for your life? (1:17)
- How can one “shipwreck” their faith? (1:19)
- What is blasphemy and how serious is it? (1:20)

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Every week work with your children on memorizing the verse for the week. Try making a game out of the memory verse like hangman.

Monday: Explain to your children that not everyone who teaches the Bible teaches the truth. So, it is important for them to know their Bible so that they can tell who is a good Bible teacher and who is a bad one. Ask your children who is in their lives to help them learn the Bible, and pray for those teachers (e.g. friends, Sunday school teachers, parents, grandparents, etc.). Also, ask them who they are teaching by their own words and actions (e.g. siblings, friends, younger children who look up to them, etc.), and explain to them how important it is that they too be good teachers.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that the Bible is filled with God's laws, and share with them in words they can understand what the Ten Commandments are from Exodus 20:1-17. Make it your goal to have your children memorize the Ten Commandments.

Wednesday: Review the 10 commandments. Then, explain to your children that God can love and forgive even the most evil and terrible people. Explain to them how Paul killed Christians and cursed God before he became a pastor, and that God changed his heart. Assure them that no matter what they do, God will still love and forgive them if they ask Him to.

Thursday: Explain to your children that God has given them a conscience to guide their lives so that they can know right and wrong. Explain that both the Bible and their consciences are gifts from God to help them make decisions. Ask them for examples of when they have used their consciences, and provide examples from your own life.

Friday: Explain to your children that being a Christian is something that we do for our whole lives and not something we stop doing when we get older. Make sure they understand that things such as praying, reading the Bible, and going to church, and loving God are good for us to do all the time. Ask them what their favorite parts of being Christians are, and any parts they don't like. If there are things they don't like about being Christians, find out why and try to make that enjoyable so that they continue in it.

Saturday: Quiz your children to see how many of the Ten Commandments they can remember and teach them what each one means. Make sure to encourage them along the way and help them make progress.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Two

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” (1 Tim 2:5).

Dominate Theme:

This section focuses entirely on worship. Whatever your definition of worship, prayer, or what it means to be a Christian man or women it should have Christ at the center of it. It is our relationship with Jesus Christ that shapes everything we do and believe.

Explanation of the Text:

2:1-7: Paul turns to a discussion of worship that will extend through verse 15. First and foremost, public worship must include prayer. He goes out of his way to indicate that prayers be made for everyone, and particularly for those in authority. God wants for all men to be saved, and thus we should pray for everyone in our world from the greatest ruler to the lowliest servant. We need to pray for all and that we are left to live out lives in peace and quiet, that we may do so in a godly and holy way. This is not to say that all will always be well, for there are false teachers who stir up controversies within the church and against the church, but our prayers should be made none the less. Paul continues to point out that such prayer in worship is pleasing to God, who did everything to make possible the salvation of all through the work of Jesus Christ, who remains our mediator forever. This salvation for all is God’s purpose; and it is the purpose for which Paul was called to be an apostle. By extension, it is also the purpose of the church: Therefore such prayer in public worship is essential.

2:8-15: Now that Paul has given his instruction and warning to Timothy regarding false teachers, he turns to instruction concerning public worship. In verse 8 he instructs men to pray with “holy hands” without “anger and disputing.” In Jewish circles at the time, lifting up of one’s hands in prayer was commonplace, but it would seem that since Paul has said “holy” hands in contrast with “anger and disputing” he is referring to the attitude of prayer more than to its style. Note that in the previous section Paul was warning about false teachers who had stirred up “controversies”. Controversy results in anger and dispute; thus it appears that Paul is referring more to the fact that men should not be engaging in false teaching and controversy in prayer, but that they should be set apart and holy in their approach to prayer, and that this applies anywhere they gather to pray. Then Paul goes on to address women.

Women In 9-10, Paul indicates that he expects women to adorn themselves with godliness and good deeds rather than with the latest fashions from Paris in worship (so to speak). In other words, when women attend the church services,

they would do better to dress with modesty than to show off their wealth and fashion sense. “Modesty” in this context is not a sexual reference, but rather it is a manner of dress that is not designed to draw attention to themselves. Just as men are to set aside debates and anger over debates in prayer, women are to set aside worldly fashions. Both are to approach the throne of grace in humility. Verse 11 is problematic for some, but Paul is really getting at the idea that the ladies are to refrain from leading the public worship.

Verses 12-15 have sparked controversy for centuries... never more so than today! Take a careful look at what Paul is saying, and certain things become clearer: First, note verses 13 and 15. Paul cites the Biblical hierarchy of men versus women; men were created first, then women. Theologically, God reigns supreme, then angels, then Man. Within the category of “Man” there are two subsets: men and women. Men are ‘above’ women in the sense that they were created first and play a certain role in the relationship between the two. The male is supposed to serve as the ‘spiritual’ head of the family unit. This is not to say that males are superior to females, simply to point out that they have a different spiritual role. Now go to verse 15 and note that Paul says women will be saved through ‘childbearing’ if they remain faithful to Christ. This should not be read as a literal requirement for salvation, as it is never mentioned relative to the Gospel. It is a reference to the different spiritual role that women have. Having firmly in mind that we are speaking of *spiritual roles* now go back to verse 12: Paul does not “permit” women to teach. Note that he did not say that women cannot be allowed to teach, but that he doesn’t permit it. Next, consider what a teacher is in Biblical hierarchy.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. (1Corinthians 12:27-31)

The position of teacher in Biblical hierarchy is very high; only an Apostle and a Prophet is higher. Jesus Himself was called “Rabbi” frequently in the Gospels. “Rabbi” means “Teacher”. The spiritual role of a teacher in the church is a high one; a high leadership role in the congregation. Paul is telling us that in the worship assembly (remember that is what this discussion was all about in the beginning) women are not to fill the role of the teacher because it is a spiritual role that is given for a man who has been chosen (given a spiritual gift) by God. This is not to say that women are incapable of teaching, but rather that they shouldn’t do so in the worship assembly. This is the reason that we do not have female preachers. It is our understanding of this verse (and related ones) that women who are otherwise qualified and gifted may do so outside of the worship service. In fact Timothy himself was taught by women!

Questions for Personal Study:

- Who, what, & how does Paul tell us we should pray for? (2:1-2;8)
- What does it mean that Jesus Christ is our mediator? How does this affect such things as our worship and prayer? (2:5-7)

- Is it possible to connect to God without Jesus? Why or why not?
- What are the common sins of men and women that Paul mentions, and what could they do to a church?(2:8-9)
- What significance does Paul attribute to Adam being created before Eve? (2:11-15)

Tips for Parents with Young Children

If your having trouble getting through these every night, take a night off and just read to your kids out of a children's bible. Make sure to get into the story by changing your voice for different characters.

Monday: Explain to your children that God is bigger and more powerful than all the kings and presidents in the world. Therefore, we can pray to God and He can work to change things so that Christians around the world can worship Him. Then, explain local, national, and international government in a simple way, and pray with them for specific leaders, like our mayor and our president.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that even though people sin, God still loves and them, and that Jesus' death can forgive their sin if they ask Him. Then, spend some time making a list of people they know who are not Christians that they can be praying for and speaking with about Jesus. And, ask them if there are any sins they have committed recently that they can pray to Jesus to forgive them for and change their hearts to not do those things anymore, and then pray together.

Wednesday: Explain to your sons that God does not want them to get angry and be mean to people, and that when they start to lose their tempers they should stop and ask God to calm them down. Explain to your daughters that Christian ladies should dress nicely but not seductively. Teach that they should seek to get attention not by being under-dressed, but by being holy and living their lives for God.

Thursday: Explain to your children that God wants all of His people to learn the Bible so that they can know Him and teach other people. But, God also wants His people to respect their teachers (e.g. in school, church teachers, parents, etc.), so they need to be respectful and pay attention. Ask your children to teach you a Bible lesson so that they can begin to practice teaching their faith to other people.

Friday: Tell your children the story of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-3)—how Satan asked them to sin, and that Adam stood by and said nothing while Eve sinned against God and then had Adam join her. Ask them what Adam and Eve should have done, and what they should do when someone wants them to sin.

Saturday: Have your children draw a picture of Adam and Eve in the Garden being tempted by the serpent. Ask them why Adam and Eve hid from God when they sinned, and tell them that when they sin they should not hide from you or God, but should rather simply repent.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Three

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 3:1-26

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

"Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task."
(1 Tim 3:1)

Dominant Theme:

The difference between winning and losing..." isn't a structured program that necessarily makes the difference; rather, the difference is made moment by moment by leaders who care-for others."(Tony Dungy) Leadership is necessary in any society. If there is a leadership void or collapse it will not exist for very long before someone steps up. The question is, what type of leader will that person be?

Explanation of Text

Having given discussion to some of the issues in Ephesian worship, Paul now turns his attention to the Ephesian leadership, beginning with a discussion of the elders there. It is important to note the distinction between his comments to Titus, where Titus had been instructed to appoint new elders. Here, Timothy is dealing with an established church that has had difficulty with false teachings.

3:1-7: Paul begins by pointing out that being an "overseer" is a noble task. "Overseer" is one of several words used interchangeably in the New Testament for the position that we would call "Elder". These terms include: elder, overseer, shepherd, pastor, bishop and presbyter. Contrary to some traditional views, he did not say that the man must desire and seek the office. Since the position is a "noble task" the elder must be above reproach, meaning that the person should embody what it means to be a Christian. The elder should not be someone who will bring reproach upon the church or the Lord from the outside community. To the extent that this passage is the "qualifications for elders" the only requirement is that the candidate be "beyond reproach". The listing that follows contains clarification of what "beyond reproach" includes. Put another way, the list of attributes that follow is intended to state what it means to be "beyond reproach". Verse 2 continues with the list that begins with "husband of but one wife" literally *one woman man*. Some have taken this literally to mean that a man who has been widowed cannot remarry and be an Elder, while others have said that a single man, such as the one who wrote this, is ineligible. In light of the Greek, this seems unlikely, as does the more common idea that a man who has been

divorced is necessarily excluded. The principle from the Greek seems to indicate that the man should not be a womanizer or philanderer, and not one who has a pattern of marriage, divorce, remarriage, divorce, and so on... Next, the text mentions “temperate” which is someone not taken to excessive drinking, “self controlled, respectable, hospitable” which are obvious in meaning, and then “able to teach”. This is indicative of someone who is competent and educated to the point that they can teach: they must have something *to* teach. They would then also not be too timid to teach. Verse 3 seems self explanatory, and then verses 4 and 5 speak to the man’s family relationships indicating that the man must be able to “manage” his family well. This would be a man who is the spiritual leader in his family, one who leads them spiritually and keeps his young children from running amok.

Over the centuries, much ink has been spilled over these “qualifications” but it is interesting and enlightening to note that the word “qualifications” does not appear in the text. Since they fall into place grammatically as modifiers for “above reproach” it would be better to call these the “characteristics” of Elders.

3:8-13: This is a discussion of deacons, a term much misunderstood these days. A deacon means someone who serves; a minister. This list is similar to that for elders in the previous section, with the requirement for the position being “worthy of respect”. As in the section for overseers, the rest of the list in this section serves to clarify the first item stated. The balance of verse 8 seems fairly clear... and then comes verse 9. In verse 9, Paul turns from negative characteristics to a positive one. The “deep truths” of the faith appear to be similar to Paul’s favorite “mystery” which refers not to a deep dark and difficult secret, but rather to the gospel which was hidden until revealed by Christ. The clear conscience is something that the false teachers of chapter one did not maintain. Thus, the deacon must understand and properly respond to the gospel imperative for living a new life without compromising the purity of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Deacons are not to be unknown men, but men who have proven their worth (v. 10).

Verse 11 provides a transition between men and women. The NIV renders the Greek word as “wives” which is quite plausible. However, the same word can also be rendered “women” and the difference depends upon the context. The NIV made the decision easier for us by adding the English word “their” in this verse; sadly however, “their” is not present in the Greek. Traditionally, only men can be a deacon; it’s always been that way. Or has it? While there are many opinions in this question, we can surely agree that these traits would apply equally to wives of deacons (not to mention wives of Elders) and to women who serve the church in whatever capacity.

Paul explains how these women should behave in verse 11, and then continues his discussion of deacons in verse 12 which is quite similar to his statement regarding Elders. Verse 13 gives a promise of the result of their service; an “excellent standing” and “great assurance” in their faith. While this is certainly not big cash or sure promotion, it is a great promise for the day that the deacon stands before God to give account.

3:14-16: In this section, Paul pauses from his discussion and advice about the church to put his writings into perspective. It is clear that he intends to visit Timothy in Ephesus, but wants Timothy to put these things into practice now, in case Paul is delayed in his travels. Paul’s discussions have related to behaviors within the Christian community, first in worship, and then in leadership. In verse 16, Paul reiterates the

“mystery of godliness” (see comments about “deep truths” in verse 9.) What he does here is to briefly recite the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the “deep truths” of the faith and the “mystery of godliness”.

Questions for Personal Study

- In which of the areas listed do you find yourself excelling? In which areas do you find yourself struggling?
- Which item listed as a qualification for overseer/deacon surprised you? Why?
- What does Paul mean by resent convert? How long should someone be a Christian before they can become as overseer?
- How can you be praying for the leadership at Milan Christian Church?
- Have you ever seen someone in church leadership who people did not respect? What happened as a result?
- Why is it important that church leaders have their households in order as an example to others?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God puts leaders called pastors/elders in the church to make sure everyone is learning about Jesus and obeying the Bible. These pastors are supposed to be good men who love Jesus and who live for Him. Ask your children to be praying for the leadership at Milan Christian Church and the people in the church, and spend some time in prayer with them.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that someday they will likely get married and have families of their own. Tell them that they want to have a good family so that they can teach other people and open their homes to invite other people to be friends with them and Jesus. Also, explain that when your family has people over that you are doing ministry, and that they are part of that ministry.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that God serves us, and that we should serve each other. Ask them to name all the people who serve them, and all the ways they serve them, so that they see how blessed they are. Then, have them pray to God thanking Him for those people, and have them remember to thank people as they serve the children.

Thursday: Explain to your children that Christians are supposed to go to church to learn about God, to have friends, and to serve other people. Ask them how they are supposed

to act in church, and what ways sometimes they fail to be good in church. Pray for them that God would help them to be thoughtful and kind at church.

Friday: Spend some time singing worship songs, coloring, reading, doing Bible questions, or whatever else sounds fun to your children.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Four

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
(1 Tim 4:12)

Dominant Theme:

Throughout history, God has often worked through young people. Examples would include: Josiah, who became king at the tender age of eight (2 Kings 22:1), Jeremiah the teenage prophet (Jeremiah 1:6), and Mary the teenage mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-27). Timothy too was a younger man who Paul had sent into the church at Ephesus to fight heretics, appoint qualified leaders, and clean up a variety of messes. Older people in the church did not respect Timothy because of his age, and were prone to look down on him because of his inexperience, which likely included also being unmarried. So, Paul encouraged Timothy by telling him that the goal of his ministry was not the approval of men as much as the mission of God to save lost people.

Explanation of Text

In this chapter, Paul addresses more specifically the false teaching that he pointed out in chapter one. In verses 1-5, Paul will expand on the particular errors he was referring to, and in verse 6 ff. he will discuss how to oppose them.

4:1-5: In verse one, Paul sets the stage by telling Timothy that in “later times” certain things will happen. Clearly, it is Paul’s understanding that he and Timothy were living in the last age, for the Messiah had come and set forth remission of sins and a New Covenant. In those times, people would be led away from the truth by “deceiving spirits” and “demons”. This is troubling for many, because for those of us living in these scientific and enlightened days, we like to think that such things are silly myths from a bygone age. Nothing could be further from the truth! Verse two tells us that these demons use “hypocritical liars” who spread their lies (false teachings), and that these people are so accustomed to their own lies that their consciences no longer register. In verse three through five, Paul attacks the specifics of the particular false teachings then in Ephesus. It appears that these teachers have used a corruption of the old Jewish law to lead the people away from the teachings of Christ. These Christian teachings, discussed in four and five stand as a contrast to the prohibitions referred to in verse three. While we may not deal with these same kinds of false teachings today in our churches, we do have false teachings to deal with. They sometimes take the form of prohibitions against various things or practices of which the Bible does not teach. The principle here seems to be that we must always follow the teachings of Christ as recorded in Scripture and reject those teachings that are not in conformity with the teachings of Christ.

4:6-16: In verse 6-8, Paul tells Timothy to point out the doctrinal errors to the people, and in all things and in all ways remain a godly example for everyone to follow. Further, he tells Timothy that he needs to train himself to be godly, he must have nothing to do with ungodly myths and cultural nonsense, and uses the comparison of physical training to spiritual training: physical training is a good thing, but spiritual training is an eternal thing. We must train ourselves spiritually to be godly in all things. Verse 10 contains another of Paul's sayings that speaks of putting all of our hope into our relationship with Jesus Christ. Going from there, Paul tells Timothy that he must teach this boldly and without making concessions on this point. Note that in verse 12 he tells Timothy to present himself as an example of one who puts godly faith into action in the way he lives and conducts himself. In 13-14 he gives instruction of what Timothy should be doing until Paul's visit. Notice the reference again to the mysterious "gift" that Timothy had...

Verses 15 and 16 are ones that we should pay careful attention to in our own lives. Paul is speaking here of Timothy's spiritual growth. He is to remain diligent in spiritual matters both personally and in his teachings, so that the people may see him grow before their eyes, so to speak. He is to take care about both his personal life and his doctrinal teaching, and in so doing will not only cause himself to find salvation in Christ, but so will those who see his example. How much would our church grow if we all approached our lives in this way!

Questions for Personal Study

- What does Paul mean by training oneself? What does this mean for you practically? What is your plan to train yourself? Write up this plan so that you can be diligent in executing it, and so that it becomes habit-forming for you.
- Why does Paul say everything God created is good and should be received with thanksgiving?
- In the list of instructions Paul gave Timothy, which ones do you find difficult to follow? Which ones are easier for you?
- Paul says in verse 16... WATCH YOURSELF. What kind of person do you see yourself becoming?
- What does Paul stress as part of the church service and why?
- Paul says that it is God who saves people. Which people are you sharing Christ with in hopes of seeing them saved?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God made everything in the world good, and that we can use things in a way that is bad or good. For an example, we can use a stick to pretend we are exploring, or use it to hit someone over the head. Tell your children that God wants us to enjoy everything in life—from our food to our friends—and that if we use all the good things He has given us, then God is happy and so are we. Explain to your children the ways that they are rightly using the things God has given them, and ways they are wrongly using some things God has given them (e.g. not sharing the toys and such that God has given them).

Tuesday: Explain to your children that their souls need exercise just like their bodies. Ask them to list for you the things Christians should do to exercise their souls and be strong in Jesus (e.g. pray, read Scripture, go to church, serve, etc.)

Wednesday: Explain to your children that God often uses young people for ministry. Read them the story of King Josiah (2 Kings 22) if they are boys, and the story of Mary if they are girls (Luke 1:26-56).

Thursday: Explain to your children that Timothy was a young pastor, and because he was young, some people in the church looked down on him. Then, explain to them that sometimes people don't think kids can really love and serve the Lord, but that the Bible says otherwise. Teach them from this section of Scripture the things they can do to live for Jesus even though they are young.

Friday: Tell your children that Jesus had disciples; Timothy was Paul's disciple, and they have disciples too. Explain that disciples are people who follow our example, and ask them to list their disciples (e.g. friends, siblings, etc.) and explain why they need to set a good example for them.

Saturday: Spend some time with your children talking about who and what they want to be when they grow up. Ask them things like: Where they want to live, what kind of church they will go to, what they are going to do in the church...etc.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" review with them what you have been teaching them about being a disciple.



Week Five

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 5:1-25

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.” (1 Tim 5:1-2)

Dominate Theme:

As Christians we are to care and serve one another as members of the same family. However we are expected to carry our own load all doing our own part. This includes the elderly! We never retire from the service of the Lord and we are never too young to start serving! Everyone is treated as equals, there should be no partiality in the family of God, and because of that everyone should work. Paul paints quite a different picture than the welfare state we live in today.

Explanation of the Text

The letter takes a turn beginning at 5:1 in which Paul instructs Timothy with regard to certain special relationships within the Christian community. First, he gives instructions on relationships with people of certain ages, then widows, elders and finally slaves.

5:1-2: Paul tells Timothy that he is not to “rebuke” older men. This is the only appearance of the Greek word for “rebuke” in the entire New Testament. Instead, Timothy is to be respectful of his elders. This is not to say that he is not to correct them if they are in error, but instead of being harsh in his speech, Timothy is instructed to “exhort” (urge) them as he would his own father. The text goes on to discuss the way Timothy “treats” younger men, older women and younger women. The word “treat” has been added by the NIV translators for English grammatical purposes. In fact, the original text is still working with the word for “exhort”. Timothy is to exhort (urge) younger men as though they were his brothers. He is to “exhort” older women as he would his mother, and younger women as if they were his sisters: “with absolute purity”. The purity reference can be taken in the general sense as it was in 4:12, or it can be taken as relative directly to his relations with younger women, which is most likely the intent. In all of these relationships, Timothy is to treat people with respect.

5:3-8: Paul begins his instruction regarding widows here. His imperative for honoring them relates not only to treating them with respect; it goes on to seeing to their physical needs. A widow who was left alone in those days could not turn to the all-mighty government for help; there was no social security or Medicare. A widow left alone without family would most likely starve. In verse 3, Paul sets this forth: they must be “really in need”. The next verse shows who is not “really in need”; those widows who have children or grandchildren living. Paul makes it clear in this section that it is the responsibility of Christian families to care for their own family members; this is pleasing to God, and is the meaning of the commandment to honor one’s father and mother. It is

not the responsibility of the church... and it is definitely not the job of government. Verse 5 tells us that the widow in need depends on God for her support. This is an interesting thing to mention here, for it implies that God has seen to her needs by acting through the church. It is as though Paul is telling us that the widow depends on God: that means that the church as God's agent must see to her needs.

Verse 6 takes an interesting turn; a true widow is not living for pleasure. Such a widow is spiritually dead, she is not supported by the church. Verses 7 and 8 take an even more interesting turn. Timothy is to instruct the church that anyone who does not take care of his own family, especially those under his own roof, has denied the principles of the Christian faith and is "worse than an unbeliever". Even the Pagans recognized their responsibility to care for their own! Just consider what this means to Christians of our day. The modern Progressive State has inserted itself into the very fundamentals of the Christian faith, putting government into the role of the family, and more often than not, Christians today complain about the inadequacies of government benefits and use these benefits to avoid taking care of their own as God requires of all of us.

5:9-16: A list of widows in the church is to be made for support. This list is to be made up of widows over 60 who have been faithful to their husbands, and who have demonstrated that they place the interests of others above self. In other words, she must have lived her life in a Christian and Christ-like manner.

Verses 11-15 indicate why widows under the age of 60 are not to be placed on the widows list. They are still young enough to be active and are likely to marry; in fact Paul says that they should marry again. (v. 14) Verses 11-12 indicate that they will bring judgment on themselves when they decide to marry after having pledged themselves to serve Christ as widows. Verse 13 indicates further that younger widows who are supported by the church will become idle and gossips, as they are still young enough to be active, and this will cause problems within the church. Being idle, as well as being a gossip are sins after all. They would be better off, and the church would be better served if they just marry. Finally, women who have widows in their family should do all that they can to help them out, so that church resources can be retained for those who are truly needy.

5:17-20: In this section, Paul gives instructions relating to elders. Verses 17-18 relate the honor that elders should be shown by the church. Those who lead well are to receive "double honor" especially those who preach and teach. By saying that they should receive "double honor," Paul is saying that they should not only be shown great respect, but that they should also be paid. In our time, this passage is used to justify paying ministers because they preach, and some teach, but that doesn't seem to be what Paul is saying here. Verses 19-20 give instructions for handling accusations made against an elder.

5:21-25: In this final section, Paul gives Timothy some personal instructions. In verse 21, Timothy is charged to show no favoritism, and in the next verse not to lay on hands easily. This appears to be in reference to the laying on of hands in the naming of new elders and leaders within the church. Since the context is still dealing with elders, it would appear that Paul is urging Timothy to resist the temptation to be loose about bringing on leaders who are either unqualified or unready to assume the post. In verse 23, Paul urges Timothy to use a little wine for medicinal purposes. This may result from

some of the false teachings in Ephesus relating to dietary instruction that involves abstinence. Finally, verses 24 and 25 deal with sin and good deeds, calling to mind the need for discernment in both. Both sin and good deeds can be obvious to all, and both may be much more subtle, only coming to light later. Paul seems to be saying that we need to be careful in making judgments about the hearts of others.

Questions for Personal Study

- There are several kinds of relationships covered in this passage. What guidelines are given about healthy family living within the church?
- Why might Paul say that an accusation against an elder/pastor should be supported by two to three witnesses?
- Why is it important that young people in the church treat older men and women with deference and respect?
- Why is it important that Christians take care of the needs of their relatives?
- According to Paul, why should young single mothers get married?
- Is there anything in this text that you have to explain away to fit your belief system?
- If it is true that sin cannot be hidden forever, how should this affect how we react to our own sin?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

This week's memory verse is longer than others. Try putting each word on a note card and mixing up all the words then help the kids put the verse back together.

Monday: Explain to your children that there are two kinds of families in the Bible: the immediate family and the church family. Tell them how blessed they are to have both kinds of families. Ask them which older people they appreciate, and which young people they enjoy, and then pray for those people. If the children like, they can draw pictures or write notes to send to those people thanking them for their friendship.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that one of the duties of a father is to provide for the physical needs of his family with such things as food, housing, and transportation. Teach your sons that one day they will be a husband and father, and that to do so they will need to work and study hard so that they can make money. Teach your daughters that one day they will be wives and mothers, and that they will need to marry a man who loves God and works hard to provide for his family.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that favoritism is a sin because we are supposed to be equally good to all people. Ask your children to remember a time when they have been left out by other people and how sad it made them, or a time when they got in trouble for something that someone else did. Tell them that God is saddened when we do such things, and so it is important for them to treat all people well and not play favorites with some people. If you have multiple children, stress to them that you do not favor any one of them but in fact love each of them equally.

Thursday: Explain to your children that sin cannot be hidden forever, and that God always makes it visible eventually. Tell them that there is no such thing as secret sin, and that even if you (the parent) cannot see it that God can. Ask them if there are any secret sins that they need to confess to you (e.g. sneaking candy, doing something that is forbidden when you are not looking), and encourage them to always tell you the truth.

Friday: Ask your children what they would like to do (e.g. read a story, pray, sing worship songs, go for a nature walk to enjoy God's creation, etc.) and then do that with them.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" review with them what you have been teaching them about being a disciple.



Week Six

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 6:1-10

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...” (1 Tim 6:10a)

Dominant Theme:

We either love people and use money, or love money and use people. So many in our society trip over one another in their eagerness to get rich; the irony of it all is that it's done in the name of contentment which is more or less the same thing as “happiness.” Many people give lip service to phrase “money can't buy happiness,” but most give life-service to the hope that it just might. You can't serve both God and money you will love one and hate the other...

Explanation of the Text

In these opening verses from chapter six, we find that the first two wrap up Paul's discussion about various relationships that went through the last chapter; here with regard to slaves. The remaining eight verses deal with false teaching and the love of money.

6:1-2: In verse one, Paul tells slaves that they should show their masters full respect, for the sake of “God's name” and “our teaching.” With these words, Paul is not really giving an endorsement of slavery per se, but as always, he is giving the Gospel top priority. The idea is that if slaves disrespect their masters for whatever reason, their masters will not be impressed with the slave's faith in Christ. Put another way, if Christian slaves turn out to be trouble, the Christian faith will be blamed and fall into disrepute. Verse two deals with slaves of Christian masters. These slaves are not to attempt to take advantage of the fact that they belong to a master/brother, but are to remain respectful and obedient to their masters as they are to the Heavenly Master. In fact, since these masters are brothers, and we are supposed to love our brothers in the Lord, their slaves should work all the harder to put their master's interests ahead of their own.

6:3-5: Much of what we find in this section harkens back to chapter one. In 3-5 Paul mentions that people who are false teachers are not agreeing to the sound teachings of Jesus Christ. As a result, they are conceited, lack understanding, and are motivated by a love of dispute and controversy. As you can see from reading these words, Paul's opinion of such people is low, and that they do nothing but deliberately cause trouble. You might ask who they think they are serving by always stirring up division within God's church...?

6:6-10: Paul gave us an example of ungodliness in 3-5, here he shows us an example of godliness as a contrast. Godliness with contentment is a good thing; being happy with what we have will help us to avoid many problems in life; be happy that your needs are met. On the other hand, those who seek to become rich often fall into a trap because they are focused on all of the wrong things. Think of it this way: As Christ's disciple you are supposed to focus on your relationship with Jesus Christ, and upon glorifying God through bringing others into relationship with Him. But if you are out to get rich, you are only focused on yourself, your desires and getting what you want from life... where does Jesus Christ and His purpose fit in to this? Take special note of verse 10, one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Note that the love of money is NOT the root of all evil, but the root of "all kinds of evil." This does not mean that this is the cause of all evil in the world; sin (rebellion against God) is the cause of all evil. But the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil; in other words it causes many problems. Note also that Paul goes on to say that "Some people" have wandered away from the faith as a result. He did not say that "all evil comes from the love of money and that everyone who loves money falls away from the faith." In short, we are supposed to focus on the things that are above, not simply on our own selfishness.

Questions for Personal Study

- While considering your job (including ones you don't get paid for, like Mothering) are you convicted or encouraged by 6:1-2? Why?
- What can you do to be a better worker at your job?
- According to Paul, how are false teachers often motivated by a love of money and not a love of God?
- What does it mean to love money?
- What kinds of sin have you seen a love of money cause?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Try writing this verse on paper or note cards and placing them upside down on the table. Have your children pick the cards up and try putting them in the right order.

Monday: Explain to your children that part of being a Christian is to be a good worker. Make sure your children have chores, and that they understand why it is good to learn to work hard and do a good job. For some chores you should pay your children so that they learn how to earn and manage money, while some chores should simply be done because they are members of the family.

Tuesday: Explain contentment to your children in such a way that they are thankful for what they have. Make sure they understand that to be content means: to be happy (and not jealous) when another child gets something, not always whining for new things, and not asking for everything in the store when they go shopping with you. It will be very important for you to explain how advertising works, and that it is designed to make them feel not content.

Wednesday: Explain to your children your job and why you have to work.

Thursday: Teach your children that when we leave the earth we won't take any of our stuff to Heaven. So, while we should enjoy the stuff we have in this life, we should be more concerned with growing in godliness, which we will take to Heaven with us. Explain what a blessing it is to have simple things like food and clothes, and how many people don't have even those things. Make sure that your family spends some time together in prayer thanking God for what you have.

Friday: Explain to your children that we are to appreciate money but not love it like we do God. Teach them that if they love money and things too much, they will commit all sorts of sins. Teach them about such sins as coveting (wanting what other people have), stealing (taking what is not yours), jealousy (not being happy for other people who have nice things), and fighting (arguing over things that we don't want to share with people).

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Seven

Scripture to Read: 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith.” (1 Tim 6:11-12a)

Dominate Theme:

In the face of so much temptation and ungodliness what must we do to endure? Flee from sin and run to Jesus. Paul tells him to Fight! Fight for your faith, your family, your church, your children. When the walls of temptation close in around and sin is beating at your door, when you can't withstand any longer what will you do? Are you done or will you fight?”

Explanation of the Text

This final section of Paul's letter begins with an exhortation to Timothy to avoid the problems that we mentioned in 3-10 and to seek to hold on to the faith that he confesses in Jesus Christ; advice that all of us should take to heart daily.

6:11-16: Paul begins here by calling Timothy “man of God” in stark contrast to the “sick” false teachings and greed of the previous section. He exhorts Timothy to “flee” that sort of thing (there is no “all” in the Greek). Instead, Timothy is to seek out the things that are consistent with Christ likeness, to “fight the good fight” of the faith” using terms associated with an athletic contest to illustrate how we should view our walk each day. As Coach Herman Edwards once said about football, “You play the game to win!” This is the idea that Paul is leaving with Timothy... and us. We pursue godliness, righteousness, Christ-likeness and holiness “to win” as opposed to with complacency which is so common amongst the Christians of our time. In fighting the good fight, Paul urges Timothy to hold onto the example of Christ Jesus who gave the “good confession” and “testimony” before Pilate: in all things Jesus must be our model! Beginning at verse 15, Paul transitions into a doxology... very typical of Paul's writings that remind us of who it is that we ultimately seek to serve.

6:17-19: These verses are almost an aside, as though Paul was about to wrap up the letter and remembered that there was one more thing he forgot to say. It is closely related to his remarks in verse 9: a command for the rich. Previously he gave a warning about those who desire to become rich, here he has instructions for those who already are rich: do not place your life's priority on earthly riches. A rich man should not think that his money makes him better than other people (be arrogant). A rich man should not place his hope in material things, he should be generous, he should share, and thus store up treasure in heaven. Put a different way, a rich man must not think that he can buy his way to heaven; he is a servant of Jesus Christ just as a poor man is. A rich man may be able to serve God with his money; this is a good thing.

6:20-21: This is Paul's final charge to Timothy. On a very personal note, Paul tells Timothy to hold on to what he has been given, to turn away from false teaching and pointless chatter. Does this mean that Timothy was engaging in these things... or that he should continue to avoid them? There are theories about this, and probably it is the latter. One thing is certain, and it applies to us: Timothy was to never allow such things to interfere with his duty to God and to the church. He was to place his priority on making disciples of Jesus Christ and never to allow anything to become a distraction from that end. Amen!

Questions for Personal Study

- What things does Paul command Timothy and all Christians to pursue? What does this look like for you practically?
- What imagery does Paul use to explain Jesus in this section?
- What does it mean to honor Jesus in all of life?
- 90% of the people in the world do not own a car. Americans spend on ice cream every year what most people have to live on. How are you living out verse 17 through 19?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Make signs of what Paul tells Timothy to flee from and tape it to your shirt. Play a game where your children "flee" or run from you chasing them.

Monday: Explain to your children that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords who is in charge of all of creation. Teach them that, because of this, we should always obey Jesus and follow His example. Ask them what it means to be a king and how people are supposed to treat a king. Have them draw a picture of Jesus as a king.

Tuesday: Teach your children that some people are rich and have a lot of money. Explain that rich Christians are supposed to use the money God gives them to help other people who don't have very much. Find a way for your family to help someone in need, to teach your children how important it is to help others. This may be bringing a meal to a mom recovering from birth, to serving at a soup kitchen or giving money to someone you know who is struggling financially.

Wednesday: Explain to your kids who Jesus is and His death, burial, and resurrection.

Thursday: Explain grace to your children. Teach them what it means to be both saved by grace and empowered to live the Christian life by grace.

Friday: Teach your children that God wants us to share. Ask them what things they have a hard time sharing (e.g. toys) and explain how important it is to share. If there are things that they are good at sharing, make sure to note those things and to thank them for being generous. Ask them to also recall how other people have shared with them in

ways which made them happy, so they see how nice it is to be blessed by a generous person.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Eight

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 1:1-18

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." (2 Tim 1:7)

Dominant Theme:

In 1 Timothy the focus was on the church and a secondary theme was Timothy himself. In 2 Timothy we see that focus switch to the man himself. Paul is asking Timothy to rekindle the fire within. That he would not be ashamed of what he believes, rather he would preach the gospel, and guard the faith!

Explanation of the Text

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, he was in prison awaiting death. He is writing to Timothy to give instruction and encouragement for the future.

1:1-5: In this section, Paul greets Timothy and expresses his thanksgiving for all that God has blessed them with and for the promise of eternal life. You may note the subtle difference in Paul's greeting here as opposed to his greeting in 1 Timothy. Here, he notes the promise of life through Christ, significant in the attitude of a man awaiting execution. For Paul eternal life begins here on earth, and it will not be affected by the executioner's sword: The promise of eternal life is unaffected by physical death, a very hope-filled concept!

1:6-14: With verse 6 Paul begins a major section that actually extends through 2:13 that is intended to encourage Timothy to endure suffering. In this first part of the larger section, Paul reminds Timothy of the spiritual gift that he has referred to previously

in his first letter. Timothy is to feed and rely on this gift of God's providence through the difficult times that lie ahead. Timothy has a "spirit of power" a reference to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A Christian must not be timid, for within us is the very life of God, thus we need never be ashamed of our testimony of Jesus Christ. Paul encourages Timothy to join with him in suffering for the Gospel. In this statement, notice that Paul doesn't blame the Romans for his imprisonment, but indicates that the Lord is in control of things. He is in prison "for the Gospel" meaning that he is in prison because of his association with the spreading of the Gospel. Even though the Gospel may be a threat to this world (which it certainly is) it is a demonstration of God's power. Therefore, do not be afraid! Paul fully makes this case in 9-12, and ends with the assertion of his faith in eternal life and the promises of God: he knows that for him everything will end up just fine, so to speak. He finishes up here by reminding Timothy that because of this great Gospel and God's power, Timothy must carefully guard the gift of eternal life and be God's faithful servant.

1:15-18: These few verses give some examples of the loyal and the not so loyal in the guarding of the "deposit". We see here the example of two men who abandoned Paul, and one who did not. This is much more than someone turning their back on Paul, the man. By abandoning Paul, they abandoned his message. By remaining steadfast with Paul, the other guy remained steadfast with Paul's message; and the One who sent him.

Questions for Personal Study

- Instead of a spirit of timidity, Timothy was given a spirit of power, love, and self discipline. How can those counter timidity?
- In what ways has God equipped you for His service?
- What can you do to teach and equip others?
- Why might Timothy be ashamed of Paul?
- Why shouldn't we be ashamed of the Gospel?
- How does Paul contrast Phygelus and Hermogenes with Onesiphorus?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that Jesus died in our place for our sins and that rather than hide that we believe in Jesus we should celebrate what He has done for us!

Tuesday: Ask your children what is something that you or their friends do that embarrass them. Talk about why we do some of the things we do and the purpose behind them. Ask if there is anything that happens in church that embarrasses them.

Wednesday: Explain to your children how the Holy Spirit fills their lives after they become Christians and are baptized. When the Holy Spirit comes he brings gifts that help us carry out the work God has for us to do.

Thursday: With your kids plan something to do this Saturday that will be an encouragement to another person in their faith. Like bringing cookies or buying a book for someone.

Friday: Read a Bible story to your kids or if they are old enough, have them read one to you.

Saturday: Explain to your children that one of the reasons we go to church is to be equipped and encouraged to do the work of God. That when we are all singing and worshipping together it reminds us that we are not alone in God's calling.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Nine

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,” (2 Tim 2:8)

Dominant Theme:

When we make a commitment to follow Christ, we make a life long commitment. There is no turning back, we are forever changed by the grace of God, being transformed into the likeness of His son. Endurance... Pass it on.

Explanation of the Text

Paul resumes his discussions encouraging Timothy to endure hardships as chapter 2 opens. In this first seven verses, he will use three comparisons to instruct: a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. These three will be used to illustrate the need and reward for endurance. Beginning with verse eight, Paul will give the theological basis for endurance in the Gospel of Christ.

2:1-7: Paul, who has just finished a discussion of those who have and have not been loyal now turns emphatically to Timothy: “You then, my son...” be strong. He tells Timothy to entrust the Gospel to reliable people who can be counted on to teach. This is Paul’s encouragement to Timothy to grow up disciples who can in turn grow up more disciples. Beginning in verse three, Paul uses the first of his illustrations, that of a soldier. Note verse four: Paul is saying that Timothy must be wholeheartedly committed to his ministry so that he may please his “commanding officer”. We are not to be entangled in worldly matters, but instead we should be committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ, so that our efforts will be pleasing to Him. Verse six is the athlete who must compete “according to the rules” in order to win the victor’s crown. Note the similarity between following the rules and pleasing the Commander. Then, in verse seven, Paul turns to the farmer analogy. A farmer must work hard, as the soldier and athlete must, but in this case, the farmer is the “first to receive a share of his crops.” Many commentators suggest that this refers to the minister who earns his living from full time ministry. Finally, Paul tells Timothy to reflect on these things and the Lord will give him insight.

2:8-10: Paul now turns to motivation, using the heart of the Gospel. He reminds Timothy of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as His descent from David. He reminds Timothy that even though he (Paul) is in chains, the Word of God is never chained and continues to go forth, and urges Timothy to endure any hardship for the spread of the Gospel.

2:11-13: Paul gives Timothy one of his “trustworthy sayings.” In verses 11 and 12, Paul uses both positive and negative comparisons. If we die with Him, gives the note of hanging in there with Jesus all the way until we die, then if we endure (hardship) we will also reign with Him. Note that he says that if we disown Him, He will disown us. In verse 13 Paul reminds Timothy that our Lord is faithful always, even when we fail, because He cannot do otherwise. This is encouragement for any of us, and makes some excellent verses to commit to memory.

Questions for Personal Study

- What instructions are given in the verses 1-3?
- Why must we pass on the Gospel?
- What is the Gospel?
- How do we pass it on?
- How can verses 11-13 be encouraging, and or troubling?
- How can salvation be obtained?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Assign your children a task or chores that they cannot do alone, and then after they have struggled a bit, help them complete the task. Explain to them that is how God helps us when times get hard. Our responsibility is to keep trying!

Tuesday: The gospel is generally broken down into 3 pieces: Life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Have your kids do 3 separate drawings to represent each piece.

Wednesday: Sometimes people suffer for what they believe. Ask your kids what kind of things people get made fun of at school for. Ask them what they can do to help when they see a kid being picked on.

Thursday: Explain to your kids that when you decide to follow Jesus and be a Christian that it is something you do for the rest of your life. Have them draw a life line with different ages on a piece of paper and talk about where they might go or what they might do... and ask at every stop if they are going to still be following Jesus.

Friday: One of the ways to win a race is to train. Ask your kids how can we train in our faith?

Saturday: Read your children a Bible story, or if they are old enough have them read one to you.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say “I don't know” or “nothing” share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Ten

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)

Dominant Theme:

In the church we have essential issues such as: Jesus is God, the Bible is God’s word, Jesus is the only way to heaven, etc. However in non-essential issues we allow people to have a difference of opinion. Non-essential items such as: millennial view, gifts of the spirit, Calvinism, etc. are things we can debate, discuss, but we do not divide over such things. We must see the larger picture.... Jesus Christ crucified & raised to life.

Explanation of the Text

2:14-15: Paul now turns back to his exhortations against false teachers. He begins in these two verses by telling Timothy what he *should* do: First, he should keep reminding the people to hold fast to the teachings that Paul has presented thus far in this letter. Then, he should remind the people not to engage in endless quarrels over words, for this will become their ruin. He should present himself to God as a worker (servant) who handles the Word properly, and who does not indulge in frivolous arguments; one who builds the church, not one who tears it down.

2:16-19: Here Paul is telling Timothy what to avoid and why... To begin with, Timothy is to avoid “godless chatter” (literally “profane empty sounds”). Silly, off-color remarks, dirty jokes and tomfoolery do not build up the church. Paul says that this sort of thing will just cause people to become more and more “ungodly”. The infection of ungodliness Paul says will spread like gangrene, a condition that rots a living being to the point of death. Then Paul mentions two men who have been teaching falsely causing many to lose their faith. This teaching was that the resurrection had already taken place, or we might say, “Jesus already came back; you missed it!” In spite of this sort of foolishness, the teachings of God stand firm, and the Lord knows His own!

2:20-26: In this final part of chapter two, Paul uses the illustration of a large house. Since this house has both expensive items and inexpensive items, there is a different purpose for these things. The expensive items, those of gold and silver, may be used for a noble purpose, such as for hosting a banquet. The others, made of wood and clay are more “everyday” in nature. They might be a wash basin or even a chamber pot! If we cleanse ourselves from the lesser things, we may be clean and serve a noble purpose. In verse 22 Paul moves to his point: Flee evil desires and pursue the things of God. Have nothing to do with stupid arguments; they only produce quarrels, and quarrels are destructive. The Lord’s servant is not like this at all. (v. 24) The Lord’s

servant must gently instruct the errant brother so that he may come to his senses and a godly knowledge of the truth.

Questions for Personal Study

- What things does Paul warn Timothy to avoid? How do we avoid such things?
- What does Paul tell Timothy to pursue? How can we pursue such things?
- What is one way that false teaching can lead people astray?
- How are we to correct false teaching and or false living?
- What might be some stupid arguments people get into at church and how can we avoid such things?
- How does God purify us?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Review with your children some of the things you have been teaching them over the past month.

Tuesday: Ask your children what they fight with their siblings or friends about. Help them evaluate if these fights are worth having and talk about conflict resolution.

Wednesday: Explain to your children the virtues listed in verse 22.

Thursday: Review the virtues listed in verse 22 and ask your children which ones they have a hard time with. Discuss what you can do to pursue those things as a family.

Friday: Explain that Paul was like Timothy's older wiser friend, and was writing to him to encourage him to live for Jesus. Talk about who your children can encourage and about who they look up to.

Saturday: Read your children a Bible story, or if they are old enough have them read one to you.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Eleven

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
(2 Tim 3:16)

Dominate Theme:

Be sure of this, as a Christians you will suffer. The questions is not if, its when, and for what purpose. “Christians are like nails, the harder you hit them the deeper they go.” Suffering for Jesus pulls us closer to him. Don’t waste your suffering, use it!

Explanation of the Text

Chapter three is broken into two parts; the first (1-9) is a switch from Paul’s instruction about false teachers and Timothy’s response to them to instruction about false teachers as they relate to the “last days”. Then, in verse 10 Paul shifts to a very simple instruction. Timothy is to continue to apply what he has learned from and observed about Paul.

3:1-5: This section is a three sentence paragraph in which the first and last sentences are very short, and the middle sentence is very long indeed. Paul opens by telling Timothy that the “last days” will be terrible. Throughout the N.T. this term, “last days” is used to describe the Messianic Age, that is to say the age that Timothy lived in as well as the time we live in all the way to the return of Jesus. (Acts 2:17; James 5:3; 2Pet. 3:3; Heb. 1:2) There is nothing here to suggest that Paul is speaking of the time immediately preceding Jesus’ return, but rather the entire age. “Terrible” refers in the Greek to “hard” or “difficult”.

Verses 2-4 are pretty self-explanatory... and then comes verse 5a. To say that people of this age will have a form of godliness means that they will have all of the outward appearance of being Christians; they talk about Jesus, they might do nice things, they might talk about Bible subjects, and they might even live in a perfect little Christian cocoon. However, they deny the power of the Gospel, and the need to live a changed life. We might say that they look really good, but they have never grown up spiritually; they live for self! Paul’s reaction to such people is clear: have nothing to do with them.

3:6-9: Here Paul uses another illustration to show the kinds of people he is talking about. The illustration is of a con man who gets into a relationship with a lady of means to get at her money. He cites two men from the O.T. by name here; two men whose names do not appear in the O.T. This is a reference to Pharaoh’s magicians. (Exod. 7:11-12, 22; 8:7) The names come from Jewish intertestamental writings.

3:10-17: Paul calls upon Timothy to live according to what he has learned from Paul, to follow what he had observed from Paul's life, and to pay strict attention to Scripture. Pay close attention to 16-17 where Paul comments directly on the nature of Scripture. While commentators love to debate words here (creating quarrels as they go) this is a very simple verse to understand. First, "all Scripture" should be understood to mean "all Scripture". That is to say that Paul meant all of it. (That is unless you'd enjoy arguing about the meaning of the word "all"; didn't Paul comment on that sort of thing?) The great scholars really love to argue about "God breathed". Let's see if we can figure out what this means: First it came from God, second, God spoke it. When someone speaks, they run their breath through their vocal cords, and what comes out are words. Therefore, "all Scripture is God-breathed" means that all Scripture is God's words, because it came from God's mouth. (Is this really that hard?) And, "it is useful for teaching..." etc. Let's just put the point plainly: All Scripture is God's Word, therefore it is useful for instruction so that the man of God will be equipped for every good work: take it seriously!

Questions for Personal Study

- Study how Paul suffered for his faith. Reference 2 Corinthians 11:20-12:10. In what ways do Christians suffer for their faith today?
- What does Paul mean by "last days" are those days already upon us?
- Why will everyone who wants to live a godly life be persecuted?
- What tool(s) do we have to combat what Paul lists in the first nine verses?
- If you are actually taking the time to go through this study guide, thank you, take a moment and email me: rexroatb@gmail.com. I will email you the last study question for this section.

Tips for Parents with Young Children

If my calculations are correct this is the week of Thanksgiving!

Monday: Make a list of all the things we have to be thankful for. Make it a big list and put it on the fridge or wall.

Tuesday: Draw pictures of some of the things on the list you made Monday.

Wednesday: Explain to your kids that because God has blessed us so much, we should be a blessing to others. Do something together to be a blessing to another family this week.

Thursday: Explain thanksgiving to your children. Remember the pilgrims didn't have much, but what they did have they thanked the Lord for.

Friday: Talk to your kids about the importance of spending time with your family and building one another up in love. Ask them "What happens to families that don't spend time together."

Saturday: Read your children a Bible story, or if they are old enough have them read one to you.

Sunday: Ask your kid's what they learned in church today. If they say "I don't know" or "nothing" share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Twelve

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Tim 4:2)

Dominate Theme:

Paul passes the torch to Timothy, who passes it on to the next generation and so on down to us. How the church worships God in the present, will affect how God is worshiped in the future. How we bring people to Christ, is often times the kind of Christians they will be.

Explanation of the Text

4:1: Paul, who is obviously convinced that he is about to die, after all he is awaiting execution, gives Timothy one final charge as he hands the torch over to him. In this verse, Paul makes it quite clear that he is serious and speaking words that Timothy is to take to heart. He begins with a fourfold injunction: “in the presence” of 1) “God”, 2) “Christ Jesus”, 3) “of his appearing” and 4) “of his kingdom”. By describing Jesus as the One who will judge “the living and the dead”, Paul is making this charge a matter of eternal consequence. The NIV says “I give you this charge” which in the Greek is literally “I testify”, making this not only a charge, but a factual statement of what it is that God Himself expects of Timothy.

4:2-6: First and foremost, Timothy is to preach (“publically proclaim”) the Word of God. He is to be ready at all times to proclaim God’s Word. He is to “correct, rebuke and encourage” the people to whom he proclaims the Word, with “patience and careful instruction”. It is sometimes tempting for those who preach or teach to be too aggressive and insistent that people heed their teachings, and often such servants of God will be frustrated by the slowness of the people to respond, so they take a tough approach that can turn some away from the truth. Timothy is to be patient with people and carefully instruct them so that they learn to live as Christ would have all of us to live. This is especially important because there will be a time (or times) when people will not want to hear the truth; they will prefer to find a church where the teaching is limited to the things they *want* to hear... like the times we live in, for example.

4:4-5: These people will turn away from the truth and seek after “myths” (or maybe comfortable traditions) but Timothy is to keep his head and continue doing the right kind of godly teaching. Timothy is to “endure hardship” one of the major themes of this letter, and to discharge all of his duties in the Lord faithfully.

4:6-8: In this final part of our lesson, Paul turns to his situation, using it both to pass the torch to Timothy and hold it up as encouragement for Timothy to ‘hang in there’ to the end of his days. Paul is awaiting execution, and there is nothing to indicate to him

that he will be released at the eleventh hour. He has “fought the good fight” and “kept the faith” and of course by inference he is telling Timothy to do the same. Verse eight tells of the reward that is in store for Paul, and by extension to Timothy, you, I and everyone else who fights “the good fight” for the Gospel, and who continues in their faith to the end of their time on this earth.

Questions for Personal Study

- What is Paul’s charge to Timothy? What would Timothy’s charge be to us?
- Can you think of any examples of verse three & four in our time?
- What work does Paul want Timothy to do? What duties does he want him to “discharge”? Why?
- What does Paul believe will happen to him when he dies? What does he say will happen to all who long for Jesus?
- Challenge: Find a verse in the Bible that explains what happens when you die. Email the verse to me at rexroatb@gmail.com.

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: 90% of Christians make the decision to follow Christ when they are under 22 years old. Explain to your kids that they have a great opportunity to invite others to follow Jesus.

Tuesday: Talk to your kids about some other beliefs that their friends or children from school might have that is different than those taught in the Bible. Discuss what they can do to show those children the truth about Jesus.

Wednesday: Talk to your kids about where people go when they die. Heaven or Hell, the differences, and why people go where they go.

Thursday: Examine with your kids what heaven is going to be like. Take a look at the word heaven in the back of your Bible and look at the verses. If you don’t have a concordance in the back of your bible go to biblegateway.com and do a word search with them.

Friday: Passing the torch of faith is important. Ask your children what questions they have about what Christians believe.

Saturday: Read your children a Bible story, or if they are old enough have them read one to you.

Sunday: Ask your kid’s what they learned in church today. If they say “I don’t know” or “nothing” share with them what you learned and how God is working in your life.



Week Thirteen

Scripture to Read: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.” (2 Tim 4:18a)

Dominant Theme:

Paul describes himself as being alone, cold, and ready to die. However, his faith in the Lord is as strong as ever. Be faithful unto death, finish strong.

Explanation of the Text

As is typical of a Hellenistic letter, Paul ends up on a personal note. He has already mentioned that he wants Timothy to come to him (1:4) and now speaks about this visit with some specifics, and gives Timothy some news about his companions, some good, some bad.

4:13: Here Paul asks Timothy to bring him some of the things that he left behind before his arrest. A cloak would have been a woolen garment that would be useful in a cold, dark and damp prison cell, especially in winter. Note that Paul asks Timothy to come before winter. The “scrolls” and “parchments” might refer to different written materials that Paul wants, or they could be writing materials for Paul to use; we simply don’t know.

4:14-15: Here is a warning to Timothy about one of Paul’s former associates who has turned his back on Paul over disagreements. It would appear that Alexander remains in the church; a false teacher perhaps.

4:16-18: In these verses, Paul gives a brief recap of his trial. It seems that nobody stood up for him in court except for the Lord who strengthened him. The reference to the “lion’s mouth” in verse 17 has been read by some to mean from being thrown to the lions in the arena, but we cannot be sure. The most important feature here is to note Paul’s insistence that the Lord has given him strength and stood by him throughout this ordeal. Note that Paul’s joy and hope is not that the Lord will rescue him from his fate in court, but that the Lord will rescue him from sin by granting him reward in heaven and eternal life with Jesus.

Questions for Personal Study

- Paul tells Timothy to be on his guard.... what or who should we be guarding against?

- How did Paul use his trial?
- In this letter we see the personal relationship between Paul and Timothy, who can you write a letter to this week to encourage them.
- What time in your life did you feel alone, and what can you do to lean on the Lord during those hard times?