

A Study of 1 and 2 Timothy

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

1 Timothy 1:15-17

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A Study of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 1

Study Leader Notes:

This is a 6 session Bible study appropriate for any group of Christian women. The lessons are written to provoke discussion and timely application of the material Paul presents to us in these two books of the New Testament. Each session should take about 60 minutes to complete, but may be longer depending upon the amount of discussion. Each lesson comes with a leader's guide to give an idea of the types of things that might be considered in the discussion. It is recommended that the leader read the People's Bible Commentary on 1 & 2 Timothy as part of her preparation.

Opening Prayer

Introduction to 1 Timothy

1. Who was Timothy?

- Timothy (which means “venerating God”) was the son of a Jewish Christian mother and a Greek father and lived in Lystra (Acts 16:1).
- Raised as a Jew by Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) and was taught the Old Testament from early childhood (2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:15).
- Chosen by Paul to accompany him on his second and third missionary journeys.
- Circumcised by Paul before he joined the second journey because all of the people of the area knew his father was Greek and this would make his work among the Jews easier (Acts 16:1-3).
- Though young and inclined to be timid, he set a good example in speech, life, love, faith, purity (1 Timothy 4:12) and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:17).
- Paul loved him as a son (2 Timothy 1:2 & 1 Corinthians 4:17 & Philemon 2:22).
- Timothy spent time with Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome (Philemon 1). Paul wanted him to be with him when he again was in prison at the end of his life (2 Timothy 4:9,21).
- Was imprisoned and released (Hebrews 13:23).

- Paul sent Timothy as his representative to mission congregations in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:2), Macedonia (Acts 19:22), and Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:17) and he was in charge of the congregation in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3)
- Named as a co-sender of 6 of Paul's letters: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Philemon.

2. Why and when was 1 Timothy written?

Paul had left Timothy as a leader of the congregation in Ephesus when he moved on to Macedonia and wrote this letter to help train and encourage Timothy in his ministry (1 Tim. 1:3, 18-19, 1 Tim. 3:14-15 and 1 Tim. 6:12).

It was written after Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment and before his second imprisonment leading to his death. This would have allowed him a ministry of several years, perhaps about 63-65 AD.

3. What are the main points of the letter?

Instruction and guidance for God's people in worship, faith and life.

How to be a pastor to all kinds of people in all kinds of situations.

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are called the Pastoral Letters and are viewed as manuals for church structure and order.

1 Timothy 1

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11: ¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, ²To Timothy my true son in the faith: □ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith.

⁵The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

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

Notice Paul's great love for Timothy in the first 2 verses.

4. What were the problems facing the church in Ephesus according to vs. 3-4, 7?

There were dangerous false teachers in the congregation. Many feel these were Gnostics, those who claimed to have a higher knowledge which was necessary for salvation, failing to recognize God's Word as the only source of truth. The Old Testament contains many genealogies and possibly some of the Jews were using these, plus application of laws, to disrupt the teaching of the gospel. Paul indicates in vs. 7 the false teaching had to do with OT laws, and they did not understand its purpose or use, confusing it with the gospel. As a result, they were falling away from faith and taking others with them.

What kind of false prophets do we have in the church today? We have similar concepts of "additional wisdom" common today in the form of the Book of Mormon, the Koran, and those who apply reason to the Bible and reject all that does not make sense.

5. What does Paul say Timothy is supposed to do about the false prophets?

He is to confront them, command them to quit what they are doing. There is to be no tolerance or compromise, as might be common today! He is to do this in love, with genuine Christian concern for the souls of the false teachers as well as those of his congregation.

6. What 3 blessings (vs. 2), personal qualities (vs. 5) and theological resources (vs. 8,11) would Timothy need for this task?

Blessings: Grace (God's undeserved, forgiving love), Mercy (God's never-failing compassion that is ours when God sees our misery, woe and distress, Peace (the freedom from anxiety that we are given when our heart is filled with the knowledge of God's love for us), Qualities: pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith, Theological resources: law and gospel.

7. Of the personal qualities in vs. 5, which one would you most like to cultivate in your life?

8. It sounds as if the law was being misused by the false teachers in Ephesus. Paul says the law is not written for the righteous so why do we preach the law in our churches?

Laws are made for the wicked (we're given a list of examples that cover quite a few of the commandments!), not the righteous. But the Old Adam in us is wicked and we believers need the law just as everyone else does. If it hadn't been for the fall, we wouldn't need the law. It does not replace or add

to the gospel promise of salvation (as the Ephesian false prophets may have been teaching). It acts as a curb against wickedness, as a mirror to show us our sins, and as a ruler to show us just how far we are from God's demand of perfection. The good and bad within us is a constant struggle as Paul says in Rom 7:15-23.

Read 1 Timothy 1:12–20: ¹²*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

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

¹⁸*Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. ²⁰Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*

9. What are 3 ways that God's grace showed itself in Paul's life (vs. 12-14)? 1)

God chose and equipped him to do his work 2) God reached out and saved him even though he was the worst of sinners 3) God gave him abundant faith and love, based on the work of Christ.

10. What is the significance that Paul acted in ignorance and unbelief, and what does that mean for you?

The Lord broke through Paul's ignorance and unbelief and worked faith in his heart. Paul thought he had a strong faith in God and was doing the right thing when he persecuted and blasphemed. He had absolutely nothing to do with the way God turned him away from his previous life to one focused on the true work of God. Paul's needs were great but God's grace was greater. He does the same for me!

11. Why might Paul have considered himself the worst of sinners (vs. 16)?

He had rebelled against God himself, putting all his energy into destroying Jesus' name and robbing sinners of heaven, while thieves and murderers rebelled "only" against earthly laws.

12. Why is Paul's example a comfort to us?

God didn't send immediate judgment into Paul's life but showed boundless mercy and patience. When we think about our own sins we can be equally thankful that God shows us the same level of patience and grace, leading us to repentance and salvation.

13. How did Paul show his gratitude?

He broke into beautiful praise and worship—to God be the honor and glory forever! He couldn't help himself; he just had to sing God's praise. Do we do the same?

14. Why do you think Paul said all of these things about himself to Timothy?

Paul is instructing Timothy about the consequences of letting the false prophets continue. Only the truth would lead to the glorious salvation promised to Paul and Timothy. The world is hostile to the gospel and those who preach it—Jesus said he was sending his disciples to be sheep among wolves in Matt 10:16. Timothy's ministry would be a constant battle and he would need to cling to the full truth of the gospel, as he had been taught from infancy and from Paul.

15. Why do you think Paul mentions the two men who had been turned over to Satan?

These were apparently men who had been excommunicated for their false teaching. This is a gut-wrenching process but must be done, in love, to show the sinner the magnitude of his errors in the hope that he will turn back and be saved. Failure to do this is harmful to the congregation and fatal to the sinner. Sometimes congregations and ministers are asked to do very difficult but essential things. We get our strength from God.

16. What have you learned today that will help you fight the good fight?

Closing Prayer

Next week: 1 Timothy 2 & 3—Instructions on Worship (Service) & Overseers and Deacons

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 1-31

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus Study Guide. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1994. 4-7

Concordia Self-Study Bible. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1986. 1846-1850

A Study of the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 2

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 2

Read Chapter 2: ¹I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. ⁷And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

⁸I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

⁹I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

¹⁵But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1. Why might Paul have used four different words “requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving”—instead of just telling us to pray?

A request is approaching God with our needs, knowing only he can meet them. A prayer is more general and carries with it an element of devotion and reverence. Intercession adds the thought of the boldness and confidence of a child going to his father with a petition. Thanksgiving is a reminder that every good and perfect gift comes from God. We are encouraged to use all types of prayers!

2. Why does Paul urge us to pray for everyone?

People are saved by coming to a knowledge of the truth. That means someone must take the gospel to them and they must not reject it. What if nobody asked God to give us pastors, teachers, missionaries and

laymen willing to share the gospel? What if we didn't ask God to open the hearts of those who need to hear the word? What if we didn't have people who faithfully studied the Scriptures to know what the gospel message is? What if nobody asked God to help and encourage those who are suffering and going through difficult times? What is nobody thanked God for the bounties of his blessings? ... There is also something very special about corporate prayer, knowing that others are lifting you and your life to God in prayer.

3. Paul adds special instructions to pray for the government. Why?

It's easy to forget to pray for the government but all in authority, even those who are heathen and do evil, are God's representatives. When governments provide peace and order and encourage godliness, we are greatly blessed. Being able to assemble, worship and spread the gospel without fear is not something that should be taken for granted. A good government is an immense help in reaching all souls with the gospel and also has a significant effect on our quality of life.

4. In verse 7, Paul tells us his special assignment as an apostle is to teach the Gentiles the gospel message. What is our assignment?

To do the same, to share the gospel with everyone that they may be saved.

5. How do we do this?

Is that one of the reasons he tells us to pray? When we truly meditate on the magnitude of his gospel message and what it means for us personally, we are moved to share the wonderful news in many ways.

6. The word "men" in verse 8 is the word for "males." What is God saying here?

He is telling us that God wants men to take their headship calling seriously. They are to pray and lead others in prayer. They are to come with holy hands – hands that have requested and accepted God's forgiveness. They will do this with love in their hearts for their neighbors and trust in God's promises.

7. What message does he give women in vs. 9-10?

God wants women to know that true beauty is not external but rather comes from the good works that flow from the work of the gospel in our lives. With this attitude, they will dress decently and properly, according to God's standards, not with vanity and a focus on physical beauty.

It's interesting that Paul speaks about things that men and women may find particularly difficult to do—men to put aside fighting and lead in prayer and worship, and women to follow with modesty.

8. In vs. 11 & 12, the words “learn” and “teach” can be compared to the relationship between a student and a professor, or Jesus and his disciples. The words “quietness/submission” and “silent” expand on the picture to show the attitude the student/disciple has—one of a quiet spirit, eager to hear and understand. Verse 12 states a principle having to do with the callings of men and women and also an application of that principle. The principle is that women are not to have authority over men. The application is that she should not teach men. Paul goes on to give us the origin of this principle. Where does it come from?

God created man first. Then he made a helper especially designed for Adam and presented her to Adam. Eve was made to complement him and make him complete, or “very good”. This clearly sets the headship and helper relationship that God intended from the very beginning, even before sin entered the world. The distinction between principle and application is one that must be stressed. Distinguishing between principle and application will be helpful also for handling the question that is bound to come up in connection with verse 15. “Is Paul saying that child-bearing is a good work that saves women? No! Note how the sentence goes on: “if they continue in faith.” Salvation by faith” is the principle. An application of that principle is the activity of faith-filled women. Paul couldn’t possibly come up with an example more uniquely feminine than child-bearing. The new Lutheran Study Bible, released by Concordia in the fall of 2010, has a useful note: “Women are not saved by giving birth. Through faith in the child Jesus, women are saved as they live out their God-given vocations. Childbearing is an example of a most noble, exclusively feminine vocation.”

9. Agree or disagree: From vs. 14 we learn that Adam was less guilty because Eve was the one who sinned. Explain your answer. (Schuetze, study guide, pg 9)

Disagree. Eve was deceived first and then offered Adam the fruit also. Adam failed in his headship—he was there with Eve but allowed her to sin and then he followed her lead. This is headship turned upside down. Eve initiated the sin but God held Adam, as the head, responsible for the fall (Gen 3:17) and he is known as the one man through whom sin entered the world (Rom 5:12)

10. Agree or disagree: The world has changed and Christian women no longer need to follow the principle of headship and helper.

Disagree. The world (sin) has made God’s perfect plan into something to be questioned and dismissed as demeaning, inferior and prejudicial. It is a beautiful relationship created by God as the perfect way for the world to function. All people submit to a head, whether to a father, a boss, or the government and this is not a bad thing. Even Jesus submitted to his Father. Dissatisfaction with this relationship by women

and abuse of the relationship by men is a result of that first sin. Sin's corruption of something good, however, does not negate God's desire for how men and women are to relate.

11. "The Hebrew word meaning "helper," used twice for Eve in Genesis chapter 2, is found 31 times in the Old Testament. It is interesting to note that in 16 of those times the word is used for God." (Gurgel, pg. 61) For examples see Deut 33:29, Psalm 70:5 and Psalm 33:20 ("We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.") What does this tell you about the importance of the person who is "helping" and the dignity of that task?

It is a high, important and blessed calling. There is absolutely nothing demeaning or inferior about it!

Closing Prayer

Next time: 1 Timothy Chapter 3 & 4

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 33-45

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus Study Guide. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1994. 8-10

Gurgel, Richard and Kathie Wendland, Heirs Together of God's Gracious Gift of Life. Milwaukee, WI: WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship, 2007. 56-66

A Study of the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 3

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 3 & 4

Read 1 Timothy 3: ¹Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer,[a] he desires a noble task. ²Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

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

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

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

¹⁴Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. ¹⁶Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

1. Who is an overseer?

This is what we would call a minister or pastor, the man a congregation calls to preach and teach God's Word.

2. The qualities in vs. 2-7 are seen in the lives of most Christians. Why do you think they are listed specifically for pastors?

Because the lack of these qualities could easily interfere with sharing the Word, weaken the message of reprimand or counsel he might give to a parishioner, affect the respect given to him by his congregation, and reflect poorly on the very God he serves. This would make him ineffective as the leader of his congregation. On the basis of verse 7, one might also add that scandalous behavior by pastors can hinder outsiders from being willing to hear and hopefully accept his law/gospel message. He should be calm, not easily influenced by the world and various false doctrines that may arise, thoughtful and not impulsive, respectable in every way. Even the hint of any of these negatives must be avoided. What an exceptionally high standard is set! Let us pray for our pastors that God give them strength, wisdom and a pure heart.

3. What is the only skill listed and why is this important?

He must have the ability to teach (vs. 2) which implies he is able to learn and master the material he is teaching. This is essential because a pastor unable to communicate the gospel cannot fulfill the primary role to which he is called.

The discussion leader should perhaps be ready with an answer to two frequently asked questions,

a) “Does that mean a pastor/deacon should be married?”

b) “Does that mean that a pastor/deacon who has become a widower can’t remarry? The text says simply that he is to be “a one-woman man”, i.e., faithful, not a womanizer.

4. Verse 8 mentions deacons. What is a deacon (see Acts 6:1-7 for an idea) and who fills this role today?

In Acts 6 we see the establishment of deacons (the word means “those who serve”) who were asked by the congregation to care for their widows. You’ll see the qualifications for this role in vs. 3. Because of their work, the leaders were able to focus on preaching and the number of believers grew (vs. 7). Today deacons are men (and women) chosen by the congregation to help with its ministry and administration so those called to preach (the pastor) can focus on this most important task. Today they might be those serving on the church council and boards, as Sunday school teachers, as a staff minister, as school teachers, the many women doing the work of SHINE, and others. It is assumed that the headship and helper callings of men and women discussed in chapter 2 and elsewhere in Scripture would apply to the type of service that women would provide.

5. Do the qualifications given for deacons (vs. 8-13) still apply to those who serve today?

Times have changed but the work of God is the same. Yes, these qualifications still apply. Today's "deacons" are working as God's representatives and therefore have influence over those they serve. It is important that they and their family be honest, respected, and sincere. They should guard their tongue—not be malicious talkers. Equally, they should have a strong faith that is being regularly fed. Paul tells us they should be conscientious believers, "full of the Spirit and wisdom".

6. From vs. 14-16, why does Paul feel it was important to share these qualifications with Timothy?

The church isn't just another worldly organization that can set its own standards and priorities. Paul is passionate about these qualifications because God has entrusted his work of outreach and the care and feeling of the souls of all believers to the church. This is serious business and those who do this work must treat it seriously. We are God's family, called by him to do his work according to his standards.

7. Of the qualities listed in this section, which do you need to work on the most? How can the ladies in this Bible study help you?

Read 1 Timothy 4: ¹The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ²Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

⁶If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance ¹⁰(and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Don'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. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

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

8. Paul warns against man-made religious rules in vs. 1-5. Name at least 2 reasons why he gives us this warning.

1—Because they come from Satan and cause us to abandon our faith in the only true God. What a tragedy that we throw away our gift of eternal life so that we can follow deceptive lies!

2—Because they interfere with giving God the glory he deserves. He gave us food, relationships, the free gift of salvation, and much more, as wonderful blessings. When manmade rules make us despise these blessings, we defy God himself since everything he made is good.

9. What might some of these man-made rules look like today?

Rules about which food we can eat and when, teachings that focus on our works to earn salvation, imposition of fasting and other rituals, insistence on special knowledge for salvation (“The Secret”), rules against some entertainment (playing cards, dancing)...

10. List at least 5 things God expects of a good minister.

1—preach and teach the pure gospel (3:16, 4:13),

2—warn against errors that destroy the gospel (4:1-5)

3—stay away from false doctrine as it may draw him away from the truth

4—study God’s Word (4:7)

5—make your life an example to others (4:12)

6—be diligent and persevere (4:15-16)

11. Do you spend more time in physical fitness or in godliness training? What disciplines should be part of a spiritual growth program?

Reading and studying the Bible, using a good commentary to help understand what is being said in the Bible, attending Bible classes, asking questions if you don’t understand, praying for wisdom and guidance...

12. If Paul could talk to our youth group, what advice might he give them as they prepare to leave home?

The same as he is giving Timothy in these chapters: be diligent, watch your life, be very careful with your doctrine and hold only to the truth, persevere. If they do this they will be saved and so will those with whom they share the gospel.

Closing Prayer

Next time: 1 Timothy Chapter 5 & 6

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 47-72

A Study of the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 4

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 5 & 6

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16: ¹*Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.*

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

⁹*No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.*

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

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

1. Compare what Timothy was told about caring for older people and what we do today.

1 Timothy—give them honor and respect, families are to care for their immediate family and relatives in need; it's a shameful thing and a denial of your faith not to; if there is no family the church is to provide spiritual, emotional and possibly financial help to the godly widow in need; Today—We are blessed with much government assistance to help with financial, medical and social needs. However, these programs

do not absolve us of the responsibility to ensure our older family members are properly cared for physically and have the social and emotional support they need.

2. What are our responsibilities toward our elderly parents and grandparents?

Love them, respect them, attend to their needs. Don't neglect them even if you think they are being well cared for (don't let them sit at home or in a nursing home without calling or visiting). Don't ignore them even if they are very difficult to tend to. When balancing extended family with immediate family, consider that God made the husband and wife one unit and their children depend on them for the things that give them life. Caring for husband and children should not be to the exclusion of the extended family and vice versa. This can be a very difficult balancing act but ideally the two aren't in conflict.

3. What message is given to those in need in vs. 9-10?

They should live lives worthy of receiving the help they now need. They should be truly needy, beyond the years when they can provide for themselves, and continue a life filled with works reflecting Christ's grace.

4. What message is given to those in vs. 11-15?

Those able to provide for themselves should not take support and then become lazy, idle, busybodies, gossips. They should go about their work as long as they are able.

Read Chapter 5:17-25: ¹⁷*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸*For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."*

¹⁹*Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.*

²⁰*Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.*

²¹*I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.*

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

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

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

5. Who are "the elders" of vs. 17 and which ones deserve "double honor"?

The elders are all those who preach, teach or administer the affairs of the church—the pastors, teachers, staff ministers, members of the various boards, committees and councils. Those who do their work well, and especially those who preach and teach—the pastor—are worthy of double honor. Preaching the Word must always take preference over the other work of the church. Those who are especially gifted in sharing God’s Word are a special blessing to the church and worthy of special honor.

6. What does it mean to give honor to these people?

Give them respect and encouragement, pay them a decent wage, support their decisions, give them opportunities for continued study, pray for them, believe them unless it is definitively proven they have been unfaithful (vs. 19) and then handle the situation according to Matt 18. Accept them as forgiven sinners.

7. Why do you think Paul tells us, in vs. 22, to take care in choosing people to do the work of the congregation?

We must not be hasty and overlook a person’s qualifications and how God is reflected in their life’s decisions because it could show an indifference to God’s standards or an indifference to sin. If we are careless in choosing leaders, it appears as if we condone their weaknesses or misconduct and thus send the wrong message to the congregation and the community at large. Paul’s advice is also applicable generally in the case of converts and new members, even those who might have many of the necessary qualifications. Such people likely have the basic doctrines straight, but they’ve not seen the application of them in practical instances. It would be better not to rush them into responsible offices immediately but rather to let them observe for a bit how things work themselves out in actual congregational situations. Careless or over zealous choices can cause grievous damage to the individual, to other individuals and to the entire congregation.

Read 1 Timothy 6: ¹All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. ²Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

³If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

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

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

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

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

8. How can the gospel in the lives of converted sinners profoundly affect undesirable relations and practices between employees and a supervisor (vs.1-2)?

Workers will give the supervisor proper respect, not because he/she has earned respect but because that is what brings honor and not shame to God. If the supervisor is a believer, this is even more reason to give respect since the laborer's work benefits a believer and a brother/sister in Christ. If we can focus on Christ, difficult working situations can become much more tolerable and even enjoyable. In Ephesians 6:9 Paul instructs supervisors to treat the workers with the same respect and attitude.

9. In vs. 3-5 Paul talks about false prophets for the third time in this short letter (also see 1:3 and 4:1). Why might Paul be so consumed with this topic and what does it mean for us today?

False prophets were a major concern to the church in Ephesus, where Timothy was working, and Paul wanted to make sure Timothy would handle this problem quickly and effectively. These verses tell us false teachers easily invade a congregation and replace the joy, peace, love and hope we get from God with controversies, quarrels, envy, strife, and friction. The best ways to fight them off is by knowing what God

teaches and listening only to those who teach the pure Word. Satan wants nothing more than to divert a congregation from their work of preaching and teaching the Gospel and gain those souls for himself. We must never become complacent.

10. Put vs. 6 into your own words.

True godliness is based on the faith we have in the Jesus and his work of salvation. A focus on this truth leads us to fill our lives with the good works of thanksgiving and this brings us a contentment that has nothing to do with material goods and physical well-being.

11. Agree or disagree: It's best for a Christian to avoid becoming rich (vs. 10-12).

We are told not to love money put it first in our lives and base our hope in it. This is not the same as using and enjoying the special material gifts God may have given us. Paul knew need and knew plenty (Phil 4:12) but this did not affect his contentment. Abraham and Job were wealthy men and both served God well. We are warned that it is easier to depend upon our selves and our riches if we have plenty. "What a contrast: contentment under God's promises versus greed that leads to ultimate ruin!" (Schuetze, pg 94) The prize of this life is eternal life, not wealth and recognition.

12. What kinds of "godless chatter" and "false knowledge" (v 20) do Christians need to turn away from today?

Health, wealth, success messages, any ideas that we can help with our salvation, the idea that it doesn't matter which church we go to as long as we go to church, any ideas that we can learn about God from our experiences, our knowledge, or any way other than through the Word and Sacraments.

13. What will you do this week to help "guard what has been entrusted to your care?"

Closing Prayer

Next time: 2 Timothy 1 & 2

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 73-105

A Study of the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 5

Opening Prayer

Introduction to 2 Timothy

- The last of Paul's letters, a farewell and exhortation to continue to spread the Gospel message
- When he wrote this, Paul was in prison in Rome, chained and expecting death. Tradition has Paul suffering martyrdom in 67-68
- Written about 67 AD with 3 purposes: 1) He was lonely and wanted to see his dear Timothy one last time 2) Paul was concerned about the welfare of the churches during this time of persecution under Nero and wanted to give them his encouragement 3) He wanted to encourage the church in Ephesus in particular to continue to fight false prophets.

2 Timothy 1 & 2

Read 2 Timothy 1: ¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my dear son: □ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

⁸So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and

an apostle and a teacher. ¹²That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

¹³What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

¹⁵You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

1. Paul gives us a powerful example of how to live our lives in the first 5 verses of this chapter.

What can we learn about our attitude in times of trouble or disability from vs. 3?

We can thank God for his blessings, we can continue to serve God, we can pray for others—all of this has NO focus on self and shows no signs of complaining or feeling sorry but trust that God is in control and all will go according to his plan.

2. What can we learn about forgiveness?

Paul had a clear conscience! He had accepted God's forgiveness and moved on, not letting previous sins divert his service to God. So often we continue to torture ourselves and become ineffective in our ministry because we refuse to accept God's gift of forgiveness.

3. What can we learn about encouragement?

Paul's primary concern was that the churches would not fold when their human founder dies. He expressed his love and support for Timothy, letting him know he thought about him a great deal and prayed for him day and night. As a man who dedicated his life to God, Paul is letting Timothy know that he is now passing that single-minded dedication on to Timothy, who must carry on after Paul is gone. What a legacy! What encouragement this must have given Timothy!

4. Has anyone passed the torch of faithfulness on to you? Are you passing it on with the fervor of Paul?

5. Why might Timothy have been ashamed/afraid (vs. 8) of preaching the Gospel.

1) fear of the hostile world that had put Paul in prison and what they would do to him—not an insignificant fear when we think of how Peter denied his Lord on Maundy Thursday. It was now against the law to be a Christian and they were being persecuted so there was great reason for fear.

2) failure to see Christ as his most priceless treasure and worthy of giving up life itself—Paul might have been thinking about how he, before his conversion, not only didn't testify about Christ but actively persecuted those who did. He might also have been thinking about Timothy's father, a non-Christian, and urging Timothy to hold fast to the faith of his mother and grandmother, not his father.

6. What kept Paul from being ashamed of preaching?

He was convinced he was saved through Christ, that he had been chosen to be saved before time began so it had nothing to do with him—pure grace, that he was called to lead a holy life and preaching the Gospel is what God had called him to do. Nothing could shake his trust in God. Paul sees his preaching as both a privilege and a responsibility.

7. If you are timid with sharing the Gospel, what might help you?

Read your Bible and pray for a faith like Paul's, focus on why it is essential that we spread the Word, make it a priority, educate yourself on techniques to use, practice with a friend, pray for the opportunity and the words to use. Meditate on vs. 12 and apply the truths to your situation—we can do all things through Christ, who has saved us, sent us his Holy Spirit to teach us, and has the ultimate power to overcome all fears. By grace, entirely by grace, we can and must do this! We never find the strength within ourselves to share the Gospel; it comes only from God himself.

8. How can we be an Onesiphorus to someone (vs. 16-18)?

Be there for them in their difficult times as well as in their good times. Do we ever say, "Let me know how I can help you" never expecting them to actually ask for help? Do we ever say, "You're in my prayers" and stop there, never actually praying for the person? Do we ever think we really should go and help but never actually do it? Do we regularly verbalize encouraging words for pastors, teachers, Christian friends?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13: ¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his

commanding officer. ⁵Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

9. What can we learn from Paul's comparison of Timothy's role to that of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer?

Those serving in these roles stay focused on the task at hand and work hard at it. Suffering and endurance are required in these roles but those who stay committed can also expect the blessings that come from difficult work. We can expect the same as we go about doing God's will with sincere dedication. Remember who we are serving, do his will, and leave the rest to him.

10. What role does meditation play in this (vs. 7)?

As we search the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit gives us insight into what is being said even when it may not be obvious to us initially. That is the great blessing and excitement that comes from perseverance in studying our Bibles intensely.

11. What have you learned about the cost of following Jesus?

It's sometimes painful, sometimes decisions seem foolish to others in the world, sometimes it requires more patience than seems possible. The rewards are great indeed. God is always faithful even when I mess up and am unfaithful.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26: ¹⁴Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵Do 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. ¹⁶Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

²⁰In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some

are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

²²Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

12. What is required to correctly handle the Word (vs. 14-15)?

False teaching often begins with arguing about what the Bible says, taking words out of context, or changing their meaning to fit our reason or what we want to hear. Handling the Word correctly requires that we approach it with integrity (as God's inspired words and without error or contradiction) and accept what it says.

13. What are some examples from our world where the Word is not handled correctly?

Denying what God says because it isn't reasonable (virgin birth, the Trinity, the resurrection, creation) because it doesn't fit our political agenda (homosexuality, callings of men and women, abortion) or out of arrogance (pride couldn't possibly be a sin!) Changing the meaning of words so that the truths are subtly denied as with some sects who claim to be Christian but deny Christ's deity and saving works.

14. What picture is Paul painting when he says false doctrine spreads like gangrene?

Since it has such a strong appeal to our humanity, false doctrine is easy to believe, hard to arrest without radical action (cutting out the offending tissue) and in the end is totally deadly. Paul then gives examples of two men who have succumbed to false doctrine and have lost their faith. Just as with gangrene, we must quickly take drastic measures to get rid of false doctrine.

15. Put verse 19 into your own words.

God's Word will not succumb to false doctrine. God continues to call his own to him and he gives them what is needed to not be deceived. The power of the Gospel will continue to give evidence of itself in the church and in the lives of the believers. God will see to it!

16. Agree or disagree: As we get older, sinful desires are no longer as big an issue in our lives.
Explain.

Often the sinful desires become more sophisticated and subtle as we age. Older people become more likely to fall into sins of omission rather than commission. There seems to persist a general evaluation that not doing what we should do somehow is less blameworthy than doing what we shouldn't do. Unfortunately sin is sin. Satan never gives up on trying to get us into his camp. We must always watch and pray that we do not enter into temptation.

Closing Prayer

Next time: 2 Timothy 3 & 4

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 106-139

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus Study Guide. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1994. 22-28

A Study of the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy

Leader's Guide—Lesson 6

Opening Prayer

2 Timothy 3 & 4

Read Chapter 3:1-9: ¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. ⁶They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

1. Agree or disagree: Times are more terrible today than they were in Paul's day. Explain. *Paul describes the last days, the days before Jesus' second return. We are closer to those days so we could say that these signs are even more prevalent as Satan's time to keep us from salvation draws to an end. Indeed we do see daily evidence of all the things Paul describes. However, we aren't chained in prison expecting to be tortured and killed for our beliefs as Paul was when he wrote this letter. In this country, our ability to meet, study, worship, and evangelize is a great blessing that we often take for granted.*

2. Comment on "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (vs. 5). *Many pretend to be religious and make great claims at being spiritual; they go through all the motions but live as if God doesn't matter and what he says can be totally ignored. What arrogance to think we can change God's commands because we don't agree with them or think they are outdated, that we can ignore his commands because they aren't convenient or popular.*

3. What are some examples from our times of those “having a form of godliness but denying its power”?

Oprah and others who want to appear religious but deny the Savior, those who want us to compromise our beliefs so we can all live together in physical peace and harmony, those who require a secret or special knowledge for salvation, those who are judgmental.

4. How can we be the “light of the world” and do mission work and still “have nothing to do with” the world described in verse 5?

We are also told to be in the world but not of the world. We must not condone or join in with the ungodly philosophies, conduct or attitudes that are described. But at the same time, if we know only people who are “good” Christians, we have no one with whom to share the message of salvation. Have them as friends, but not best friends and not those from whom we seek advice

Note: by Jewish tradition, Jannes and Jambres were two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses before Pharaoh and initially were able to imitate the miraculous signs that Moses performed. However, they were exposed when they couldn’t continue, and we can take comfort that the deceivers in today’s world will also be exposed in God’s time.

Read Chapter 3:10-17: ¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5. Verse 12 says Christians today, even in our age of religious tolerance, should expect to be persecuted. Yet what does Paul say is our hope for the future?

We get our strength to persevere from God himself, because we are convinced his Word is the truth and will not fail like everything that comes from man. Our faith is strengthened as we study Scripture and we grow from infants into spiritual maturity. Scripture is how God teaches us and makes us wise. And God provides us with reliable teachers—parents, men like Luther and other theologians, our pastors and

teachers, etc. By immersing ourselves in God's Word, we will have the faith needed to withstand persecution, or even turn those persecutions into a situation that is beneficial for the faith of our antagonists.

6. Verses 16-17 says the Scripture thoroughly equips a Christian. How does it do this?

All that we need comes directly from God Word (is God-breathed, verbally inspired) and contains his will, which is not open to interpretation. Scripture teaches us God's will and the truth of our salvation. Scripture exposes and convicts us of what God calls sin, based on his criterion and not that of any humans. Scripture restores us fallen sinners through the saving gospel. Scripture disciplines, guides, and encourages us as we grow in our life of sanctification. Scripture gives us everything we need! Consider memorizing vs. 16-17!

Read Chapter 4:1-8: ¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. ⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

7. Why will people not want to hear sound doctrine?

Because it brings with it things they don't want to hear and it condemns. The law is difficult to take when it exposes our sins and says our accomplishments are worthless. The gospel message is not humanly reasonable, leading many to throw it out. The law is unpleasant and the gospel is unreasonable.

8. What 9 final orders does Paul solemnly charge Timothy to fulfill in verses 1-5?

Preach, be prepared, correct, rebuke, encourage, keep your head, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge duties of ministry.

9. How does this challenge your personal ministry?

10. Do you share Paul's hope for the future? (vs. 6-8) How does it motivate you?

Time is short and much still needs to be done. It gives me the correct focus, gives me peace and confidence, helps me overlook the small things and work around the barriers.

Read Chapter 4: 9-22: ⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. ²¹Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

11. At the beginning of his second missionary journey, Paul refused to take Mark with him because he considered him unreliable, and they split up. Now he personally requests his presence. What must have happened for Paul to make this request?

Paul gave Mark a second chance and they became trusted co-workers. He forgave him for leaving them and learned to appreciate his labor and dedication, and valued his friendship.

12. Is there a lesson here for us?

When there is a misunderstanding, forgive and forget. Give people a second chance. This may give us a valuable friend, a faithful partner in God's kingdom.

13. What are Paul's thoughts as he faces martyrdom?

Vs. 18—He calmly states complete confidence that God would be with him though the attacks and take him to heaven. Praise be to God for the peace and comfort he gives us!

14. From 2 Timothy, what have you learned about Paul that has inspired you?

He was totally focused on God's will, accepting what that meant for his life. He did not focus on his physical condition or fret about what was to come but put all of his energy into serving God. He demonstrated true spiritual joy. He faced death so beautifully and peacefully.

Closing Prayer

References:

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991. 140-173

Schuetze, Armin W., People's Bible Commentary—1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus Study Guide. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1994. 29-33