

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

Lesson 1

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?

3. What are the main points of the letter?

1 Timothy 1

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11. 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?

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

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

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?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12–20.

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

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

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

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

13. How did Paul show his gratitude?

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

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

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

Lesson 2

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 2

Read Chapter 2.

1. Why might Paul have used four different words “requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving”—instead of just telling us to pray?
2. Why does Paul urge us to pray for everyone?
3. Paul adds special instructions to pray for the government. Why?
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?

5. How do we do this?

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

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

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?

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)

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

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?

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

Lesson 3

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 3 & 4

Read 1 Timothy 3.

1. Who is an overseer?
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?
3. What is the only skill listed and why is this important?
4. Verse 8 mentions deacons. What is a deacon (see Acts 6:1-7 for an idea) and who fills this role today?

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lesson 4

Opening Prayer

1 Timothy 5 & 6

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16.

1. Compare what Timothy was told about caring for older people and what we do today.
2. What are our responsibilities toward our elderly parents and grandparents?
3. What message is given to those in need in vs. 9-10?
4. What message is given to those in vs. 11-15?

Read Chapter 5:17-25.

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

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

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

Read 1 Timothy 6.

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)?

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?

10. Put vs. 6 into your own words.

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

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

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

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.

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?

2. What can we learn about forgiveness?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13.

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

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

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

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26.

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

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

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

15. Put verse 19 into your own words.

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

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

Lesson 6

Opening Prayer

2 Timothy 3 & 4

Read Chapter 3:1-9.

1. Agree or disagree: Times are more terrible today than they were in Paul's day. Explain.
2. Comment on "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (vs. 5).
3. What are some examples from our times of those "having a form of godliness but denying its power"?

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?

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.

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?

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

Read Chapter 4:1-8.

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

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

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?

Read Chapter 4: 9-22.

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?

12. Is there a lesson here for us?

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

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

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