

Lesson 18: 1 Timothy

Key Verse: Meditate on these things and abide in them, that you may be known to every person before whom you come. 1 Timothy 4:15
Aramaic Bible in Plain English

Paul wrote 1 Timothy in A.D. 63 from Philippi in Macedonia to encourage Timothy to be faithful and to share how believers should behave in the community.

Satan was alive and well on planet earth during the time of Paul and Timothy just as he is today. Because of his attacks on the churches Paul was needed in Macedonia at the same time the church of Ephesus was experiencing difficulties. So under God's direction Paul assigned a young disciple named Timothy the task of leading the church of Ephesus. Timothy was raised in a Christian home by his mother, Eunice a Jewess, and his grandmother, Lois. His father was a Greek. (Acts 16:1-3 and 2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy was a faithful witness: "For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church." 1 Corinthians 4:17. Timothy was concerned with the welfare of the believers: Philippians 2:19-22. Timothy was faithful and caring yet he experienced discouragement (1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy 2: 6-8) and he may have had health issues (1 Timothy 5:23). So Paul sent this letter to give encouragement and support to Timothy.

In our present time can you imagine being given an assignment to confront the world to voice our opposition to the current trend of political correctness? How about correcting the false doctrines that are being foisted on us? Things like: God is a "she", abortion is ok because it is a "fetus" not a human child, God is love therefore all will go to heaven because He would not punish anyone by sending them to hell, all religions are pathways to God, homosexuality is determined by a person's genes, truth is relevant there is no absolute truth. I am sure you can think of many more examples some blatant and some so subtle that they fool even the "elect". "False messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24. The great signs and wonders will come, but what of the subtlety that has caused complacency even among Christians? Complacency has been a problem since ancient times. God tells how He will deal with it "At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.'" Zephaniah 1:12. The Israelites had become comfortable with sin they had lost their fear of God and tolerated other religions and gods.

This is the type assignment that God gave Timothy. God's instructions to Timothy apply to each Christian not just our pastors and leaders. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God^a may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17. We can experience discouragement, ill health, and persecution just as the first workers of the church and like them we can depend on God to enable us to persevere. As we study the words that God gave Paul to share with Timothy we need to absorb them so they give us the strength and encouragement we need to confront the false teaching that are confronting us daily.

Day One: Chapter 1

Prayer: Father, help us to use the words of encouragement that you gave through Paul to Timothy to keep us obedient to you. Amen!

1. Name the three results of spiritual transformation that occur from sound biblical teaching. V. 5

2. Who was the law made for? _____

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3. What is the core truth of the gospel? V. 15 _____

4. How would you explain the term “fight the good fight”? v. 18 _____

5. How did Paul describe God? V. 17 _____

Day Two. Chapter 2

Prayer: Father, help us to use the outline for prayer that Jesus gave to us so that we spend the majority of our prayer time praising you. Amen!

6. What is our first spiritual responsibility mentioned in chapter 2? Why is it important? 1-4

7. Why do we pray in Jesus name? 5 & 6 _____

8. What is the proper posture for prayer? V. 8. See also: 1 Kings 8:22, Daniel 6:10, Luke 18:11, 2 Samuel 7:18
Genesis 24:26 John 17:1 What do you conclude from these verses?

To help us understand why God gave Paul these words about women it is helpful to review some of the false teachings from that time. One of the false teachings was that Eve was a mediator and a redeemer figure who pre-existed Adam. Man came into existence from a woman and he was given enlightenment from her. They taught that since Eve was the first to bite the apple she received special spiritual knowledge. That women are called to lead people to the illuminating knowledge represented by the Tree of Knowledge. They taught that redemption reversed the effects of the fall which makes men not subject to earthly authorities and women not subject to men.

Women in our day may not like the word submission given by God to Paul. The original meaning of the word used by Paul means “to rank under” as in the military a colonel is higher in rank than a private. God ordained the order of rank: husbands should be submitted to the Lord and the wives submitted to husbands and Christians submitted to each other.

9. How do women give evidence of their submission? V. 9 – 15 _____

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10. How do you fulfill your responsibility as a prayer warrior for your church? _____

Day Three: Chapters Three and Four

Prayer: Father, cause our church leaders to have such a deep love for you and your word that they would only lead through your will. Amen

The terms bishop, pastor, and elder are synonymous. Bishop means overseer and the elders had the responsibility of overseeing the work of the church. Elders, bishops, and pastors were mature people with the spiritual wisdom and experience to lead the church effectively. Possessing these qualifications would be a worthy goal for all Christians.

11. Name the sixteen qualifications explained in 3:1-7. _____

The English word “deacon” comes from the Greek “diakonos” meaning servant.

12. Name the qualifications for a deacon or servant. 3: 8 – 13 _____

13. How did Paul describe the church? 3:15 & 16 _____

14. What things were taught by deceiving spirits and demons in Paul’s time? 4:1-3 In our time?

15. What instructions did Paul give Timothy that are applicable to us also? 4:9 – 15

Day Four: Chapter Five

Prayer: Father, help us love all people. Amen!

16. How are we to regard men and women? 5:1 & 2 _____

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17. How has the care of widows changed since the time of the early church?

18. How are we to treat our church leaders? 5:17 – 19

19. What important instruction did Paul give? 5:21 How can you do this?

Day Five: Chapter Six

20. What were the instructions for workers (slaves then, but employees now)? 6:1 & 2

21. What are the characteristics of those who do not agree with sound instruction? 6:3-5

22. What is “godliness with contentment? 6:6-9 Are you content?

23. What is “love of money”? 6:10

24. What six things did Paul instruct Timothy to pursue? This is good advice for us too.

Prayer: God, the blessed and only ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.