

Manuscript

Bible Study Resource

1ST TIMOTHY

The First Epistle of Paul to Timothy

THE INTRO

The first letter of Timothy is written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy. We first meet Timothy in Acts 16, where we are told Timothy is a disciple, whose mother was a believer (Acts 16:2). The believers in the area spoke well of Timothy, and Paul took Timothy along on the on-going mission of preaching the Gospel and planting and strengthening churches (Acts 16:3-4). The letters of 1 & 2 Timothy reveal a strong relationship, in which Paul has trained and encouraged Timothy in church leadership, and in particular in preaching and teaching.

Paul writes 1 Timothy while Timothy is in Ephesus, where Timothy has been instructed by Paul to remain (1:3). It is clear from the letter that all is not well in the church there. Paul has to address specific issues, including false teaching, correct worship, godly relationships, and leadership within the Ephesian church. But while much of the letter is about the church in Ephesus, the letter is equally about encouraging and strengthening Timothy. Paul reminds Timothy of the truth of the gospel and the teaching he has received (1:15, 2:5-7, 3:16, 4:6,9), the gifts God has given Timothy (1:18, 4:14), and of Timothy's task and calling as a leader and teacher (1:18-19, 4:6-7, 11-16; 6:11-16, 20-21).

But in the midst of all of this teaching and exhortation, the focus of Paul and Timothy's efforts should not be missed: the work of God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. This unrelenting gospel focus is both an encouragement and a challenge as God speaks into our circumstances today.

OVERVIEW

This set of studies covers each of the six chapters of 1 Timothy, using the manuscript method (described below).

It is possible to do a manuscript study of the whole book, reading and marking the text of each of the six chapters.

Alternatively, one or more chapters can be studied in a single session.

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THE METHOD

The manuscript method of Bible Study is an incredibly simple and effective way to study the Bible.

Using a Bible passage printed out on paper, the passage is read and observations marked with coloured pens. The aim is to read the Bible for ourselves and hear God speak through his word.

Manuscript does not assume Bible knowledge but instead gives everyone an opportunity to read the Biblical text and share and apply what they have learned.

Preparation

1. Print a copy of the passage manuscript for everyone taking part.
2. Provide coloured pens or pencils that folk can use to make notes and marks on their manuscript.

Study

Pray to begin, that God would speak, and that everyone would hear.

1. Read the text aloud together.
2. Mark **sections** – where you think the author might make a new paragraph break. Try to summarise in a few words what each section is about. Have a go at summarising what the entire passage is about. Do this individually, then feedback to the group.
3. Think about **the six big questions** in the passage: who, what, where, when, how and why. Using the coloured pens, underline, circle, or put a box around key phrases, themes or words that repeat. Draw lines between phrases, themes and words that are related. Do this individually, then discuss one-to-one or as a whole group what you have observed.
4. As a group, discuss the **why** of the passage – what is the author trying to say, what does this mean? Identify the key message(s).
5. Individually, in one-to-one's, or as a whole group, discuss how to **apply** this passage: what is God saying through it, and how should we respond to what God is saying?

Close in prayer, asking that God would continue to speak through His Word, and that in hearing Him, we would delight to obey.



1 Timothy 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our
2 hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
3 and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in
4 Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or
5 to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial
6 speculations rather than advancing God's work – which is by faith. The goal of this command
7 is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have
8 departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the
9 law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.
10 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made
11 not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and
12 irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral,
13 for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and for whatever
14 else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the
15 blessed God, which he entrusted to me. I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me
16 strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was
17 once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted
18 in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along
19 with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full
20 acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But
21 for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might
22 display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive
23 eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory
24 for ever and ever. Amen. Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with
25 the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,
26 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered
27 shipwreck with regard to the faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I
28 have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.



1 Timothy 2

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for
2 all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives
3 in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all
4 people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one
5 mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom
6 for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I
7 was appointed a herald and an apostle – I am telling the truth, I am not lying – and a true
8 and faithful teacher of the Gentiles. Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting
9 up holy hands without anger or disputing. I also want the women to dress modestly, with
10 decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls
11 or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship
12 God. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to
13 teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first,
14 then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and
15 became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith,
16 love and holiness with propriety.



1 Timothy 3

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.
2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled,
3 respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle,
4 not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that
5 his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone
6 does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)
7 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same
8 judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will
9 not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of
10 respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must
11 keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested;
12 and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the
13 women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy
14 in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and
15 his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great
16 assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing
17 to you with these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to
18 conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar
19 and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness
20 springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels,
21 was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.



1 Timothy 4

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving
2 spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose
3 consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order
4 them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving
5 by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and
6 nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by
7 the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you
8 will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the
9 good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old
10 wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but
11 godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to
12 come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labour and
13 strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people,
14 and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone
15 look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in
16 conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading
17 of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you
18 through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these
19 matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your
20 life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself
21 and your hearers.



1 Timothy 5

1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger
2 men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.
3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children
4 or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for
5 their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. The
6 widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and
7 day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while
8 she lives. Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. Anyone who
9 does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith
10 and is worse than an unbeliever. No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over
11 sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing
12 up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble
13 and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. As for younger widows, do not put them on
14 such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to
15 marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.
16 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not
17 only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not
18 to. So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give
19 the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.
20 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and
21 not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are
22 really in need. The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour,
23 especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle an
24 ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.' Do not entertain an
25 accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. But those elders who
26 are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. I charge
27 you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without
28 partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism. Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and
29 do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. Stop drinking only water, and use a little
30 wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. The sins of some are obvious, reaching
31 the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good
32 deeds are obvious, and even those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden for ever.



1 Timothy 6

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so
2 that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. Those who have believing masters
3 should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should
4 serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are
5 devoted to the welfare of their slaves. These are the things you are to teach and insist on. If
6 anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ
7 and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy
8 interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil
9 suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the
10 truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment
11 is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But
12 if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall
13 into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into
14 ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager
15 for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you,
16 man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and
17 gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were
18 called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of
19 God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate
20 made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the
21 appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time – God, the
22 blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who
23 lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might
24 for ever. Amen. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put
25 their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides
26 us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds,
27 and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as
28 a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
29 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the
30 opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing
31 have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.



The Word of God is full of living power.
HEBREWS 4:12 (NLT)



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