



**“The Household of God”
WEEK ONE: Introduction**

DAY ONE

1. Why did Paul write this letter to Timothy? *1 Timothy 3:14-15*

So that, if Paul was delayed in coming to Timothy, Timothy might know “how one ought to behave in the household of God” (i.e., the church).

2. What do the following verses teach us about the church?

Matthew 16:18

Christ will build his church on “this rock” (this probably refers to Peter) and the gates of hell (hades) will not prevail against the church. There are at least two great implications that can be drawn from this verse: (1.) Jesus, not man, is the builder of the church, therefore we know that the church will succeed in her mission, and (2.) Jesus promised that the church will not be defeated by evil. We can have good confidence in the days ahead—Jesus is building his church!

Ephesians 5:22-33

There are so many incredible truths regarding Christ and the church in this passage. Christ is the head of the church. It is his body. He is the Savior of it. The church submits to Christ. Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor (notice, she does not make herself presentable to Christ). Christ nourishes and cherishes the church. It is a part of his flesh.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

There are at least three truths here: (1.) The church is God’s household, (2.) The church is the church of the living God, and (3.) The church is a pillar and buttress of truth. All three of these truths are worthy of contemplation.

3. Write a prayer, asking the Lord to bless your church and use her for his glory.

Father, thank you for the existence of the church. I recognize that she exists only because of your will and because of the work of Jesus. Please give your church a love and attraction to your word, that she might know your ways and come to understand your purposes and her purposes. Strengthen her leaders. Give them kind and willing hearts. Grant them boldness to lead her as she must be led. Give them eyes to see false teaching and resolute hearts to deal with sin and

rebellion within the church in strength. Give the people willing hearts to follow you and to submit to their leaders.

DAY TWO

4. The apostle Paul wrote the letter of 1 Timothy to a young man named Timothy. Where was Timothy from? *Acts 16:1*

Lystra.

5. What happened the first time Paul visited this city? *Acts 14:8-23*

A crippled man was healed. The people in the city thought Paul and Barnabas were gods and wanted to sacrifice to them, however, with some effort Paul and Barnabas restrained them from sacrificing to them. Jews came and stirred up the crowd and the crowd stoned Paul leaving him for dead.

6. What does this tell you about the apostle Paul?

The fact that he would return to this city after being stoned is amazing. He surely had been given courage by God. Most would never return to a place where they had been stoned.

7. Describe Timothy's family. *Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5*

He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer and a Greek father who was not a believer. The Jews would have considered him to be Jewish. His mother (Eunice) and his grandmother (Lois) were saved before Timothy was saved.

8. What was Timothy's reputation among the believers in his home area? *Acts 16:2*

"He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium."

9. *Acts 16:3* indicates that Paul had Timothy circumcised. Why do you think Paul did this? After all, Paul knew circumcision was not necessary for Timothy's salvation, and he often encouraged other believers *not* to be circumcised. Why, then, did he feel that circumcision was important for Timothy? *Acts 16:3; Galatians 5:2-6*

He did it "because of the Jews that were in those places" (the places to which he would be traveling). The Jews knew Timothy's father was Greek (i.e., non-Jewish) and his mother was Jewish. The Jews would have considered him to be an uncircumcised Jew and would have persecuted him because he was not circumcised. Paul didn't have Timothy circumcised so that he might be justified. Rather, he did it to protect him from the Jews. It helped him avoid needless persecution. The passage in Galatians 5 is instructive in this matter. The key is verse 4: "you who would be justified by law". Paul is writing this passage to Gentile Christians in Galatia who have been convinced that they need to be circumcised in order to be justified (declared right before God). This is different from Timothy's situation. Paul didn't circumcise Timothy in order that he might be justified. He did it to save him from trouble.

10. Paul praised Timothy for a certain characteristic. What was it? *Philippians 2:19-24*

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Timothy was genuinely concerned for the welfare of others. In fact, Paul said that he had no one like him. Timothy didn't seek his own interests, but those of Jesus Christ.

11. How did Paul describe his relationship with Timothy? *Philippians 2:19-24; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2*

He served with Paul as a son would serve with his father.

DAY THREE

12. 1 Timothy concerns Timothy's work in a certain city. What is the name of this city? *1 Timothy 1:3*

Ephesus.

13. Where was this city located? (Use the maps located in the back of your Bible. The maps you will want to refer to are the ones depicting the travels of Paul.)

In western Turkey. In the New Testament, this area is referred to as Asia. Ephesus was located across the Aegean Sea from Athens. It was on the coast.

14. What, specifically, can you learn about this city from Acts 19?

There was a Jewish synagogue there (v. 8), meaning there was a somewhat sizable population of Jews in Ephesus. There was also "the hall of Tyrannus"—a place where Paul reasoned daily. Magic arts were practiced there, in fact, at one point, many believers repented of the magic arts they had practiced (v. 19). Artemis, a famous goddess, was worshipped there. Craftsmen in the city made a good deal of money making silver shrines of Artemis or the temple of Artemis (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world). There was a large theater in Ephesus. The city considered itself to be the "temple keeper of the great Artemis" (v. 35) and of a sacred stone that had fallen from the sky.

DAY FOUR

15. Describe Paul's work in this city and the growth of the church within it.

Acts 19

Upon his arrival in the city, Paul spoke with 12 men who were filled with the Holy Spirit. He began, as was his custom, in the synagogue, and then, after the Jews resisted the gospel, moved to the lecture hall of Tyrannus. The ministry was so effective that after two years, all had heard the word of the Lord. Great miracles took place in Ephesus. Beyond this, those in the church repented of their practices and burned their magic books. The word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail.

Acts 20:17-38

While Paul was in Ephesus, he taught in public and from house to house. The Jew apparently concocted plots against Paul. But he continued in spite of the trials, serving and preaching with tears and declaring the whole counsel of God. He preached to Jews and Gentiles alike.

16. What does this tell you about the work of ministry?

It can be very difficult and emotionally trying. The fact that the work is resisted does not mean we should quit. Instead, we ought to expect resistance and persecution. Paul's work centered on the preaching of the gospel.

17. What was the warning Paul gave to the elders of the church in this city? Acts 20:17-38

He told the elders to pay attention to themselves and to all the flock. He told them to care for the church of God. He said that after his departure, fierce wolves would come in among them and would not spare the flock. He said that men speaking twisted things would arise from the church (and even from among the elders) in order to draw off disciples after themselves. In order to protect the church, they needed to be alert.

18. What does this tell you about the work of ministry?

It is very similar to a shepherd watching a flock of sheep. The elders of the church need to be on guard for anything or anyone that would hurt the flock. Elders must constantly be surveying the landscape, looking for false teaching and false teachers.

DAY FIVE

19. Read 1 Timothy, preferably in one sitting. Don't take any notes as you read, just take the time to slowly read the chapters. When you are finished, write any thoughts these chapters leave you with in the space below.

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DAY SIX

20. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

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**“The Household of God”
WEEK TWO: 1 Timothy 1**

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,
2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, **remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies,** which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. **5** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. **6** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, **7** desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

8 Now we know that **the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9** understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, **11** in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, **13** though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, **14** and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **15** **The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16** But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. **17** To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, **19** holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, **20** among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

This is Timothy's job. He needs to stop false teachers from teaching and charge them to devote themselves to the true gospel.

Paul is making a play on words here. To put it another way, the false teachers were using the law unlawfully.

The fact that this is a saying means that it is something the saints in the church said about themselves. In other words, this does not mean that Paul was the worst sinner ever. It means that every Christian, by virtue of knowing his or her own history, should consider himself to have been the foremost sinner.

Paul was not afraid to exercise church discipline when needed.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7

1. According to verse one, why was Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus?

He was made an apostle of Christ Jesus “by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope”. Thus, it is evident that Paul didn’t decide to become an apostle. Rather, God decided that he would be an apostle.

2. Why do you think Paul would tell Timothy this fact? After all, didn’t Timothy know that Paul was an apostle? If Timothy didn’t need to hear this, what people would need to hear this truth? What might this tell us about how Paul expected the letter to be used?

Obviously, Timothy did know that Paul was an apostle and that God had placed him in this position. Timothy did not question Paul’s authority. He served with Paul as a son with his father. Paul’s emphasis on the fact that God had commanded that he become an apostle was written, I believe, for those who would not have been so receptive to Paul’s ministry. His words carry special weight, because they are the words of an apostle—not a man-made apostle (if there could be such a thing), but a God-made apostle. I am sure Paul expected that this letter would be used in the church at Ephesus to establish right practices. In saying that he was an apostle by God’s command, he was putting God’s stamp of approval on the contents of the letter.

3. What title does Paul use in describing God? Is this the title you would expect him to use of God? How can Paul call God this when Jesus is also called by this title?

Paul refers to him as “God our Savior”. This is not the typical way Paul refers to God the Father. Typically, Jesus is referred to as our Savior. However, it is entirely appropriate to refer to God the Father as our Savior. Our salvation is from him (he initiated it). He is the one who gave his Son to effect our salvation.

4. What title does Paul use in describing Jesus? What does he mean by this? Do you think of Jesus in this way?

Paul refers to Jesus as “our hope”. Paul is saying that Jesus is the one in whom all our expectations for the future rest. All our hopes stand are placed in him. Our lives depend on who he is (God’s anointed ruler) and on the work he has accomplished (his death, burial, resurrection, ascension) and the work he is doing now (his ongoing high priestly ministry in the presence of the Father).

5. Why did Paul tell Timothy to remain in Ephesus? 1 Timothy 1:3-4

He told him to stay at Ephesus so that he would “charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves of myths and endless genealogies”.

6. Based on Paul's words to Timothy in verses three through seven, what do you think was happening in the church in Ephesus at this time?

False teachers were running rampant in the church, and Timothy given the job of setting things in order. These false teachers had “wandered away into vain discussion”. They had a strong desire to teach, however, Paul insisted that they were ignorant of the things they taught.

7. In verse three Paul mentions that “certain persons” were teaching “different” doctrines. In verse ten, he mentions “sound doctrine”. Using a dictionary or Bible dictionary, look up the word “doctrine” and write out the definition in the space below.

Doctrine is “the explication and officially acceptable version of a religious teaching” (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008). Thus, for the Christian, doctrine is the true teaching regarding Jesus Christ and the salvation found in him.

8. What is the difference between a different doctrine and sound doctrine? How can a person know which is which? Where can a person learn sound doctrine? *See also Ephesians 4:11-16 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17*

True doctrine is found within the Scriptures. As 2 Timothy 3:14-17 indicates, the Scriptures are “breathed out from God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, quipped for every good work”. However, we’ve been given more than just the Scriptures. As Ephesians 4 indicates, Christ has given to us “the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers . . . so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:11 and 14). In other words, gifted persons have been given to the church so that we might be protected from false doctrine and we might be able to discern what is true. This was being lived out in Ephesus. Paul (an apostle) was, by writing this letter, protecting the saints from false doctrine and establishing the saints in right doctrine. Timothy (a shepherd) was doing the same thing.

9. What does this tell you about the belief that there are many right paths to God?

The modern notion that there are many right paths to God is false. Sound doctrine teaches that Jesus is “the way, and the truth, and the life” and that “No one comes to the Father except through [Jesus]” (John 14:6).

10. What does teaching different doctrines and devoting yourself to myths and genealogies result in? *1 Timothy 1:4*

These things “promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith”. They tend to cause people to pontificate about things that are not important and that are not true. Speculations should not be considered to be harmless. They do great damage to the individual Christians who partake in them and to the body of Christ.

11. How does Paul describe those who would teach other doctrines?

1 Timothy 1:6-7

They desire to be teachers of the law, but they are not fit to teach—they don't understand what they are talking about. Instead, they "have wandered away into vain discussion".

1 Timothy 6:3-5

He who teaches different doctrines is "puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words".

12. According to 1 Timothy 1:5, what does Paul want to happen as a result of the actions Timothy takes?

He wants each individual in the church to have "a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith". The combination of these things results in love. Obviously, as the false teachers were running rampant in Ephesus, love was not abounding at this time.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11

13. The law discussed in verses eight through 11 is God's law, outlined in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Based on the wording of verse eight, how were the "certain persons" described in verse six using the law?

This is a play on words. They were using the law in an unlawful manner. That is, they were using it in ways that God never intended it to be used.

14. According to verse nine, the law exists for certain people, but not for others. Who does it exist for, and who is free from its control?

The law doesn't exist for the Christian. Rather, it exists for non-Christians. As Paul says, "the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine".

15. What do the following verses teach about the Christian's relationship to the law?

1 Timothy 1:9

The law is not laid down for the just (that means those who have been declared righteous—Christians).

Romans 7:4-6

Christians have "died to the law through the body of Christ, so that [they] may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that [they] may bear fruit for God".

Christians have been "released from the law" so that they serve "in the new life of the Spirit". An

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example I sometimes use to demonstrate this is if I hired two people for a particular job. The first person I hired was told, “Do these 450 things and you can keep your job.” The second person was told, “Do what is in your heart, I know you’ll do just fine.” Which person will be better able to perform his duties? The second person! The first person will be so worried about doing the 450 things that he won’t be able to focus on the job at all!

Romans 8:2-4

“[T]he law of the Spirit of life has set [the Christian] free from the law of sin and death”. The Christian needed to be set free because the law could not bring about the righteousness required by God.

Galatians 3:24-25

“[T]he law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith”. Obviously, once faith comes, there is no more need to be under a guardian.

16. What is Jesus’ relationship to the law? *Matthew 5:17*

He didn’t come “to abolish the Law or the Prophets”. Instead, Jesus came “to fulfill them”. As Jesus is the perfect fulfiller of the law, the believer, because he or she is in Christ, is also a fulfiller of the law.

17. Is it possible for anyone to be declared righteous by the keeping of the law? *Galatians 3:11*

Absolutely not. “[N]o one is justified before God by the law, for ‘The righteous shall live by faith’”.

18. How does Paul describe the gospel in 1 Timothy 1:11? What does he mean by this?

He calls it “the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted”. Paul thinks the gospel is wonderful and weighty.

19. How does Paul describe God? Why would Paul use this term when describing God?

He describes him as “the blessed God”. This demonstrates that Paul sees God as happy and in need of nothing. See the quote from J. Oswald Sanders regarding this phrase on page 29.

20. According to verse 11, what was Paul’s relationship with the gospel?

He had been entrusted with the gospel. As a steward, Paul would be held accountable for how he handled the message with which he had been entrusted.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

21. The false teachers described in verse three through 11 were relying on their own good deeds and their keeping of God’s laws to obtain and maintain their relationship with God. Using verses 12 through 17 describe Paul’s view of how he obtained and was maintaining his right relationship with God.

He didn’t consider that he was in right relationship with God due to his behavior. Indeed, he said that he was “a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent” and “the worst sinner”. Paul understood that he had been saved by God’s grace—“the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus”. God had mercy on Paul so that “Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life”.

22. Using a dictionary or Bible dictionary, look up and write out the definitions for the following words.

Mercy -

“MERCY implies compassion that forbears punishing even when justice demands it.” (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

Grace -

“[U]nmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification.” (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

23. In addition to mercy and grace, what else did Paul receive from Christ? 1 Timothy 1:14
The faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

24. According to verse 16, why did Paul receive mercy?

God had mercy on Paul so that “Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life”.

25. How does your knowledge of the mercy Christ showed to Paul impact your understanding of your relationship with Christ?

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26. Based on the verses you have studied today, why do you think Paul speaks as he does in verse 17?

As he contemplates the salvation he—the worst of sinners—received, he cannot help but praise God. This demonstrates the richness and reality of his relationship with God. His was no merely academic relationship. He truly considered God to be great and worthy of praise.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20

27. In verse 18, Paul tells Timothy to “wage the good warfare”. Basing your answer on chapter 1, what does this good warfare include?

Good warfare for Timothy would be charging “certain persons not to teach any different doctrine”. Good warfare would be restoring order to the church.

28. What does Paul remind Timothy to hold onto?

He is to hold onto faith and a good conscience.

29. What is the consequence for those who do not hold onto these things?

Some have made shipwreck of their faith.

30. In verse 20, Paul mentions two men whom he has handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. Using a dictionary or Bible dictionary, look up the word blasphemy and write out the definition in the space below.

“The act of showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.” (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

31. Paul mentions Hymenaeus in 2 Timothy 2:16-18. Based on these verses, what was Hymenaeus saying that Paul considered to be blasphemy?

His speech was “irreverent babble”. He was saying that the resurrection (not of Christ, but of the saints) had already happened.

32. What do you think it means when it says Paul handed these men over to Satan? What was Paul hoping to accomplish by taking this action? Is this something that the church can or should practice today when encountering similar situations? See also 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

It means they were excommunicated from the church. In other words, the protective covering provided by the saints was removed from these men so that Satan’s wrath might be poured out on them so that “they may learn not to blaspheme”. If they couldn’t learn from the church, they just might learn from Satan. We find a similar situation in 1 Corinthians 5. There, Paul instructs the church “to deliver [a certain] man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 5:5). Churches today must practice church discipline. As with Timothy, the church—not the false teachers or unrepentant sinners—is in charge. If a person will not repent, the church may take the next step and excommunicate this person. While this sounds cruel, it is for the welfare of the church and the individual being excommunicated. For the church, such an action removes sin from among the believers and puts the fear of sinning within the hearts of the saints. For the unrepentant sinner, it places them in a position where they can learn the truth.

33. Was Paul telling Timothy to take this action with the false teachers who were in Ephesus? If not, why did he make this fact known to Timothy?

I don't think he was telling him to do this yet. His first instructions are to "charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine". However, Paul was letting Timothy know that—if they didn't repent—there were further steps that could be taken. The false teachers were not in charge.

DAY SIX

34. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

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“The Household of God”
WEEK THREE: 1 Timothy 2

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 2

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; 9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. 11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4

1. What does Paul urge in verses one and two?

That supplications prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people—for kings and all who are in high positions.

2. Why do you think he says that the church is to do this “First of all”?

This should be first priority in the church.

3. Is this true of your church? Is it true of you?

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This is a major reason we are to pray for our governmental authorities.

This is the basis for Paul's words in verse 12. This is not a cultural command. It is rooted in creation. It is significant that God called Adam to account for his deeds first. What might this say about whom the Lord saw as bearing primary responsibility for the Fall?

This does not mean that childbearing=salvation. Rather, Paul seems to be saying that a woman's salvation will be worked out in the normal affairs of life. It may be that the false teachers were telling the women in Ephesus to throw off these “mundane” things.

4. Why do you think Paul singles out “kings and all who are in high positions” as needing prayer?

Because these people impact our lives in a greater way than others do. Their actions, in a great way, frame the lives of millions of others. Our lives are, in a significant way, in their hands. They need godly wisdom.

5. What benefit does following Paul’s instructions here bring to the church? *1 Timothy 2:2*

We are to pray in this way in order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

6. What is God’s desire for mankind? *1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9*

He desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He doesn’t want any to perish, but that all should reach repentance.

7. This desire is tied to the church’s need to pray for all people. What might this say about the importance of prayer in regard to world evangelism? *See also Luke 10:2*

We need to pray that God would send out workers. He, in response to these prayers, will send out more workers into the harvest field. Thus, prayer is directly tied with evangelism and its success.

DAY THREE

Read *1 Timothy 2:5-7*

8. What is the truth God wants all men to come to the knowledge of? *1 Timothy 2:4-6; John 14:6; John 17:3*

That there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ. Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

9. Basing your answer on verses four through six, how would you say that the church is to pray for all people?

We are to pray that they would be saved and that they would come to a knowledge of the truth.

10. Write a prayer out for the leaders in your area, asking God to do these things.

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11. In verse seven Paul says that he was “appointed a preacher and an apostle” for a specific reason. What is that reason?

It appears he is referring back to verse four. Thus, he was appointed a preacher and an apostle that people might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

12. Why would Paul say that he is telling the truth and not lying? What, specifically, is he talking about? What might this say about the conditions in the church in Ephesus and his acceptance by the people?

I don't think he said this for Timothy's benefit. It was for those in the church who doubted Paul's calling from God. Perhaps a great deal of slandering had taken place in Ephesus against Paul.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-10

13. Verses eight through 15 include instructions to men and to women. In verse eight, what does Paul instruct the men to do?

They should pray.

14. How are they to do this?

They are to lift holy hands without anger or quarreling.

15. What, specifically, are the men to pray for (remember verses one and two)?

They are to pray for kings and those in authority. They are to pray that people might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

16. How, practically, can this happen when the church is gathered?

It should happen in large and in small groups. It should happen formally and informally, in private conversations and in public preaching. We should be a people who pray always and for everything.

17. Is this happening in your church?

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18. What does Paul instruct the women to do in verses nine and ten?

Women should clothe themselves in respectable apparel with modesty and self-control. They should clothe themselves with good works.

19. What does Peter say about this same issue in 1 Peter 3:3-4?

Adorning should not be external. Rather, a woman should put on the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.

20. Why do you think Paul would address these concerns to women in particular? Do you think these instructions are as necessary today as they were when this letter was written?

There is a strong push on women to adorn themselves externally. This is evidenced by the countless magazines, TV shows, etc., that focus on a woman's external beauty. This emphasis is not directed toward men in anything close to the same measure. Given the pressure on women today, these instructions are perhaps more necessary today than they were when this letter was written.

21. How can a culture of inward, rather than outward, beauty be cultivated within the church?

It would seem that we must work hard to exalt inner beauty. This must be modeled to the younger women by the older women in the church.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15

22. Paul's instructions in verses 11 through 15 concern women and their relation to learning, teaching and holding authority in the church. What might this say about the conditions in the church in Ephesus at the time this letter was written?

Women may have been encouraged to teach and hold authority over men. The leadership of men may have been discouraged and demeaned.

23. How is a woman to learn? 1 Timothy 2:11

She is to learn quietly with all submissiveness.

24. What restrictions did Paul place on women ministering in the church? 1 Timothy 2:12

She is not permitted to teach or hold authority over a man; she is to remain quiet.

25. What reasoning does he give for the restrictions he places on women? 1 Timothy 2:13-14

Adam was formed first, not Eve.

26. Many would say that these restrictions have been lifted because our culture is different from the culture in which this letter was written (i.e.—some say that women were not educated during that time period). Do you think Paul's reasoning in verse 13 allows for a belief that these restrictions were culturally based?

No. Paul turns to the order of creation for his reasoning.

27. What does Paul say in regard to women teaching in his letter to Titus? Titus 2:3-5

They are to teach what is good, training younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, submissive to their own husbands.

28. How can you reconcile Paul's words in Titus with his words in 1 Timothy 2:12?

The key is over whom she is teaching and holding authority. In Titus, she is permitted to teach younger women. In 1 Timothy, she is not permitted to teach men.

29. In Acts 18:24-28, we read about Priscilla teaching Apollos. How can you reconcile her teaching of Apollos with Paul's words in 1 Timothy 2:12?

She didn't teach him publicly, but took him (privately). There is no command against this.

30. Why do you think Paul mentions that Eve was deceived in verse 14? How does Paul's statement here further the argument he is making?

He is possibly stating a simple fact, describing what happens when women take authority over men. Paul's words may also be interpreted to be saying that women, given their nature, are more likely to be deceived than men.

31. We know salvation is based on faith. So why would Paul say that women "will be saved through childbearing"? What might he be teaching in this verse?

See Titus 2:3-5 in regard to this. He is teaching that salvation is worked out in the everyday areas of life.

32. What do you think would happen in the church if Paul's words here were followed? How do you think the culture at large would respond to this?

It would be good for the church. Both men and women would appreciate it. Men wouldn't shy away from the church as they do no. Of course, the culture at large will not understand or appreciate these commands. This should not surprise us. Nor should it dictate how we are to believe.

DAY SIX

33. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????



Note how unexceptional these requirements are. All Christians should, on the basis of their ongoing sanctification, eventually meet these standards. This does not, of course, mean that all should become elders.

The Lord puts the desire to be an elder in the hearts of men.

See the study notes on page 53 regarding this qualification.

The home is a test for the elder. If he can't manage his home (with one wife and 2.5 children and a dog), he can't manage the church (with hundreds of people, many of whom will act like children on a regular basis).

This means that people outside the church should not be surprised that the elder is an elder. He should not be a different man at work than he is in the church. He should not be a different man when he is hunting or golfing than he is when he is with the church.

“The Household of God”

WEEK FOUR: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. **2** Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul focuses on the topic of leadership within the church. In verses one through seven, Paul considers qualifications for “overseers”. Why do you think Paul addresses this topic with Timothy, and why does he do it at this point in the letter?

The leadership was obviously in some disarray in Ephesus. Paul has already spoken to men and women in general. He now turns his attention to church oversight.

2. How does he describe the task of being an overseer in 1 Timothy 3:1? What might this say about the person who would fill this role?

It is a noble task. Noble tasks should be filled by those of noble character.

3. What is an overseer? Do you find any hints about what he does in these seven verses?

An overseer is someone who watches over something. In this case, an overseer is one who watches over the church. We find at least two hints about the overseer's tasks in these verses: (1) he is able to teach, thus, he, at least on occasion, teaches, (2) he cares for God's church.

4. Read Acts 20:17-38. Based on these verses, what is the job description of an overseer?

They were to pay attention of the flock. They were to care for the church of God. They were to be alert, watching for fierce wolves (false teachers). They were to help the weak.

5. Luke, in writing the account of this passage in Acts 20, calls the overseers by a different name in verse 17. What is it? What might this say about those who would fill this role?

Elder. This implies that the person filling this role is experienced. The name elder could be referring to physical age or spiritual age. Certainly it must include the latter (spiritual age), but it often includes the former. 1 Peter 5:5 refers to non-elders as “you who are younger”.

DAY THREE

6. To what profession does Peter compare the position of elder in 1 Peter 5:1-5?

Shepherd.

7. How does he describe Jesus in this passage?

The chief Shepherd.

8. What does this say about an elder’s authority?

He is under Christ’s authority.

9. Paul uses the same profession to describe the work of an elder in Acts 20:28-32. What is it about an elder’s job that would lead both Peter and Paul to write about it in these terms?

The elder is to watch over the people like a shepherd watches over a flock. It is the shepherd’s responsibility to see that the sheep are protected and fed. The shepherd needs to care for the flock as a whole and for the individual sheep within the flock.

10. Jesus was not speaking of elders in John 10:11-4. However, how might his words here be applied to those who would serve as elders?

A good elder will lay down his life for the people. He will care for the people, not himself.

11. Jesus’ words to Peter in John 21:15-19 concern this same topic. Why do you think Jesus uses this language to describe those who would follow him? What specifically was Jesus asking Peter to do?

Jesus calls them lambs and sheep. He does this to indicate whose possession they are and the care they need. People would have seen this as a call to shepherd Jesus’ followers. Peter’s obedience in this regard was proof of his love for Christ.

12. How might the LORD’s words in Ezekiel 34:1-10 serve as a warning to those who would serve as elders today?

Shepherds are to feed the sheep—not themselves. The weak should be strengthened, the sick healed, the injured bound, the strays recovered, the lost looked for. They should not be ruled over with force and harshness. When this happens, the LORD sets himself against the shepherds and requires an accounting for the sheep.

13. According to Peter, how is an elder to serve? *1 Peter 5:1-5*

Not under compulsion but willingly. Not for shameful gain but eagerly. Not domineering but being examples.

14. What is the reward an elder receives for serving well? *1 Peter 5:4*

The unfading crown of glory.

15. What is the proper response of the believer to the elder? *1 Peter 5:5; Hebrews 13:17*

Be subject to the elders. Believers are to obey their leaders and submit to them. They are to relate to the elders in such a way that the elders are able to serve with joy and not with groaning.

DAY FOUR

16. Based on *1 Timothy 5:17*, what are three of the responsibilities an elder was to fill in the church?

Ruling, preaching, and teaching.

17. What role did the council of elders play in Timothy's own life? *1 Timothy 4:14*

Timothy received a spiritual gift when the council of elders laid their hands on him.

18. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? *Titus 1:5-9*

That he might appoint elders in every town.

19. What are the requirements Paul told Titus that an overseer must meet?

He must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, his children are to be believers and not open to the charge of debauchery and insubordination, he must not be arrogant or quick tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain. He must be hospitable, a love of good, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he will be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and that he might be able to rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine.

20. What are the requirements Paul told Timothy that an overseer must meet? *1 Timothy 3:1-7*

Above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, he must manage his household with all dignity, keeping his children submissive. He must not be a recent convert and must be well thought of by outsiders.

21. Are these standards too high? Where do people who are eligible to meet these standards come from?

No. These standards are not too high. In fact, they are surprisingly normal. It could be said that all Christians should meet these standards because of the ongoing work of sanctification that takes place in them.

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DAY FIVE

22. Based on the verses you have read this week, how would you summarize an elder's role in the church?

The elder's role is much like a shepherd's role. He works for a chief shepherd, feeding and caring for the flock and protecting it from danger. This danger may come from within the flock or it may come from outside of the flock. Either way, the shepherd is to watch for anything that might hurt the sheep.

23. Are there people filling roles like this in your church?

?????

24. What do you think happens in a church where there are no elders?

The people are like sheep without a shepherd. They are vulnerable, malnourished, straying, and even lost.

25. Are those who might fill this role in your church held to the same standards Paul outlines in Timothy and Titus?

?????

26. What do you think happens when a person who does not meet the qualifications we have examined this week is put in the position of an elder?

Danger! It is a disastrous mistake to put a person who does not meet these qualifications in the position of elder. We must not be hasty in laying our hands on people in order to set them apart as elders (1 Timothy 5:22). As someone said, "It is easier to make an elder than to unmake one."

27. In many churches, the people nominate other people to fill this role. Knowing God's standards for elders, what responsibility does this place on those considering others as elders?

This is a tremendous responsibility. The people must know the standards for elders before they nominate elders. They must also thoroughly know the men whom they would nominate. This is not a decision that should be made with no forethought and in five minutes at a congregational meeting.

DAY SIX

28. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????



Deacons are different from elders. Deacons serve the physical needs of the church (referring, primarily, to people, not to church buildings, although this could be part of a deacon's job because a building meets the needs of people). Elders serve the spiritual needs of the church.

The testing should probably be in deacon-type jobs.

Notice, the wives of the elders are not mentioned in verses 1-7. However, this same standard would certainly apply to the wives of the elders as well.

The rewards of serving well are great! Those who serve are strengthened in their faith.

This is the key to understanding the purpose of 1 Timothy.

Without the church, truth (that is, the truth of Jesus—the one who is truth) would disappear from the world.

This is probably an ancient hymn or creed. Paul may be quoting just a part of it. It is not easy to interpret all of the lines here, but it is clearly referring to Jesus and the gospel. The first line refers to his incarnation. The last line refers to his ascension.

“The Household of God”
WEEK FIVE: 1 Timothy 3:8-16

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 3:8-16

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. **9** They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. **11** Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. **13** For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, **15** if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. **16** Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
 vindicated by the Spirit,
 seen by angels,
 proclaimed among the nations,
 believed on in the world,
 taken up in glory.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

1. In 1 Timothy 3:8-13 Paul outlines requirements to be met by those desiring to be deacons. Before we consider these requirements, let's consider the position of deacon itself. Do you find any hints about a deacon's actual job description in these verses?

No.

2. How do you now that deacons and elders are not synonymous terms? In other words, how do you know they are not fulfilling the same ministry within the church? 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Philippians 1:1

They are mentioned separately in both of these passages.

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3. Based on what you know of elders, what role would you expect the deacons are not filling? See also 1 Timothy 5:17

They are not shepherding in the church. They are not exercising authority in the church. They are not overseeing. They are not preaching and teaching in the church.

4. Acts 6:1-6 recounts the establishment of seven men into ministry. Their ministry was a precursor of the role deacons fill within the church. What situation led to the appointment of these seven men to this position?

A complaint arose by the Hellenists (Jews who spoke Greek—they were not from Jerusalem) that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. In other words, each day, the church was distributing something (food/money) to take care of its widows. The “pure” Jewish believers were receiving the lion’s share of this distribution, while the Hellenistic Jewish believers were being overlooked.

5. How did the apostles differentiate between the task they needed to accomplish and the task these seven men were to accomplish? What does this tell you about the task deacons are to accomplish?

Verse two recounts the apostles saying, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables”. They went on to say, “we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (verse 4). The seven men were being appointed to oversee the daily distribution.

6. How large was the church these men were to serve? What might this say about the job these seven men needed to do? Acts 4:4

The number of men at this point was 5,000. Add in women and children to this amount and the church could have been over 25,000 people! This was an incredibly large task and required Spirit-given vision and wisdom.

7. What standard were these seven men to meet?

According to Acts 6:3 they were to be “men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom”.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

8. Acts 6 described a practical need within the church in Jerusalem. What practical needs might a deacon meet in the church today?

Deacons might meet the needs of the elderly, the handicapped, and the sick. They might also meet the needs of those within the church who have lost their jobs or homes.

9. According to 1 Timothy 3:8-13, what are the requirements one who would serve as a deacon must meet?

1. Dignified.

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2. Not double-tongued.
3. Not addicted to much wine.
4. Not greedy for dishonest gain.
5. Must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
6. Must be tested first
7. Wives must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded and faithful in all things.
8. Must be the husband of one wife.
9. Must manage their children and household well.

10. In verse ten, Paul says that the deacons must “be tested first”. What sort of test do you think Paul is referring to here?

They should be tested by giving them smaller deacon-type jobs (checking on the needs of a sick member of the church, etc.). If the potential deacon can be faithful in little, he can be faithful in much.

11. How might this test be administered?

This test, it would seem, would be best administered by current deacons or elders. The potential deacons shouldn't know they are being tested. You want to see how they perform when their is no “carrot” attached to their performance.

12. Does your church test those who could serve in this position? If so, how?

?????

13. Why do you think the spiritual condition of the potential deacon's wife is mentioned in verse 11? Why should her spiritual maturity or lack thereof affect his ability to serve in this position?

The wife reflects on the husband. Her spiritual maturity (or immaturity) will greatly impact the husband's ability to serve. As the wife of a deacon, she will hear things that should not be repeated. She will learn about the very personal needs of people. She must be able to keep this sort of information to herself.

14. Does your church consider the wives of those who would serve in this position?

?????

15. What are the practical benefits the deacons bring to the elders within the church? *See Acts 6:2-4*

The ministry of the deacons allows the elders to devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

16. What are the practical benefits the deacons bring to themselves? *1 Timothy 3:13*

They “gain a good standing for themselves” (among the believers) and “great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus”.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15

17. Why was Paul writing these detailed instructions to Timothy? 1 Timothy 3:14-15

So that he would “know how one ought to behave in the household of God”.

18. In verse 15, Paul describes the church as “the household of God”, “the church of the living God”, and “a pillar and buttress of truth”. What is the significance of each of these?

“the household of God” — This description of the church reminds us that the church is meant to be an intimate gathering of related people. Like my household, it is his to order as he chooses. As with the father of an earthly family, God the Father is the Father of his household.

“the church of the living God” — This title presupposes that God—as the living God—is currently doing things within the church.

“a pillar and buttress of truth” — The importance of the church cannot be overstated. It is the most important organization on earth. It is keeping truth alive in this world. The truth Paul refers to here is the gospel. Take the church away from the world and truth would disappear and the world would descend into deep darkness.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 3:16

22. In verse 16, Paul quotes what appears to be an ancient hymn or creed. What value would quoting a hymn or creed be to the people in the church?

Hymns and creeds are easy to learn and easy to pass on. They stay in your mind. Having a common hymn or creed unites us.

23. In verse 15, Paul called the church “a pillar and buttress of truth”. The ancient hymn or creed in verse 16 - appears to be the truth of which the church is a pillar and buttress. What is this truth? Be as specific as possible.

The truth is: “He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory”. While this hymn or creed is the truth of which the church is the buttress, the second and third phrases are not easy to interpret. All in all, it seems to be a somewhat cryptic way of referring to Jesus’ life and death and ascension.

1. *He was manifested in the flesh.* Jesus came to earth as a man—although he always existed before that time.

2. *He was ... vindicated by the Spirit.* As the study notes indicate on page 65, “This probably means that the Holy Spirit proved that Jesus is who he said he is. The Spirit’s actions showed him to be true. They validated Jesus’ words”.

3. *He was ... seen by angels.* The Holy Spirit wasn’t the only one who testified to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah. “As the study notes indicate on page 65, “From Jesus’ birth to his death, angels were part of his life. They, like the Holy Spirit, testified to who Jesus is.

4. *He was ... proclaimed among the nations.* This refers to the preaching of the gospel.

5. *He was ... believed on in the world.* People put their faith in Christ.

6. *He was ... taken up in glory.* This refers to Jesus’ ascension to the right hand of God.

24. What does this say about the importance of the church in the world today?

It is, as I just mentioned, the most important institution on earth. The church has been entrusted with the message of the gospel and the truth of Jesus. Without the church, who would know these truths?

25. What do you think happens to the church’s role as a pillar and buttress of truth if we ignore Paul’s instructions in these chapters?

She crumbles. God wants his household to look and run in a certain way. We cannot expect good results if we live in opposition to his will.

DAY SIX

26. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????

“The Household of God”
WEEK SIX: 1 Timothy 4

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 4

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **2** through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, **3** who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. **7** Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; **8** for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. **9** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. **10** For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. **12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. **13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. **14** Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. **15** Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. **16** Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. 1 Timothy 4:1-4 seems to be an abrupt topic change from 3:14-16. How do you think these two sections are related?

Paul is thinking about the truth of which the church is a pillar and buttress. This makes him think of those who would attempt to thwart the church in its role as a pillar and buttress of truth.

If this warning was important for Timothy to know, it is even more important for us to know. After all, our times are later than his time!

These are amazing verses. Food is holy (set apart by and for God) because God made it and called it good and because you thank him for it. Do you see the things you eat as holy?

This implies hard work. The daily disciplines of prayer and meditation and reading God's word are essential if one is to become godly.

Timothy's teachings were not just meant to fill 1/2 hour of sermon time. Rather, they were to move the church to change!

People would despise Timothy's youth if he didn't set an example in these five areas.

Gifts can be neglected or they can be fanned into flame.

Timothy's personal life is of the utmost importance, because his life will impact the lives of all those within the church. He must, for his own good and for the good of the church, immerse himself in these things. Have you immersed yourself in these things?

How do I ensure that I endure to the end and that my faith won't be shipwrecked? I watch myself and my teaching (or, if I'm not a teacher, my understanding of God's word).

2. In 1 Timothy 4:1-4 Paul provides Timothy with specific information about conditions in “later times”. What does he tell him will happen, and what benefit would knowing this be to Timothy?

“[I]n later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars.” Knowing this information ahead of time would give Timothy the ability to prepare the church to deal with it.

3. How, specifically, do you think the Spirit was saying this?

Through Scripture (see the next question) and through direct revelation to Paul

4. What did Jesus say about this topic? *Matthew 24:3-14*

He said that “many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold”.

5. What else did Paul teach about this topic? *Acts 20:29-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Timothy 4:3-4*

Acts 20:29-31 - Paul prophesied that “fierce wolves” would come into the church in Ephesus (remember, this was the reason Timothy was now in Ephesus) and that these fierce wolves would ravage the flock. He said that false teachers would arise even from among the elders. They would do this so that they might “draw away the disciples after them”.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 - Paul prophesied that a rebellion is coming. This rebellion will occur before “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

2 Timothy 3:1-9 - Paul prophesied that “in the last days there will come times of difficulty”. He said that these times would be marked, in part, by false teachers “who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith”.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - Paul prophesied that “the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths”.

6. What, if anything, should this warning have to do with how we teach and lead within the church today?

We should expect to see apostasy (turning from the faith) now. Not only that, we should anticipate apostasy in the days ahead. Knowing that apostasy is here now and is coming, we must prepare ourselves and our people to deal with it. People need to be warned about false teaching and trained to fight it. Obviously, the best way to do this is to teach the people the truth.

7. Who is behind this departing from the faith (look carefully, for there is more than one party involved)? *1 Timothy 4:1-2*

This departing from the faith originates in deceitful spirits and demons. These evil beings work through humans Paul describes as “liars whose consciences are seared”.

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8. What does this tell you about Satan and his schemes? *See also Ephesians 6:12*

He hates the church. Our battle is against him and against his schemes.

9. How does Paul describe the human false teachers in 1 Timothy 4:2?

He describes them as “liars whose consciences are seared”.

10. What does Paul mean by these descriptions?

These people can't hear from the Lord. They don't speak sincerely but they don't care, for lies do not bother one whose heart has been calloused.

11. What specific false teachings does Paul discuss in 1 Timothy 4:2-3?

They “forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth”.

12. How does Paul refute the false teachings in verses three through five?

He says that “everything created by God is good”, therefore “nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer”.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10

13. What was Timothy to do with the information Paul was giving him? *1 Timothy 4:6*

He was to “put these things before the brothers”. In other words, he was to tell these things to the church.

14. How do you think Timothy did this? *1 Timothy 4:11*

He did this by commanding and teaching. He taught right doctrine to refute the wrong. And he didn't just wait to see if the church would learn from his teaching. The situation was so serious that he told the church what they must do.

15. In verse seven, Paul gives Timothy two specific commands. What are they?

1. “Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.”
2. “[T]rain yourself for godliness.”

16. Bodily training is compared to training yourself for godliness. How are these two things similar? How are these two things different?

They are both work. Both require putting the flesh down (for instance, I must choose to exercise rather than eat ice cream, and I must choose to wake up and read my Bible and pray rather than sleep in a little longer). Both bring long term results but require sacrifices in order to see those results.

17. What does this tell you about the time it takes to become a godly person?

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It doesn't happen overnight. Godliness takes time.

18. What benefit does godliness bring to a person?

This is a major distinction between training your physical body and training yourself spiritually. Physical training only benefits you in this life. However, spiritual training “holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come”.

19. In verse ten, Paul says “to this end we toil and strive”. That verse, however, does not say what the end is. What is the end he is toiling and striving to achieve? See 1 Timothy 4:8
Godliness.

20. Are you toiling and striving to see this in your own life? How are you doing this?
?????

21. Paul calls God “the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe”. We do not often speak of God as the Savior of the unsaved. How is he the Savior of those who do not believe?

He truly is the only Savior. However, many have rejected him as Savior. They have left themselves with no options.

22. How is he “especially” the Savior of those who believe?

Because he truly has saved those who believe.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-12

23. In verse 11, Paul tells Timothy to “Command and teach these things.” What is the difference between commanding and teaching? What do Paul’s instructions to Timothy tell you about Paul’s understanding of a leader’s relationship with the rest of the church? Do you think leaders typically have this level of authority within the church today?

When you command, you tell someone what to do. When you teach, you explain. It is clear that leaders were looked upon as holding great authority. Do leaders have this level of authority today? In some places, they do. In many places, they do not.

24. In verse 12, Timothy is given two different instructions. What are they? How do you think it would be possible for Timothy to accomplish the first instruction? What, specifically, could he do to ensure that this was accomplished? How are the two instructions connected?

The instructions are (1) that he must “Let no one despise you for your youth, and (2) that he must “set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity”. The first instruction could be kept if he lived above reproach in all five areas mentioned in this verse. In other words, his right behavior in all aspects of life would keep people from despising him because of his youth. Paul recognized that Timothy was young. He was telling him to keep on his

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guard at all times concerning his behavior, otherwise people would say something like, “He’s young, what do you expect?”

25. Timothy was to set the believes an example in five different areas. What is Paul expecting to happen as Timothy does this?

The believers will respect Timothy and will follow his example.

26. What does this tell you about the importance of godly leadership in the church?

Godly leadership is tremendously important. Leaders must set an example in all areas of life.

27. What if these instructions were written to you and Paul expected you to model this behavior for the church to imitate? Would you like the results that would follow from imitating your behavior? What specific changes might you need to make in each of these areas?

“in speech” - ?????

“in conduct” - ?????

“in love” - ?????

“in faith” - ?????

“in purity” - ?????

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 4:13-16

28. In verse 13, Timothy is told to devote himself to three things. What are they? What would you expect each of these things to accomplish?

He is to “devote [himself] to” (1) “the public reading of Scripture”, (2) “to exhortation”, and (3) “to teaching”. The public reading of Scripture demonstrates to the people the importance of the word of God and serves to instruct the people. It keeps them grounded in the truth. Exhortation is encouragement to move forward together. Timothy must not teach like some passionless professor two years from retirement. He must preach in such a way that people know that people are urged to take action The teaching ensures that the people understand what they have seen from the Scriptures, what they are being urged to do, and why they are being urged to do it. These instructions weren’t just for Timothy. All three of these things should be happening in every church today.

29. What might verse 14 tell us about Timothy? See also 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Timothy may have been neglecting his gift. He may not have been fanning it into flame. Based on these verses, that gift may have been some sort of teaching gift or a prophetic gift.

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30. What might this verse tell us about spiritual gifts in the life of a believer?

Gifts can be neglected. They can also be increased. It is up to us to see that they are fanned into flame.

31. Have you neglected any gifts God has given you?

?????

32. Paul seems more focused on Timothy's spiritual growth than on the rest of the believers' spiritual growth. What is this? 1 Timothy 4:15-16

Paul understood that Timothy's growth would translate to the people's growth. He wanted the church to see Timothy's progress because it would lead to their progress.

33. Timothy was encouraged to keep a close eye on two things. What are they?

He was to keep a close eye on himself and "on the teaching".

34. For what, specifically, would he be watching?

He needed to watch that his teaching and his behavior were in conformity to the word of God. He needed to watch that his was teaching all of God's word. He needed to watch that there was no hypocrisy or other evil in him.

35. Why would Paul tell Timothy that if he obeyed him in these things he would "save" both himself and his hearers? We know only Jesus saves us. In what sense is he using the word "save" in connection with Timothy here?

We must understand that our faith is not genuine if it doesn't last (see Colossians 1:23). These actions are all designed to ensure lasting faith. We must take note of these actions in our own lives. Thus, Paul is saying something like, "If you obey my commands here, watching your personal life, teaching the word of God, encouraging the church onward in their faith, and using all the gifts you have been given, these actions will result in the salvation of your soul and the salvation of those who hear you. In other words, these actions will allow you to persevere in your faith. You will not, like Hymenaeus and Alexander shipwreck your faith. Instead, the actions will be used by God to cause you to persevere so that you might be saved in the end."

36. Based on the verses you've studied this week, what changes do you believe the Lord would have you make in your own life?

?????

DAY SIX

37. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????



“The Household of God”
WEEK SEVEN: 1 Timothy 5

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 5

This word is significant in understanding this passage as it ties together verse 3 and verse 17.

One way we demonstrate our godliness is by how we care for our relatives.

This seems to have been some sort of list kept by the church.

The church is under no obligation to care for any and all people—even if they are Christians. There are times when “no” is the correct answer.

See verse three.

Notice how Paul uses the Old Testament here. He reads the Old Testament through a Christian lens. Paul’s understanding of the Old Testament and its value is worthy of some deep thought.

Here, Paul quotes from the Old Testament and from Jesus. He refers to both of them as Scripture ... interesting.

Combining verse 19 and verse 22 we see that we are not to be hasty in bringing an elder down (condemning him) and we are not to be hasty in bringing an elder up (ordaining him).

In other words, don’t play favorites, and don’t decide a case before you hear the facts.

Based on the context, this is not talking about laying hands no someone when you pray. It is talking about commissioning or ordaining one to serve as an elder in the church. If this is done hastily, you might find yourself sharing in that person’s sins.

1 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, **2** older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. **3** Honor widows who are truly widows. **4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. **5** She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, **6** but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. **7** Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **9** Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, **10** and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. **11** But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry **12** and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. **13** Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. **14** So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. **15** For some have already strayed after Satan. **16** If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows. **17** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." **19** Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. **20** As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. **21** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. **22** Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. **23** (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) **24** The sins of some men are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. **25** So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

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DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

1. How is Timothy to treat those within the church?

Older men - He is not to rebuke older men. Rather, he is to encourage them in the same way that he would encourage his father.

Younger men - He is to treat them like brothers.

Older women - He is to treat them like mothers.

Younger women - He is to treat them like sisters. Paul then adds the comment “in all purity”.

2. Based on what you know of Timothy so far, do you think he struggled to keep Paul’s instructions here? *See also Philippians 2:19-24*

No. Timothy had a genuine concern for the people’s welfare. However, no person is above sin. All people—even godly men like Timothy—can stumble. The warnings serve as one way God protects us from sin.

3. Do you treat others as Paul recommends in these verses? What might change in your relationships if you did?

?????

4. What problems would following Paul’s recommendations protect against or eliminate?

If we treated others as family members all sorts of potential problems would be eliminated. Obviously, Paul’s commands here regarding the younger women would protect Timothy (and leaders today) from sexual impurity. His commands regarding younger men, older men, and older women would promote greater care and unity within the church.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16

5. Paul uses 14 verses to discuss widows in the church. Why would this topic demand so many verses?

It was evidently a significant issue in the church. If a woman’s husband died and she had no sons (or, if for some reason, her sons had neglected her or disowned her), she was left with no one to provide for her. From the earliest days (see Acts 6), the church had provided for the widows (at least some of the widows) among them.

6. How, specifically, is the church to honor widows?

The church is to provide for her physical needs.

7. What qualifications must a widow meet in order to be honored in this way? *1 Timothy 5:9-10*

She is eligible to be honored in this way “if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work”.

8. Do you think it would be hard for the church to hold fast to these qualifications? What would happen if the church ignored them and honored all widows equally?

It would be very hard for the church to hold fast to these qualifications. If the church treated all widows equally, it would soon run out of money (see verse 16). It would also stifle giving, as people realized their gifts were being used to support those who were not living in a godly manner. This really should be seen as great incentive to live a godly lifestyle.

9. When, according to these verses, was the church not to honor widows in this way? *1 Timothy 5:4-6, 11-16*

Widows who had children or grandchildren were not to receive help in this way from the church because the children should provide for them. In addition, Paul instructed Timothy to exclude younger widows.

10. Based on what you have learned in 1 Timothy thus far, whose responsibility would it be to oversee the church’s actions in this regard? *See also Acts 6:1-6*

It would be the deacons’ responsibility.

11. What new insights does this matter of honoring widows give you in regard to the difficulty of the position this person is filling?

This is a very difficult position and demands the wisdom of God and the help of the Holy Spirit. It is not easy to administrate a program like this, especially when people are being excluded and will speak ill of you for not including them in the program.

12. According to Paul, what responsibility do children and grandchildren have in regard to their parents and grandparents? *1 Timothy 5:4, 8*

Children and grandchildren are to “learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents”. That is, they are to provide for their needs. God is pleased when children and grandchildren do this.

13. What are the children demonstrating when they care for their parents and grandparents?

They are demonstrating godliness.

14. What benefit does it bring to the church when people care for their relatives? 1 Timothy 5:16

If children and grandchildren care for their parents and grandparents it allows the church to focus on those without children. The church cannot be expected to meet every need.

15. Does your church care for widows in this way?

?????

16. What practical benefits would caring for widows in this way bring to the entire church?

It would obviously draw the church together in love. It would motivate people to live a godly life (knowing that those who claim to be Christians and live an ungodly life are not cared for in this manner). It would bring great help to those in need.

17. How would non-Christians react if the church cared for widows in this way?

They would see the love of Christ lived out in a very practical way. Even if they did not understand the gospel, they would see Christ's love.

18. We live in a different day and age from the age when this was written. Do you think the church has the same level of responsibility today as in the first century?

We do have the same level of responsibility. We must determine, as best as we can, how we apply the truths here to those in need in our churches.

19. What other groups of people, if any, might you add to the list of those the church should care for?

Handicapped people in the church, older couples within the church who can no longer provide for themselves, people in the church who have lost jobs or suffered some sort of personal catastrophe (fire, burglary, etc.).

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18

20. In verse 17, Paul turns his attention to elders. What seems to be Paul's concern in these verses?

He is concerned that elders, like widows, are honored. As with widows, he is using the word "honor" here to refer to the church taking care of the elder's needs.

21. Why do you think he would need to address this topic?

He needed to address this topic because, at least at times and in places, elders are not honored in this way. They devote their lives to the church, but the church neglects to take care of them.

22. Based on his words in 1 Corinthians 9:3-12, what level of "honoring" do you think Paul received from the church in Corinth?

The church in Corinth did not honor Paul in this way at all. Not only was he laboring among them in the preaching of the gospel, he was also “working for a living” to provide for his needs. This didn’t benefit the church in Corinth, for it would have resulted in Paul using energy he could have devoted to preaching and prayer to providing for his own needs.

23. How does Paul prove that the church is to take care of its elders? What examples does he use? Where was he quoting from? *1 Timothy 5:18*

His first quotation is from the Old Testament—Deuteronomy 25:4. His second quotation is from Jesus himself (see Matthew 10:10).

24. Let’s take the ox example a step further. What would happen to an ox that wasn’t allowed to eat as it treaded out the grain? Do you think the same thing happens to elders?

It would grow hungry and lose strength. In the end, the ox that wasn’t allowed to eat wouldn’t be able to tread out as much grain. I absolutely believe the same thing can happen to elders. The elders that are well taken care of can “tread out more grain” within the church.

25. Practically speaking, which elders should be honored in this way? Are there any elders that may not need to be honored in this way? *1 Timothy 5:17*

Paul focuses on “those who labor in preaching and teaching”. These elders, it would appear, are differentiated from other elders in that their daily work is focussed on preaching (or preparation to preach) and teaching and they cannot take the time to work another job. Elders who are not preaching and teaching may be able to provide for themselves. These elders would not need to be taken care of in this way.

26. Does your church honor its elders in this way? What would have to change to bring your level of honoring to “double” level?

?????

27. If a church doesn’t honor its elders in this way, what might that say about how the church values the work an elder is called to do? Do you think this would impact how the church receives the word of God and responds to the authority of his chosen leaders? *See also Matthew 10:40-42*

If a church does not honor its elders in this way, it would be hard to argue that it greatly values the elders’ work. If it does not honor its elders in this way, I think it might respond to the elders’ authority in a similarly dishonorable way.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 5:19-25

28. What, specifically, is the church to do if someone brings an accusation against an elder? *1 Timothy 5:19*

The charge is not to be admitted “except on the evidence of two or three witnesses”.

29. According to Deuteronomy 19:15-20, what was taking this step designed to prevent?

This would prevent a “malicious witness” from ending an elder’s ministry based on false accusations.

30. What do you think happens when churches don’t follow Paul’s words here.

Ministries and reputations are damaged and falsehood is allowed to thrive within the church.

31. What is the church to do if an elder does “persist in sin”? Do you think this is speaking of any and all sins? 1 Timothy 5:20

An elder who persists in sin is to be rebuked “in the presence of all”. This is, I believe, talking about the kinds of sin that would be grievous enough to warrant mention in front of the church. It is not talking about personal slights or things that one person might deem to be a sin but another person would not deem to be a sin.

32. What is the command’s intended result?

Other elders and the rest of the people in the church would see the elder being rebuked in front of everyone and they would fear that the same thing might happen to them. This would

33. What do you think happens when churches don’t follow Paul’s words here?

When elders are allowed to continue serving without any rebuke when they have sin in their lives, it sends a message to all the people that the leadership in the church is not serious about dealing with sin and is not serious about following the commands of the Lord.

34. Paul tells Timothy that he is making this charge to him in front of a number of witnesses. Who are these witnesses? Do you think Paul could have used any stronger charge before Timothy?

He charges him “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels”. He could not have used any stronger charge to Timothy.

35. What does this tell you about the importance Paul placed on Timothy keeping these commands?

Paul knew that the keeping of these commands was so vital to the health of the church that he told Timothy, in essence, “I am calling God the Father and God the Son and the holy angels to watch you to see if you keep these commands”.

36. How would you respond to a charge like that?

?????

37. Why do you think he would need to resort to this level of accountability with Timothy?

It seems that Timothy may have been given to timidity (see 2 Timothy 1:6-7).

38. What does he mean when he speaks of keeping “these rules without prejudging” and “doing nothing from partiality”?

Timothy is not to play favorites. He is to treat everyone—even those he especially likes—impartially.

39. In verse 22, Paul gives Timothy specific instructions about the “laying on of hands” - referring to the ordaining of leaders in the church. What are these instructions?

“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands”. This is not talking about laying hands on someone in order to pray for them. Rather, it is talking about laying hands on someone in order to ordain or establish them as a leader in the church. This is not to be done quickly. If people are ordained hastily and if they have sin problems in their lives, we become, in actuality, a promoter of those sins, for we have just put a sinner into a position of leadership.

40. What can happen when these instructions are ignored? *1 Timothy 5:22*

When we are “hasty in the laying on of hands” we, as the second part of the verse asserts, “take part in the sins of others”.

41. Verse 23 does not seem to fit with the rest of the paragraph. Why do you think Paul made this comment here? What does it demonstrate about Paul’s relationship with Timothy?

Verse 23 is in parenthesis in the English Standard Version indicating that the translators believe Paul’s comment here is parenthetical (i.e., it is not a part of Paul’s main point). This verse is valuable in that it demonstrates the close relationship that existed between Paul and Timothy. Paul was not so focused on ministry that he forgot about Timothy’s personal needs. May the same be said about us.

42. How are verses 24 and 25 connected with Paul’s instructions in verse 22?

Some people’s sins are easy to see. We wouldn’t lay hands on those people to ordain them as leaders. Other people’s sins are not easy to see but they will be evident later. We must carefully consider people before laying hands on them. This requires taking the time to watch their lives for a long enough period of time to see if any sins are trailing behind them. This is why many churches require those who would serve in the church to attend the church for an extended period of time (i.e., six months to a year) before permitting them to serve in any leadership position.

DAY SIX

43. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????



“The Household of God”
WEEK EIGHT: 1 Timothy 6

DAY ONE

1 Timothy 6

1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. **2** Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Teach and urge these things. **3** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, **4** he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, **5** and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. **6** Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **8** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, **14** to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** thus storing up

Carefully consider the reason behind Paul’s command here (see the second half of this verse). Is this the motivation behind your honoring of those who are in authority over you? This would apply to employees in their attitude to their employers, prisoners in their attitude to their correction officers, etc., etc., etc.

Are you content? If you’re not, reflect for a moment on the meaning of verse 7. We must remind ourselves of this truth constantly.

Money itself is not evil. It can be used, as verse 18 indicates, for much good. However, the love of money is a cancerous root.

We are not just to run from wickedness. We are to run after goodness.

How long must we keep fleeing and pursuing and fighting and taking hold? Until we see Jesus face to face.

If you are an American this most likely means you. Are you keeping Paul’s commands here?

Notice, you do not lose the things you give away. Rather, you lay them up as a foundation for the future.

One way we guard the deposit entrusted to us is by avoiding irreverant babble and contradictions.

This is not the only thing that causes people to swerve from the faith. See verse 10.

treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

20 O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," **21** for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.

DAY TWO

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2

1. According to verse one, what are slaves to do in regard to their masters?

They are to “regard their own masters as worthy of all honor”.

2. Many of these slaves may have been owned by wicked and cruel people. Do you think Paul expected slaves in that type of situation to do this? If so, how would this be possible?

Yes, Paul did not place any “exception clauses” in his command here (or in his commands to slaves in Ephesians 6:5-8 or Colossians 3:22-25). The only way slaves could consider their masters worthy of honor would be to understand that they were working for the Lord and they would be receiving their reward from him. They would be able to do this because of Christ’s power in them.

3. Why did Paul tell the slaves to do this?

This is highly significant. Slaves were to behave in this way “so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled”.

4. Do you think these verses apply in any way to our culture? For instance, how do they apply, if at all, to employee/employer relations?

They absolutely apply to our culture. We must understand that how we behave toward those in authority over us impacts how people view God and the gospel message. This applies to how we treat government officials, employers, police officers, corrections officers (for those who are in prison), etc., etc., etc.

5. Do you, if you have a supervisor, regard him or her as worthy of honor? Would your supervisor agree with your answer?

?????

6. Paul provides special instructions for slaves with believing masters. What are they?

They “must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers’ rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved”. As with question three, it is worth considering the reasons behind Paul’s command here.

7. As many as half of the people within the church in Ephesus may have been slaves. What impact would it have had within the church if slaves did not obey Paul's words in verse two?

It would have resulted in constant friction within the church.

8. What sort of relations do you think slaves and masters had within the church? For instance, would it be difficult for a slave to be an elder in the church and his master to be under his authority? How do you think the church might have handled this situation?

This would have been a difficult situation within the church, however, it was not an impossible situation. The answer to the slave/master relation problems was addressed by Paul's commands in this passage (and in Ephesians and Colossians). Obedience to these commands would result in harmony. Of course, apart from God's grace, it would have been difficult/impossible for a slave to be the elder in a church and his master to be under his authority. However, if those within the church recognized spiritual gifting and truly did consider those within the church to be brothers and sisters in equal standing before the Lord, it would not be impossible. It would be somewhat akin to an employee serving as elder with his employer under his authority. This situation happens frequently in churches today.

9. Paul addressed words to slaves in Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-25. Do you find any additional commands for slaves in these passages? If so, what are they?

The passages are very similar. Paul's words in Ephesians and Colossians further expand on Paul's command in 1 Timothy. It is obvious that if slaves are to honor their masters, this honoring would be demonstrated in the way the slaves obeyed their masters. True honoring would happen all the time, not just when the master was watching.

10. Why do you think Paul addresses slaves' attitudes and work ethic in these verses, rather than focusing on the evils of slavery?

This is a significant question and is worthy of some consideration. First, we must recognize that, because of their history, Americans have a difficult time imagining slavery as anything but a great evil that must be abolished. However, we must understand that the slavery that was known during this period in American history was very different from the slavery that Paul and other first century Christians would have known.

The Roman institution of being a "bondservant" ... was different from the institution of slavery in North America during the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. Slaves generally were permitted to work for pay and to save enough to buy their freedom (see Matt. 25:15 where the "servants" ... were entrusted with immense amounts of money and responsibility). The NT assumes that trafficking in human beings is a sin (1 Tim. 1:10; Rev. 18:11-13), and Paul urges Christian slaves who **can gain ... freedom** to do so. The released slave was officially designated a "freedman" and frequently continued to work for his former master. Many extant inscriptions from freedmen indicate the tendency to

adopt the family name of their former master (now their “patron”) and to continue honoring them.¹

If Paul had focused on ending slavery as an institution, it would have created significant unrest within the church (slave versus master) *and* would have brought significant attention to the church from those outside the church. This attention from outside the church would have brought the eye and the force of the Roman empire against the church. As we read through the New Testament, it is evident that the apostles did not focus on reforming specific societal problems (ending slavery, abolishing the sale of meat sold to idols, shutting down pagan temples, etc.) but instead focused on preaching the gospel. They saw the preaching of and the acceptance of the gospel message as the answer to society’s problems.

DAY THREE

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10

11. In verses three through ten, Paul turns his attention back to the false teachers. How does he describe them in these verses?

He describes them as “puffed up with conceit and understanding nothing”. He says that they have “an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words”. He calls them “depraved of mind and deprived of the truth”. He says that they think “that godliness is a means to gain”. They “desire to be rich”, but they are not rich. Instead, this desire for financial gain has caused many to leave the faith and to bring great pain upon themselves.

12. What do the false teachers have a craving for?

They have an “unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels about words”.

13. The false teachers were neither godly nor content. We are called to be both. What words does Paul use to describe the combination of godliness and contentment? 1 Timothy 6:6

It is “great gain”.

14. What is the point Paul is making in verse seven?

No matter how much we gain in this world financially (possessions, money, etc.) we cannot take it with us when we die. Since riches are so perishable, we ought not focus so much attention on them. Rather, we should focus on what is eternal..

15. Based on verse eight, how much does a person need in order to be content?

It doesn’t take much. If a person has Jesus, food, and clothing he or she has enough to be content. Of course, as many have demonstrated all over the world, Jesus alone (without food or clothing) is enough for contentment..

16. If this is the case, why do so many Christians seem to lack true contentment?

¹ Study note from 1 Corinthians 7:21 — *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2008), 2201. Copyright © 2008 by Hands to the Plow, Inc. “Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

Many Christians have forgotten that they brought nothing into this world and they can bring nothing out of this world. They do not think like citizens of heaven (see Hebrews 12:22). Their sights are not set on the wealth of Christ. Rather, they think and act like those in the world. The world's pleasures are fleeting (see Hebrews 11:24-26) and cannot bring lasting contentment.

17. Are you content? Where are you seeking your contentment from?

?????

18. What are the warnings to those who “desire to be rich”?

This desire causes people to “fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction”. The “love of money” does not bring happiness. Instead, it is “a root of all kinds of evils”. Some who have loved money in this way “have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs”.

19. How can a person maintain a right relationship with money?

By looking to the greater reward we have in Christ (see Hebrews 11:26). One very practical way to end money's hold on you is to start giving it away. This quickly puts money in its proper place.

DAY FOUR

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16

20. In verse 11, Paul turns his attention to Timothy. First he tells him to flee from something. Next he tells him to pursue other things. From what is he to flee? What is he to pursue?

He is to flee from false teaching and from the love of money. He is to pursue “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness”.

21. Are you doing these things?

?????

22. What do you think happens in the Christian's life when these words are not obeyed?

The Christian who does not do these things “fall[s] into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction” (1 Timothy 6:9). When we do not flee from evil and when we do not pursue righteousness we risk shipwrecking our faith.

23. What is Timothy told to do in verse 12? What does this mean? How do you think he was to do these things?

He is told to “Fight the good fight of the faith” and to “Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession”. This would happen as Timothy obeyed Paul's charges in this letter. It would happen as he fled from false teaching and the love of money. It would happen as he pursued “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness,

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gentleness”. Paul’s words here indicate that the Christian life is not easy. In order to “Take hold of the eternal life to which [he] was called” Timothy would need to battle with Christ’s strength. We must do the same. Our Lord suffered. We should expect to do the same.

24. In verse 13, Paul again charges Timothy in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus. What is the charge and why do you think he used such a strong charge here?

The charge is found in verse 14. Paul is to “keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing our Lord Jesus Christ”. That is, Paul is telling Timothy that he must not quit until Jesus comes back. At that point, Timothy would be able to take a rest. The commandment to which Paul refers here may be the entire letter. It could also be the commandment found in verses 11 and 12. Paul uses this strong charge here (and a similar charge in 1 Timothy 5:21) because it emphasizes that the importance of this command. Paul could not have given a stronger command to Timothy. “In front of God the Father and Jesus Christ I am charging you to do what I have said until Jesus comes back.”

25. In verses 15 and 16, Paul seems to spontaneously erupt in praise for God. How does he describe him? What do Paul’s words here tell you about his view of God?

He calls him “the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see”. He goes on to say that “honor and eternal dominion” are his. This doxology is typical of Paul (see, for example, Romans 11:33-36 and Ephesians 3:20-21). These words demonstrate that Paul was not a “professional” apostle. He was in enthralled with the God of the universe and with the Lord Jesus. The business of the church did not keep him from worshipping the God of the church. The many problems associated with the church did not taint his worship of its Savior. May the same be said about me.

DAY FIVE

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-21

26. Verses 17 through 19 are addressed to the rich. What is Timothy to charge the rich not to do?

?????

27. What is Timothy to charge the rich to do?

He is to charge them “not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God”. They are “to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”.

28. What benefit does following these commands bring to the rich? 1 Timothy 6:19

When the rich obey Paul’s words here, they are “storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life”. Paul’s words are reminiscent of Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:19-24.

29. Do you consider yourself rich?

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?????

30. Do you think Paul would consider you rich?

?????

31. Does this change how you read these words?

?????

32. If you are rich, are you keeping the words here? Why or why not?

?????

33. What would need to change in your lifestyle for more money to be freed up so that you could be more generous?

?????

34. If the rich within the church do not obey Paul's words here, do you think it is possible for the church to care for the widows the way it is described in chapter five?

Absolutely not. Care comes from within the church.

35. Verses 20 and 21 contain final instructions to Timothy. What are they?

The final command is that Timothy would “guard the deposit entrusted to [him]” and that he must “Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’”. Paul doesn’t preach an easy “hey you prayed a prayer once so you’re set for life” gospel to Timothy. He indicates that he must carefully watch what he had been given. If he didn’t he might swerve from the faith. As with 1 Timothy 4:16, Paul is encouraging Timothy that he must persevere in his faith in order to be saved. Paul’s warnings should not be taken to mean that he thought Timothy would fall from the faith. Rather, they were one means by which Timothy was kept strong in the faith. The commands here also apply to every other Christian. We all must “guard the deposit entrusted to [us]”. We all must “Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’”.

36. Based on Paul's words here, do you think he had any concerns that Timothy was perhaps in over his head, or that he might, like so many others, swerve from the faith?

?????

37. What does Paul mean by the phrase, “Grace be with you”?

Paul realizes that nothing good can happen in Timothy’s life or in the church in Ephesus (the “you” used here is plural) apart from God extending his gracious help to them. “Grace be with you” is a petition to God to rest his hand of blessing upon Timothy and upon the church.

DAY SIX

38. Read the study notes and then complete the following sentence. This week, the Holy Spirit has taught me ...

?????