

# STUDY GUIDE FOR 1 TIMOTHY

## *Basic Instructions for Leading the Church*

### **1 Timothy 1 – The Faith and False Teachers**

#### **Background and Setting**

After being released from his first Roman imprisonment (see Acts 28:30), Paul revisited several of the cities in which he had ministered, including Ephesus. Leaving Timothy behind there to deal with problems that had arisen in the Ephesian church, such as false doctrine (1:3–7; 4:1–3; 6:3–5), disorder in worship (2:1–15), the need for qualified leaders (3:1–14), and materialism (6:6–19), Paul went on to Macedonia, from where he wrote Timothy this letter to help him carry out his task in the church (see 3:14–15). (MacArthur study guide)

1. Verse 1 What is an apostle, what qualified one to be an apostle, and what did they do?
2. Verse 1 Why is Jesus Christ our hope? People fail us all the time. Why should anyone trust Him?
3. Verse 2 Who was Timothy? What was his background? Why is Paul writing these Pastoral Epistles to him?
4. Verse 2 Paul usually starts his letters with these three blessings. Explain each one. What do they mean in our lives? How do we know God has blessed us with them in our lives?

5. Verses 3-4 Since the beginning of Christianity there have been people who preached strange doctrines. How are we to handle false teaching in the church? Did you believe a popular false teaching about Christianity before coming to the true knowledge of Christ?
  
6. Verse 5 What is the goal of all our preaching and teaching? Why does Paul elevate this to the highest level?
  
7. Verse 5 Why are these three qualities necessary for this overarching goal of preaching and teaching?
  
8. Verse 6 What happens when teachers stray from these three qualities in verse. 5? See Titus 1:10.
  
9. Verses 6-7 How can a teacher misuse the Law? What are the dangers of this? What does James 3:1 warn about?
  
10. Verse 8 If used correctly, how is the Law good?



17. Verse 17 Why does Paul break out into praise and doxology at this point in his letter? How does he describe God? Is he talking about the Father or Christ in this doxology?
  
18. Verse 18 How did Timothy get confirmed to be a leader of this church? Is this practice common today or was it just for the early church? How are leaders recognized today?
  
19. Verses 18-19 Paul charges Timothy to fight the good fight and to keep the faith and a good conscience. What is the danger of failing to be diligent in the faith? What does a good conscience have to do with keeping the faith?
  
20. Verses 19-20 These two men shipwrecked in the faith. What does Paul mean by handing them over to Satan? How do you think these men were blaspheming?

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. What are some topics that Christians argue and speculate about that could compare to the myths and genealogies of the first century?

2. Write out a succinct account of your own salvation like Paul gave us in verses 12-16.

### **Summing Up ...**

“All believers have a responsibility to be on the alert for false teachers. What do we watch for? First, look at their understanding of Scripture, and ask if their teaching is biblically sound. Do they place extra-biblical teachings on a par with the Bible? Do they handle accurately the Word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)?

“Second, examine their goals. Do they seek to love, honor, and glorify God? Or do they pursue self-love, material wealth, or personal happiness? Does their message speak of purity of heart, a good conscience, and non-hypocritical faith?

“Third, examine their motives. Are they humble and selfless? Or do they seek the preeminence?

“Finally, examine the effect of their teaching. Did their followers understand clearly the gospel of Jesus Christ? Do they define the gospel properly? Do they use the law properly, as part of the gospel message, or do they promote works righteousness?

“Those who pass the above checks should be welcomed as brothers in Christ, even if we differ with them at some points of interpretation or doctrine. Those who do not are to be rejected, no matter what experiences they may have had, or what else they may teach. Constant vigilance is our defense against those who would enslave all of us to a false gospel.”—*John MacArthur*

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### **1 Timothy 2 – Roles of Men and Women In the Church**

The fact that Paul begins his discourse on church affairs with this particular topic indicates the important role that prayer is to play in the life of the church. If God's primary objective for His church involved fellowship, knowledge of the Scriptures, or conformity to the image of Christ, His plan would be best accomplished by bringing us to heaven immediately. But these are not the central function of the church on earth. God has left us here to reach the lost. And before the church carries out this mission in the world, it must first grasp the breadth of the gospel call. This requires coming to terms with evangelistic praying. (MacArthur Study Guide)

1. Verse 1 Explain the four different kinds of prayers. How does each one apply to "all men?"
2. Verse 2 For whom specifically does God call us to pray? Why is this important?
3. Verses 3-4 What does God think about this kind of praying?
4. Verse 4 What is God's desire for mankind? How does God's desire compare with God's decree?
5. Verses 5-6 How do these two verses apply to the call for prayer for all men in verses 1-4?



12. Verse 15 What is the difference between the “egalitarian” and the “complementarian” view of men and women and their roles in marriage and the church? Which position does your church hold to? Why?

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. How much praying do you do for those in authority? What were the authorities like in Paul’s day? In our day? List five to ten public figures that you could pray for. What would your prayers for them include?

2. Think of godly women you have known and highly regard. What is it about them that captures your attention and respect?

3. How do you define modesty? How can a church encourage modesty among the ladies?

**Summing Up ...**

“God has perfectly balanced the roles of the sexes. Men are to be the leaders in the church and the family. Women are kept from any accusation of inferiority through the godly influence they have in the lives of their precious children. For the church to depart from this divine order is to perpetuate the disaster of the Fall.”—*John MacArthur*



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### **1 Timothy 3 – Church Leadership**

1. In general, thinking of business, military, educational institutions, what are the marks of a good leader? Looking back on history, who stands out as a good leader in your opinion?
2. What are the two biblical offices of church leadership and what are their specific purposes?
3. What do each of these titles for church leaders mean? Provide cross references.

Elder –
Bishop –
Pastor –
Deacon –

4. Verse 1 How does a man know he is called to be an overseer? Why does God call this a “fine work”?



7. Verses 8-10 Do the same for God's qualifications for deacons:


8. Verse 11 – Are these deacons' wives or deaconesses?


9. Verse 12 – Back to the deacons...


10. Verse 13 What are the rewards of serving well as a deacon?

11. Verse 14 What is Paul hoping to do shortly? Does it ever happen? Explain:

12. Verse 15 Why did Paul write this letter?

13. Verse 15 How does Paul describe the church? How does this differ from every other human institution or organization?

14. Verse 16 Why is the Person and Coming of Christ called a great mystery?

15. Verse 16 List each of these descriptions of Christ and what they mean in your life:

Description	Meaning in Your Life

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. How important is it to have church leaders who measure up to these qualifications?

2. What happens when churches are careless about godliness in leadership?

3. What can you do to encourage these qualities in the leaders of our church?

## Summing Up ...

“The most important qualities leaders can demonstrate are not intelligence, a forceful personality, glibness, diligence, vision, administrative skills, decisiveness, courage, humor, tact, or any other similar natural attribute. Those all play a part, but the most desirable quality for any leader is integrity.

“While integrity is most desirable in secular leadership, its absence is fatal to spiritual leadership. ... Integrity is living what you teach and preach. That is why all the qualifications for leaders given in this passage describe their moral character. It is not the typical list a corporate analyst might come up with, because the issue is not leadership skills but spiritual example. One who would lead people to Christ-likeness must be a pattern of godly behavior for his people to follow. He must be above reproach in his moral life, home life, spiritual maturity, and public reputation.”—*John MacArthur*

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### **1 Timothy 4 – Challenges to a Young Pastor**

1. What are some of the big challenges a young pastor faces when he comes to a new church? What are several wise things for him to begin to do as soon as he arrives? What responsibilities to this young man rest on the congregation?

### **DEALING WITH FALSE TEACHERS AND APOSTASY – VERSES 1 – 5**

2. Verse 1 What has the Spirit of God assured us will happen within Christianity?
3. Verse 1 Why do professing Christians fall away from the faith?
4. Verse 2 How does God describe false teachers? What is going on in their hearts?
5. Verses 3 What is this false teaching? Why is it so dangerous? Did this false teaching actually happen?
6. Verses 4-5 How does God want us to handle physical blessings? How have God's people erred in how they view material things?



14. Verse 11 Why does Paul emphasize these two practices?

15. Verse 12 How can a young man avoid being looked down upon for his youthfulness?

16. Explain/describe each of these five qualities a young pastor should be building into his life:

Quality	Explain

17. Verse 13 What are the three non-negotiable parts of the local church ministry?

18. Verse 14 How does this verse apply to a pastor today?

19. Verse 15 What does a pastor need to do to be sure he is making progress in his life and ministry?



20. Verse 16 List at least five things a pastor should pay close attention to in his life?

21. Verse 16 How does a pastor improve his teaching skills?

22. Verse 16 How does a pastor insure salvation for himself and his hearers? What does this mean?

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. What are a pastor's most important responsibilities?

2. Why do some pastors have a hard time sticking with one church for an extended period of time?

**Summing Up ...**

“The single greatest tool of leadership is the power of an exemplary life. The Puritan Thomas Brooks said, ‘Example is the most powerful rhetoric’ (cited in I. D. E. Thomas, *A Puritan Golden Treasury* [Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1977], 96). Setting an example of godly living that others can follow is the *sine qua non* of excellence in ministry. When a manifest pattern of godliness is missing, the power is drained out of preaching, leaving it a hollow, empty shell. A minister's life is his most powerful message, and must reinforce what he says or he may as well not say it. Authoritative preaching is undermined if there is not a virtuous life backing it up.”—*John MacArthur*

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### **1 Timothy 5-6:2 – Guidelines for Various Groups of People**

1. Verses 1-2 How is a young pastor to correct or counsel...

Older men –
Younger men –
Older women –
Younger women –

2. Verse 3 What kind of widows are churches supposed to honor?

3. Verse 4 How is a family to care for their elderly parents? What does God think about this?

4. Verse 5 How may a true widow serve the Lord?

5. Verse 6 What are some of the temptations an older woman has to deal with and must avoid?  
How does God describe her if she doesn't?

6. Verse 7 What is one important purpose in teaching God's people? Can you think of examples where this hasn't been the case?
  
7. Verse 8 How does God describe men who don't provide for their own family? Why is this such a big deal?
  
8. Verses 9-10 What are the characteristics of a godly widow? What is the meaning of "put on the list?"
  
9. Verses 11-12 What is the major problem with these younger widows? What was their "previous pledge?"
  
10. Verse 13 What behaviors does God warn these young ladies to avoid?
  
11. Verses 14-15 What does Paul counsel younger widows to do? What does 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 add to this counsel?
  
12. Verse 16 Who is responsible to care for widows?

13. Verses 17-18 How is a church to take care of their pastors? How would you answer those who do not believe pastors should be paid? (e.g., Plymouth Brethren).
  
14. Verses 19-20 How is a church to handle an elder who commits grievous sin?
  
15. Verse 21 Why does God warn pastors about showing partiality? In what scenarios could this be a problem?
  
16. Verse 22 What responsibility rests on church leadership in affirming others to the ministry?
  
17. Verse 23 What does this verse teach us about sickness, medicine, and healing?
  
18. Verses 24-25 How do you discern a man's character? Why does God include this instruction for church leaders? How does this relate to TV preachers and ministries?
  
19. Chapter 6:1 How does this verse apply to the employer-employee relationships today?

20. Chapter 6:2 What attitude is a believer to have toward his believing boss? Why does Paul have to say this?

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. What does this section tell us about the importance, role, and responsibilities of a local church?
2. Think about the different groups in this chapter. Can you identify these groups in our church? What additional groups do we have that need specific instructions? Do you think our church ministers to these different groups in a biblical way? How could we improve?

**Summing Up ...**

“For the believer, work is a sacred duty. A Christian sees everything he does in reference to his relationship with God. The Reformers stressed that point. There is no aspect of life or conduct, however apparently insignificant, which should not be directed to the glory of God. ...

“Every legitimate job has intrinsic value because it is the arena in which believers live out their Christian lives. Christianity is not a hot-house religion, but one that survives and triumphs in the real world. Believers most commonly interact with that world in the work place, as they live out their faith on their jobs. They are to be a ‘city that is set on a hill’ (Matt. 5:14). Christians must be concerned that their conduct on the job shows others the power of Jesus Christ to transform a life. Believers’ work performance will bring either praise or blasphemy to the name of God.”—  
*John MacArthur*

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### **1 Timothy 6 Warnings and Instructions About Money**

1. Verse 3 What is the connection between doctrine and godly living?
2. Verses 4-5 What is motivating a man who is bent on teaching contrary to sound doctrine? What tends to be the effect of his teaching?
3. Verse 5 What does this verse teach us about using the ministry to get rich?
4. Verse 6 When is godliness a means of great gain? Why?
5. Verses 7-8 Describe godly contentment.
6. Verses 9 What plagues people who focus their lives on getting rich?
7. Verse 10 List examples of how loving money produces all kinds of evil:

8. Verse 11 How should a young pastor respond to the love of money? What does he need to put in its place?
  
9. Verse 12 Why does Paul call living by faith a fight? Why does he call it the “good” fight of faith? What are the enemies of your faith? (J. C. Ryle, in his book *Holiness*, has a chapter on these verse called “The Fight.”)
  
10. Verses 13-14 How does Paul charge Timothy in these verses? How is it possible to “keep the commandment without stain or reproach?”
  
11. Verses 15-16 How does Paul give Timothy a high view of his calling in these two verses.
  
12. Verses 17-18 Draw up a teaching outline from these two verses for a class of wealthy believers.
  
13. Verses 20-21 List Paul’s final admonitions to Timothy and what each one means. What does Paul mean by “arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge?’”

## **THINK ABOUT IT**

1. How important is contentment for God's people? How does our culture work hard to destroy our contentment? List cross references to contentment.
  
2. How can a believer avoid the sin of the love of money?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Personally, how are you stewarding the wealth and possessions God has given you? Are there ways you could change in how you handle money?

## **Summing Up ...**

“What are the danger signs of loving money? First, those who love money are more concerned with making it than with honesty, or giving a quality effort. Believers must pursue truth and excellence, for which money may be the reward.

“Second, those who love money never have enough. Like the leech's daughters of Proverbs 30:15, all they can say is ‘Give, give.’ Such people stand in sharp contrast to Paul, who wrote to the Philippians, ‘I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am’ (Phil. 4:11).

“Third, those who love money tend to flaunt it. They derive an inordinate pleasure from wearing, driving, or living in what money buys.

“Fourth, those who love money resent giving it. They want to use it all for their own selfish gratification.

“Lastly, those who love money will often sin to get it. They will cheat on their income tax or their expense account, or pilfer from work. Those who compromise their principles for money betray a heart that loves it more than God, righteousness, and truth.”—*John MacArthur*