

SOUND DOCTRINE

A SEVEN week STUDY ON 1 TIMOTHY

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WEEK ONE

Day One | Before we begin our study in 1 Timothy, we want to spend a week considering the authority of God's word. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What does it mean for all of scripture to be God breathed?

In what ways is scripture useful in our lives? If we do not accept all of scripture as the words of God, how would we decide which parts are God's words & which parts are not? Do you believe that the Bible is the word of God? Why?

Day Two | Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 & Galatians 1:11-12

Why is it important that Peter was an eyewitness to the life of Jesus?

What does Peter say about the source of prophetic writing in the Scriptures? What does Paul say is the source of the Gospel that he proclaimed?

Think about how Jesus quoted the Old Testament. Did He consider it God's word?

Day Three | Read 2 Peter 3:14-18

How does Peter speak about Paul's writings?

Why is it significant that he refers to them being treated "as the other scriptures"?

Does knowing that the earliest churches treated Paul's letters with the same authority as the Old Testament scripture impact the way that you view them? Why?

Day Four | Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

In what way is reading the Bible different from reading any other book?

The Holy Spirit confirms to us that the Bible is God's word. Can you describe a time when God revealed Himself to you in a personal way through the Bible?

Describe some of the ways in which the world views God's wisdom as folly.

Day Five | Read Titus 1:1-3 & Proverbs 30:5-6

What is the source and authority of Paul's preaching? Can we be confident it is true? Do you think God ever lies or makes mistakes? Why? If he did lie, what would be the result for us? Do you believe the Bible is inerrant? What are the implications of that?

Group Question: What other questions do you have about the authority & inerrancy of scripture? Where can you go to find answers to those questions?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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WEEK TWO

Day One | 1 Timothy 1:1-2

What does it mean for Christ Jesus to be your hope in your everyday life?

Why do you think that Paul describes Timothy as his true child in the faith?

Can you describe some ways in which you have experienced grace, mercy & peace?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 1:3-7

What does it mean to have a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith and for those things to be the source from which we love others?

What are some areas of Christian faith that lead people to speculate and have vain discussion today? How do you make sure that you are focused on the main things?

Day Three | 1 Timothy 1:8-11

How do we know what is, and what is not, sin? How do we learn sound doctrine?

How do you make sure that your understanding of right and wrong is shaped more by the Bible than by our culture? What would you say if a friend asks you whether homosexuality is a sin? How do you personally balance speaking the truth and acting in love in this area?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Often, if we have sin in our past we are less likely to hold others accountable...but Paul says that the mercy God has shown him in the past is used as an example to call others to turn from their sin. What do you learn from that and how could you apply it to your own life? Is there a way in which you have experienced God's grace and mercy that compels you to share it with others?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 1:18-20

What is the "good warfare" that Timothy is called to wage?

Did Paul turn these people over to Satan as an act of love or judgment? Why?

What habits, practices or activities do you do to hold onto faith and a good conscience?

Group Question: What area of your character is God challenging you to address at this time? What would progress in that area look like?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK THREE

Day One | 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Do you give the same priority to prayer that Paul does here? Why or why not?

Why are we called to pray for leaders & those in high positions?

What does this passage teach about whether God desires to send people to hell?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 2:5-7

What are the benefits of having Jesus as the one mediator between us and God?

Why is it significant that Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all? What does that mean?

What do you believe God has called & appointed you to do?

Day Three | 1 Timothy 2:8

How does prayer help to resolve anger & quarreling?

What do you think it means to “lift holy hands”?

In what ways are men called to lead in prayer and in making peace?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 2:9-10

What significance would braided hair, gold, pearls & costly attire have had at that time? Would the same be true today? Why are women called to act with modesty & self-control? Can you describe a woman that you know who is “adorned with good works”? What are some of the qualities that she has?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 2:11-15

In your own words, what is this section saying about the role of women in the church? What is the reason that Paul gives for this? How do we honor the unique qualities and gifts of men and women?

* If you would like to read & think more deeply about these questions, we encourage you to read the article found at <http://www.riversideconnect.com/roles>

Group Question: What relationship outside of church are you cultivating so that you can share Gospel truth with that person? How can we pray for that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK FOUR

Day One | 1 Timothy 3:1-5

Which of the Biblical qualifications for overseers stands out to you the most?

What do you think the “husband of one wife” requirement means?

Why is “managing their household well” a requirement for overseers?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 3:6-7

How could calling a recent convert to be an overseer in the church lead to conceit?

Why would an overseer’s reputation to outsiders be important?

Are these the qualities that churches typically look for when selecting Elders?

Day Three | 1 Timothy 3:8-10

Can you describe a time when a leader’s poor character led to issues & challenges?

Why are deceit, addiction & greed disqualifying for a deacon? Which of these issues do people tend to treat like a big deal? Which do people tend to overlook or justify?

What could a period of testing look like for someone in a deacon role?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 3:11-13

Do you think it is fair to judge someone by the conduct of their spouse? Why?

What does this passage identify as the reward for serving well as a deacon?

Where or how do you currently serve the local church? Do you feel called to take on greater responsibility?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Can you identify any areas where God is calling you to grow in character or behavior?

Which of the titles that Paul uses for the church here do you find most interesting (household of God, church of the living God, pillar & buttress of the truth)?

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase: “the mystery of godliness”?

Group Question: What is the most important step of obedience that God wants you to take right now? How can our group pray for and support you with that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK FIVE

Day One | 1 Timothy 4:1-5

What are some of the deceitful teachings that people are falling for today?

Why was there so much contention in the early church over what food was ok to eat?

What are your habits related to prayers over food? Is it intentional or more just out of habit that you do it?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 4:6

What does it look like to be a good servant of Jesus?

What do you do to be trained in the words of faith and of good doctrine?

Why is it so important to invest in others?

Day Three | 1 Timothy 4:7-10

What are some examples of irreverent & silly things that Christians get involved with today? What are some ways that bodily training and training in godliness are similar?

How does setting your hope on God empower you to toil and strive?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 4:11-13

How was Timothy instructed to overcome any hindrances that his youth created? In which of these areas do you need the most growth: speech, conduct, love, faith or purity? What's the next step you need to commit to take in that area? Why are the public reading of scripture, exhortation & teaching such important activities?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 4:14-16

What gifts do you think God has given to you for the benefit of the church? How are people able to see & witness your growth & spiritual progress? Paul says to keep a close watch on yourself & on the teaching. What does that mean?

Group Question: Who is at the top of your prayer list for salvation or for repentance and turning back to Jesus?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK SIX

Day One | 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Can you describe a time when you handled conflict well? Why is it so important to treat everyone in the church the way family should be treated? How has the family you grew up with been a positive or negative example of this? What are some ways we can make sure that relationships in the church remain pure?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 5:3-8

What structures do we have in place today to help those who are in need? Why were widows so vulnerable in the culture of that time? Is the same true today? Why was failing to provide for members of your household considered as worse than being an unbeliever?

Day Three | 1 Timothy 5:9-12

This section gives specific guidance regarding enrolling older widows in the care of the church. In your own words, what were the qualifications for someone to come under the care of the church? How does that inform the ways that we should help people out today in our present situation & culture?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 5:13-16

What is the danger of being idlers, gossips & busybodies? Which of these is the greatest temptation to you? Can you describe a time in your life when you lacked direction & purpose? What helped you to get out of that situation? Can you think of ways in which God has equipped you to help provide and care for others?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 5:17-25

How could a lack of resources become a distraction for those seeking to preach and teach in the church? What are some challenges in balancing the protection of Pastors against false accusations & protecting those who may have genuinely experienced abuse by a Pastor? Can you describe a time when your first impression of someone was different than who they ultimately proved to be?

Group Question: Do you feel defeated in any part of your life? How might Jesus bring you freedom from that feeling?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK SEVEN

Day One | 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Can you explain the similarities and differences between bondservants and slaves?

Can you explain why that is not a passage that endorses slavery?

Can you describe a time when your situation made obedience to God difficult? How did you handle it?

Day Two | 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Where do you see an unhealthy craving for controversy & quarrels about words today?

What is the warning here for those who would use Christian ministry to get rich?

Describe a situation where you have seen the love of money result in all kinds of evil.

Day Three | 1 Timothy 6:11-16

What does it mean to fight the good fight of faith?

How do you model, promote and teach others proper faith and belief?

What title or quality of Jesus stands out to you in the passage? Why?

Day Four | 1 Timothy 6:17-19

In what ways are you tempted to set your hope on the uncertainty of riches?

In what ways has God richly provided for you?

What is “that which is truly life”? How do we take hold of it?

Day Five | 1 Timothy 6:20-21

What is the modern equivalent of “knowledge” that Paul calls irreverent babble and contradictions? What two or three things are presently the greatest temptations in your life to disobey God’s commands? What are some things that you can do to guard the deposit of faith that has been placed within you?

Group Question: What habit, practice or activity is the most helpful in connecting you to Jesus in a real way? How could you do more of that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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