



GOD-SHAPED CHURCH

1 TIMOTHY



1 TIMOTHY

Term 1	Passage		Preaching Date
Week 1	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Timothy's Charge	5 May
Week 2	1 Timothy 1:12-20	Mercy for the Ministry	12 May
Week 3	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Prayer in God's Household	19 May
Week 4	1 Timothy 2:8-15	Men & Women in God's Household	26 May
Week 5	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Leadership in God's Household 1	2 June
Week 6	1 Timothy 3:14-4:16	Protecting God's Household	9 June
Week 7	1 Timothy 5:1-16	Loving God's Household	16 June
Week 8	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2a	Leadership in God's Household 2	23 June
Week 9	1 Timothy 6:2b-10	Wealth & Godliness	30 June & 7 July
Week 10	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Timothy's Final Charge	14 July

The Bible in a Year

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Exodus 1	Proverbs 19,20
2	1 Timothy 1:12-20	Exodus 2 & 3	Proverbs 21
3	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Exodus 4 & 5	Proverbs 22, 23
4	1 Timothy 2:8-15	Exodus 6	Proverbs 24, 25
5	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Exodus 7 & 8	Proverbs 26
6	1 Timothy 3:14-4:16	Exodus 9 & 10	Proverbs 27
7	1 Timothy 5:1-16	Exodus 11	Proverbs 28
8	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2a	Exodus 12	Proverbs 29
9	1 Timothy 6:2b-10	Exodus 13 & 14	Proverbs 30
10	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Exodus 15 & 16	Proverbs 31

TERM 2 2024

What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains God's wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

Three ways to use these notes

1. Personal reading

Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day. Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray asking God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group. Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group. Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church. Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WEEK 1: 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

Those who love Christ aren't to sit around idly while a false gospel is taught and passed off as truth. All Christians, from the kid's church leader to the growth group leader have a responsibility to teach and contend for the truth.. But this is especially the case for those charged with overseeing the church. That was the case for Timothy. A young man with a big job that would require conflict.

Week 1: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

One way to quickly discover the point of a paragraph in a NT epistle is to look for the "imperatives". An imperative is a command or an instruction.

1. Paul's imperative to Timothy is not hard to find in this passage. What is it and what is its goal?

2. God is kind to us. He rarely gives us instructions without reasons. This passage is a case in point. False teachers, false doctrines, controversial speculations, the need for love, the place of the law. Use the space below to illustrate diagrammatically or otherwise how these relate together.

PRAY: Conflict is never popular but when the stakes are high, especially in regard to Christian truth, it is often necessary. Pray that God will give you courage to contend for the truth when needed.

TIMOTHY'S CHARGE

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

1. This first letter to Timothy was written quite late- possibly around 64 AD. What can you find out about Paul, Timothy and the circumstances in Timothy's church ?
2. Paul calls Timothy, "my true son in the faith." What can you learn about his relationship with Timothy from the following: Acts 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:14-17; 2 Timothy 1:2
3. We're encouraged by the scriptures to evaluate our progress in the faith. This shouldn't be a cause for discouragement but motivated by a godly desire to grow. Turn to the self-health guide in the back of this booklet to evaluate your progress and where you'd like to grow this year.

PRAY: In Christian life, we all communicate a "model" to others. Who might be learning from your model? Pray for them and ask God to help you be worthy of this responsibility.

WEEK 1: 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

Paul visited Ephesus on his 3rd missionary journey in 52 AD, staying for over 2 years before passing on to Macedonia. But on his return to Jerusalem in 55 AD, he met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus, warning them that false teachers would arise from amongst them. (Acts 20:17-38)

1. Though Paul gives few details, what can you find out about the nature of the false teaching at Ephesus? (1 Timothy 4:7; also compare Titus 1:14; Titus 3:9)

2. What are some of the effects of these “myths and endless genealogies”? (see also 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20; 2 Timothy 2:14-16)

3. The goal of Paul’s command to Timothy was ‘love’ (v 5) . No doubt love for God and for others. What actions might help you grow in this love?

PRAY: Ask that God would grow you as a person of discerning love. (Philippians 1:10,11)

TIMOTHY'S CHARGE

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:8-11

We found out yesterday that the false teachers in Ephesus were most likely Jews with a desire to teach the law but in a strange and speculative manner.

1. Paul says that the law is not for the righteous but for the unrighteous. Why do you think this is so?

2. The Reformers outlined three uses of the law. If the first is the one listed above consider the other two:

a. The law drives us to Christ. (Romans 3:19,20; Galatians 3:24) How do you think it does this?

b. The law reveals the character of God. How is this seen in Exodus 20:12-17?

PRAY: In an age of unbelief, one subtle reason to believe is the beauty and goodness of God's word which brings life and happiness. Ask that God will give you a powerful sense of this.

WEEK 1: 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:3-11

In verse 2 Paul's greeting included "grace, mercy and peace from God." The passage we've considered this week shows how false teaching can rob a community of these blessings.

1. Starting with his command in v 3, try to explain what Paul wants for the Christian life of his readers in the following verses::

- Verse 5
- Verse 6
- Verses 8ff

2. Good doctrine is like healthy food. What symptoms might you expect in a church where the doctrine is not good?

"The visible church in our generation has become astonishingly tolerant of aberrant teaching and outlandish ideas – and frighteningly intolerant of sound teaching."

John MacArthur

PRAY: Pray for your leaders, Growth Group, church and yourself that together we might increasingly embody a robust knowledge of the truth, bearing the fruit of love for God and others.

TIMOTHY'S CHARGE

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What can you find out about Paul, Timothy and the circumstances in Timothy's church? (Day 2 Q 1)

2. Paul says that the law is not for the righteous but the unrighteous. Why do you think this is so? (Day 4 Q 1)

3. The goal of Paul's command to Timothy was 'love' (v 5) . No doubt love for God and for others. What actions might help you grow in this love? (Day 3 Q 3)

WEEK 1: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

MERCY FOR THE MINISTRY

This week's passage, although a digression from the first, demonstrates the contrast between the law which can only restrain sin and the gospel of grace which transforms people. Paul considers the authority of the gospel and his personal experience of its power.

Week 2: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

1. What can you find out here about Paul's experience of relationship with God?
2. What links can you find between verses 3-11 and verses 12-20?
3. A friend tells you: "I've done lots of terrible things in my life. I doubt that God can forgive me for those." What points might help them from this passage?

PRAY: Give thanks to God that the "grace of the Lord Jesus was poured out on you abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

WEEK 2: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-14

1. Paul's personal story is a wonderful example of the transforming power of the gospel. What motive does Paul give for God's choice to save him? (see also v 16)

2. What is the result of God's grace on Paul in v 14? (See also Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29)

3. In 1:5, 6 the false teachers had turned away from faith and love. If these result from God's grace i.e. they are gifts, do we have a responsibility to grow in them? How can we do so?

PRAY: We will always have a need for greater faith and love. Ask God to help you grow in them.

MERCY FOR THE MINISTRY

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-17

Paul did not say that he “was” the worst of sinners but that he “is.” This was not overstatement or a morbid sense of a sinful past but rather an indication that he always saw himself as a forgiven sinner.

1. Why might Paul have called himself the “worst” of sinners?

2. Paul says he was shown mercy because he ‘acted in ignorance’. In one sense all sinners do, so what was different about Paul? (see John 16:2; Acts 26:9)

3. We often think of “eternal life” as ‘life of endless duration’ but it really means “life of the coming age.” What do you associate with the “coming age”? How is this an encouragement to you?

PRAY: Praise God that He saves even the worst of sinners and grants them a taste of the coming age even now!

WEEK 2: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-20

The command to Timothy in v 18 is a return to the command in v 3, yet as the context will show it is not a simple repetition. It recalls a prophetic word once made about Timothy and his future ministry to which Paul will allude again in 1 Timothy 4:13,14 and 2 Timothy 1:6.

1. Compare the command in v's 3 & 4 with what is said here. What dimension is added?

2. Timothy's fight is against an unknown number of false teachers. What temptations might he experience in this fight?

3. In v 19, how might "faith and a good conscience" be a crucial help to you if God gave you an important gospel task?

PRAY: The Christian conscience, fallen like every other part of us (1 Timothy 4:2) is in the process of being restored as the Spirit ministers to us through His word. Pray that God will cause you to hold onto faith and a good conscience as you serve Him.

MERCY FOR THE MINISTRY

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

C.S. Lewis once wrote: *“When a man is getting better, he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still in him. When a man is getting worse, he understands his own badness less and less”* Just as our consciences need restoration through exposure to God’s word, so do our minds and hearts so we love, desire and praise for what’s good.

1. As you re-read this passage, list below the things for which you can thank God.

2. Why might Paul at this point of the letter recount the specifics of the gospel and how it had captured him?

3. In which of these would you like to grow more?

PRAY: Turn the questions above into a prayer for yourself firstly and for others if you can.

WEEK 2: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What do you learn here about Paul's experience of relationship with God? (Day 1 Q 1)

2. Why might Paul at this point of the letter recount the specifics of the gospel and how it had captured him? (Day 5 Q 2)

3. A friend tells you: "I've done a lot of terrible things in my life. I doubt that God can forgive me for all those." What points might help them from this passage? (Day 1 Q 3)

WEEK 2: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 3: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

The next two chapters (1 Timothy 2 and 3) form a single unit in which Paul will tell Timothy “how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household.” (3:14-15) It is most likely that this instruction is given to correct the impact of the false teachers on the way people were thinking and living. Controversially but importantly for our era, he will not only speak on the roles of those who lead and teach in the church but also on the roles of men and women.

Week 3: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-15

1. What instructions does Paul give in these verses for worship in the church?
2. List any questions that arise for you.
3. If you had a word of encouragement for your church family from this passage what would it be?

PRAY: As those who revere God’s word, pray that you and your church family will be soft hearted and constantly reformed by what you hear in the scriptures.

PRAYER IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-2:2

A "peaceful and quiet life" can sound lazy and self-indulgent. However the word "quiet" (v 2) which will recur in the text (v's 11 & 12) has the sense of "calm and without contention". It no doubt had an eye to the conflict created by the false teachers.

1. The word "then" connects Paul's command (2:1) with something from chapter 1. What could it be?

2. What matters, shaped by our governments, can impact our ability to live godly lives without the need to create conflict?

3. None of us stand alone. All are influenced by someone. How often do you pray for those who lead you?

PRAY: Ask God to give wisdom to our political leaders, as they make decisions which shape our country and our own ability to live godly lives. Ask that, even in the midst of turmoil God's people will honour Him.

WEEK 3: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

It is likely that the false teaching at Ephesus promoted the idea that 'salvation' came through special knowledge, which was only available to a special few. No doubt this view created great dissension! But the emphasis in this passage is on the many.

1. What other central concerns of God and His church are impacted by those who rule us?

2. God "wants" all people to be saved (v 4) and yet all people are not saved. How should we understand this verse? (consider 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and Ephesians 1:11)

3. How do Paul's words in these verses correct the influence of the false teachers?

PRAY: God's heart is for the salvation of people from all nations. Pray for one of our mission partners.

PRAYER IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 4

READ Genesis 3:13-15

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

1. Circle all the uses of the word “all” in the passage above. How might this be a counter to the false teachers?

2. Verses 5 & 6 are useful in evangelism. Try to paraphrase them by replacing the words “mediator”, “mankind” and “ransom”.

3. Who are the 3:1:1 friends, listed on page 4, for whom you pray?

PRAY: Pray that God would deepen your appreciation of what it means to be someone ransomed by Jesus.

WEEK 3: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-10

Having looked carefully through the whole paragraph, let's put it all together.

1. For what purpose has Paul been appointed a herald and an apostle?

2. Given the context of what was taking place in Ephesus, why did Paul emphasise his God's given role?

3. If you were to distil this passage down to its core, what do you consider to be the major point of application?

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1)

PRAY: From humble beginnings, the news of Christ's ransom has spread to so many world-wide. Ask that it would continue to spread, especially to those in our local area.

PRAYER IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What instructions does Paul give in these verses for worship in the church?
(Day 1 Q 1)

2. God "wants" all people to be saved (v 4) and yet all people are not saved.
How should we understand this verse? (Day 3 Q 2)

3. Who are the 3:1:1 friends listed on page 4 for whom you pray? (Day 4 Q 3)

WEEK 3: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

MEN & WOMEN IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

This week's passage is contentious in our culture. The equal status of women has been the subject of a long fight in western society which began with the bible which champions the equal value, dignity and worth of all people. However, the push for gender equality has been so strong that it now seeks to do away with gender and gender distinctions entirely. Does equality of worth mean uniformity of role? Our society says yes but God says 'no'. An appreciation of gender distinctions is essential for marriage and for roles in the church community. God speaks with a consistent voice on this from the bible's opening pages.

Week 4: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

1. What do you learn here about appropriate worship for men and women in church?
2. These instructions cut across the norms of our culture. What questions do they raise for you?
3. What OT passage is alluded to in these verses? (Use your cross references if you need help)

PRAY: Knowing that many come to this topic with cultural concerns, pray for yourself and your church family to be able to hear God's voice with calm and confidence.

WEEK 4: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-10 & EPHESIANS 5:21-33

1. In Ephesians 5, different roles are entrusted to the husband and the wife. What reasons are given to explain these differences?

2. The initiative for spiritual leadership in God's created order rests with the man. Why is the command that men pray an appropriate expression of their role from Ephesians 5?

3. Since we're all fallen people it will be no surprise that these commands challenge both men and women.

a. For men, in what practical ways do you need to work at fulfilling your God-given roles in leadership and prayer?

b. For women, in what ways do you need to work at submission and your attitude to your outward appearance? Why might these be important?

PRAY: Our external life reveals our internal life and God is concerned that we grow in both. Pray about this now.

MEN & WOMEN IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-14 & GENESIS 3:1-7

As we noted at the beginning of the week, the context of this passage concerns "how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household". (1 Timothy 3:14,15) These verses seek to develop the idea of "good deeds appropriate for women who profess to worship God".

1. What encouragements and prohibitions are commanded of women in these verses?

2. Note that the reason for this prohibition in 1 Timothy 2:11-12 is not grounded in culture but in creation. In what way did Adam's sin differ from Eve's?

There is a God-given "order" in creation of which we will see more tomorrow. Paul's point which can be seen from v 13, is that Adam and Eve's sin reversed God's created order

3. We have seen that the word for "quiet" in v 12 is from the same family as that in v 2. It means "uncontentious and without turmoil." How does this match what is said of men in v 8?

PRAY: God's honour is at stake in the way men and women relate together especially in the "household of God". (1 Timothy 3:14,15) Pray that you will play your part in this well.

WEEK 4: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

Day 4

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1-12

1. What is God's created order as revealed in v 3? Note that just as in the roles of man and woman, there is no inferiority between the Father and the Son.

2. How does this passage make it clear that women are not commanded to be utterly "silent" in church?

One challenge in the scriptures is to delineate creational principles from cultural practice. At Corinth, hair and head coverings seem to have had a meaning which we don't recognise today.

3. How was the creational principle of headship to be reflected by men and women in the church at Corinth?

4. Consider the application of this principle to us:: How might a wife dishonour her husband in public worship today? How might a man dishonour Christ in public worship?

PRAY: Ask God to help you grow in your honour of Him in all areas of your life including your expression of gender roles.

MEN & WOMEN IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:13-15

Verse 15 is one of the most difficult in the New Testament. However, the clues, as always to its likely meaning lie in the ideas around it so let's investigate those.

1. What is the connection between v 14 and the idea of child-bearing? (Hint: think Genesis 3)

2. We know that v 15 can't mean that women are "saved" by having children since this is a straight forward contradiction of salvation apart from works. Two possibilities commend themselves. Try to explain the options by using the clues below:

a. For option 1 see Genesis 3:15

b. For option 2 see 1 Timothy 5:14

3. What does this passage teach about what it means:

a. for women to live a godly life?

b. For how men can help women lead godly lives?

PRAY: Consider your answers to question 3 and pray accordingly for yourself and others.

WEEK 4: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

“the main point is not that the man is undeceivable or that the woman is more deceivable; the point is that when God’s order of leadership is repudiated, it brings damage and ruin.”

John Piper

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What do you learn here about appropriate worship for men and women in church? (Day 1 Q 1)
2. What does it mean for women to learn in “quietness”? How does this match what is said of men in v 8? (Day 3 Q 3)
3. How might a wife dishonour her husband in public worship today? How might a man dishonour Christ in public worship? (Day 4 Q 4)

WEEK 4: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 5: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

While denominations differ in their traditions, three terms are used in the New Testament for what seems to be much the same role: pastors, overseers and elders. Titus 1:5 speaks of Paul's command to appoint elders to the church in Crete but in v 7 he shifts his language to speak of the "overseer". The two appear to be synonymous. The word "pastor" (singular) is never translated as such in the New Testament. Rather the Greek word behind this is always translated as "shepherd". However, 1 Peter 5:1,2 calls the elders to be "shepherds" of God's flock. The conclusion? There are most probably three names for the same role.

Week 5: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

1. If you were to divide this passage into parts try to list them below.

2. Summarise the qualifications that seem to be essential to the roles outlined here?

3. Imagine you were selected to the church committee to find a new overseer or pastor. What attributes would form your top three criteria of choice?

PRAY: Hebrews 13:17 urges us to "submit to those in authority because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy not a burden." Consider how you might pray for them and make their work a joy.

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 1

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

The task of the overseer is "a noble" one since it involves the management of God's household (compare v's 12 & 15)!

1. Management of family is an important qualification for those who lead (v's 4 & 12). What skills do you think are involved in both?

2. Among the qualifications mentioned here the only gift required is ability to teach. What's the significance of this?

3. Christian teaching must always be modelled. If 1 Timothy 3 was not your guide, what qualifications would you tend to look for in a church leader?

PRAY: How do you personally stack up against this list of qualifications? Pray for your own growth, and for those who lead you.

WEEK 5: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:6-7

While desire has some part in the office of an overseer (1 Timothy 3:1), in sinful beings, even the best desire can be corrupted!

1. How do these verses suggest that desire may be corrupted?

2. It is important for an overseer to have a good reputation with outsiders. How does the non-Christian community regard you as a citizen, a neighbour, a member of your family, a member of a sporting team?

3. Pride is the essence of sin. It expresses itself in all kinds of ways and none of them are good! Where do you see pride impacting your life in unhelpful ways?

PRAY: Pride is a great risk to any in positions of responsibility. Pray for yourself and especially for your leaders since, by virtue of their position, their fall can harm many.

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 1

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13 & ACTS 6:1-7

The word "deacon" simply means a "servant", which should be true of all Christians. No teaching gift is listed for deacons so we need to look elsewhere to discover their role.

1. Those being considered as deacons needed to be first "tested" (v 10). What might this involve?

2. The men chosen in Acts 6:1-7 are often considered as deacons although only the verb which is translated as "wait" appears in v 2. What was the goal, task and criteria for choosing these men?

3. Since all Christians are called to serve, how do you, or how might you fulfil that role at Grace?

PRAY: Ask God how you might extend yourself in serving to help your brothers and sisters in Christ grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus.

WEEK 5: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

1. One common denominator in all these roles is the importance of public reputation. Pick out all the qualifications which imply this.

2. In 1 Timothy 3:15 “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing”. But with whom? And “great assurance in their faith”. But how? What clues might you find in Philemon 6,7?

3. Not all will be Bible teachers, nor will all marry or have families but the general picture given of elders, deacons and their wives should be typical of any mature Christian. Which of the qualities listed here would you most like to grow in?

“All believers are called to be servants to the Lord and His church; some should be official servants with the title of “deacon” or “deaconess.”

Steven Cole

PRAY: Consider your answer above and ask God to help you grow in this aspect of Christian life.

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 1

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Summarise the qualifications that seem to be essential to the roles listed here? (Day 1 Q 1)

2. Management of family is an important qualification for those who lead (v's 4 & 12). What skills do you think are involved in both? (Day 2 Q 1)

3. Since all Christians are called to serve, how do you or how might you fulfil that role at Grace? (Day 4 Q 3)

WEEK 5: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

PROTECTING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

When he began this letter Paul gave a clear statement as to his goal in writing (1 Timothy 1:3ff) Now he reaffirms his purpose to ensure that Timothy leads in such a way that people at Ephesus would know how to conduct themselves in "God's household which is the church". The content of this chapter is held together by the important theme of the "mystery of godliness" (3:15)

Week 6: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16

1. Try to break this passage into its various parts, seeking to give a title to each. The bullet points below are not meant to limit you.

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The description of the church as God's household is reminiscent of the temple. (Exodus 29:42,43) However, the new Testament never regards any church building as a replacement for the temple.

2. What does replace the temple in the New Testament? (see 1 Corinthians 3:16)

3. The church, meaning (the local body of believers is the pillar and foundation of the truth held out to the unbelieving world.. (v 15) What responsibilities does this mean for each of us?

PRAY: We have a huge responsibility to represent God before a watching world. Pray that God will help you to be increasingly valuable in this task.

WEEK 6: 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16

Verse 16 is most likely part of an early Christian hymn, included to explain the “mystery of godliness”. The word “mystery” is something previously hidden but now revealed. The mystery of “godliness” is best understood as the saving revelation that lies behind and gives expression to Christian life and faith.

1. If the above is so, how would you summarise the content of this revelation?

2. How does this understanding of “the mystery” tie together and make sense of the various parts of the chapter which you identified yesterday?

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3. Just as in any good church today, preserving the truth of the gospel was central to Timothy’s ministry at Ephesus. How do we seek to preserve and communicate the gospel in our context?

PRAY: Pray that God might deepen your own conviction about the necessity of clear gospel truth. Pray that you might share it with others and that your life would reflect this fruit of the gospel to others.

PROTECTING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

When the New Testament speaks of the 'last days', it is not speaking about a period of time, the beginning of which we need to guess. The "last days", as foretold by the Old Testament prophets (Jeremiah 23:3-6; Joel 2:28; Micah 4:1) began with the coming of the Christ and the new age He inaugurated. (Hebrews 1:2)

1. What things does Paul say will characterise false teachers and their teaching in the last days? (Day 2 Q 1)

2. Asceticism was a common heresy in the first century Greco-Roman world. What can you find out about it from the following: 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Romans 14:14; Colossians 2:16, 21-23?

3. When Paul says in v 4 that nothing is "rejected", he means rejected for reasons of spiritual contamination. Where might you encounter asceticism today?

"We're not talking about whether somebody's nice or not. It's not a personality journey. The question is whether the preacher is telling you the truth or not?"

Alistair Begg

PRAY: Pray that God would grow your capacity to discern good teaching from bad so that you will encourage the truth and protect those around you from error.

WEEK 6: 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 4:6-10

1. The good minister in v 6 is more literally the good “servant” of Christ. What constitutes that servant in these verses?

2. “Godliness holds promise for the present life and the life to come.” What promise does it hold for the present life?

3. Many of us commit ourselves to physical training but what would a “godliness training regime” look like for you?

PRAY: “Godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” Put in these terms, such training is essential. Ask God to help you give yourself to it increasingly.

PROTECTING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16

1. List the five areas Paul mentions to Timothy in verse 12. In which are you making progress and in which do you need to give more attention?

2. Notice in these verses, the emphasis on "visible example". Why do you think this is so important to a church community?

3. If you moved to a new city, what 3 things mentioned in 1 Timothy 4 should be high on your list as you look for a new church?

PRAY: Pray that the fruit of the gospel might be obvious in your life and a powerful encouragement to those around you.

WEEK 6: 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What things does Paul say will characterise false teachers and their teaching in the last days? (Day 3 Q 1)

2. "Godliness holds promise for the present life and the life to come." What promise does it hold for the present life? (Day 4 Q 2)

3. If you moved to a new city, what 3 things mentioned in 1 Timothy 4 should be high on your list as you look for a new church? (Day 5 Q 3)

WEEK 6: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

Up until now, Paul advised Timothy about how the conduct of church at Ephesus was affecting the Christian community generally. Now however, he turns his attention to individuals and specific groups within the church and in particular to those that required some measure of pastoral wisdom.

Week 7: Day 1

READ Genesis 25:19-34 (or, if you have time, read the whole chapter)

1. List the people groups that Paul draws attention to in these verses.
2. What issues seem to dominate the passage and why?
3. As a young man Timothy would face many difficulties and temptations (5:11). How does Paul's instruction in 5:1-2 give a framework for dealing with these in a godly manner?

PRAY: Consider the advice in v's 1-2. Ask God to help you shape your own relationships according to this principle.

LOVING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:3-16 & ACTS 6:1-7

1. What kinds of widows are mentioned in these verses?
2. Acts 6 indicates that caring for widows was a matter of concern for the church from the beginning. Why was it necessary to work out a strategy for this?
3. It's important that every church is clear about its core ministry- the proclamation of the gospel. What can we learn from these passages about how a church must work together to ensure that we fulfill our core ministry?

PRAY: Without diminishing the need to care for the vulnerable, our central goal is to see people saved and matured in the faith. Pray that God would grow this conviction in you so that you maximise your impact for God's kingdom.

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:3-10

Widows and single mothers have unique needs that we mustn't overlook.

1. Who are the widows in real need (verses 5, 9-10, 16)? If you are among us as a widow, what encouragement or word of exhortation do you have from God here?

2. It is easy to overlook those nearest to us. According to what Paul says here, what responsibilities do we have for our own families?

3. Are you aware of anyone in our fellowship who lacks the support of their family and who is in need? How might God use you to help?

"Souls are more or less securely fastened to bodies ... and as you cannot get the souls out and deal with them separately, you have to take them both together"

Amy Carmichael

PRAY: Pray that God would grant us wise and generous hearts, ready to love and share with those in need, beginning with those in our own families

LOVING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:11-16

It appears from v's 11ff that the church at Ephesus had a 'list' of widows whom they supported and that these women pledged to perform some formal duties in exchange for the church's help.

1. What reasons does Paul give for not putting younger widows on the "list"?
2. What wisdom do we learn here for avoiding temptation? (See also 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13)

Paul makes some generalisations here which might stir emotions among people today but wisdom always involves distilling general principles from specific observations.

3. What wisdom can we learn about gossip? In what situations are you tempted to share things that are better left unsaid?

PRAY: Pray that God would help us relate together in a way that is loving, constructive, respectful and honouring. Ask God how you can use your time to engage in work that seeks first the kingdom.

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

One of the important principles here is balancing the responsibility to love the vulnerable with the priority of the church to love the world by fulfilling its mission.

1. What are some questions that this passage forces every Christian to ask themselves about their relationships?
2. What things in these verses can distract from the church's central mission?
3. What can you do to help our church stay on its core mission?

PRAY: Ask God to give you wisdom so you use your time and energy in the best possible way to help church fulfil its mission to reach and grow people in the truth of the gospel.

LOVING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. List the people groups that Paul draws attention to in these verses. (Day 1 Q 1)

2. Who are the widows in real need (verses 5, 9-10, 16)? (Day 3 Q 1)

3. What are some questions that this passage forces every Christian to ask themselves about their relationships? (Day 5 Q 1)

WEEK 7: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 2

This is the first time that “elders” have been mentioned in this letter although as we have seen earlier, these men are synonymous with the overseers. I say “men” because, this point was made back in 1 Timothy 3. Complex theories as to the sin of these elders (v 20) and of how it may relate to the widows have been advanced by some but this remains speculative so we should be content to deal only with what we can know.

Week 8: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2

1. What instructions does Paul give for the support and evaluation of church leaders?

2. Make a list of any questions that arise for you from this passage.

PRAY: Satan often uses public sin within a church to bring the destruction of that church. Pray that God will keep us from that.

WEEK 8: 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2A

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-21

It seems to be the case in this letter that the term overseer is used when speaking of the nature of the work done by these men and the term “elder” is used when the emphasis is on their honour. Since these elders were often literally older men, “double honour” may simply mean, honour on account of their age and on account of their office.

1. An elder who is sinning is to be rebuked publicly. What would be the effect of such a measure?

2. Why might Timothy have needed to guard against partiality (v 21)?

3. In chapter 3 we saw that care needed to be taken in choosing an elder/ overseer. What reasons are given for this? (1 Timothy 3:5-7;; James 3:1)

PRAY: Ask God for those who lead at every level of the church family since Satan delights in bringing them to ruin.

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 2

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:22-25

1. While v 23 seems like an outlier, what connections may exist between v's 22 and v's 24 & 25?

2. Laying on of hands is an expression to describe the appointment of leaders. In this connection why might Timothy be warned about "sharing in the sins of others"?

3. From what you've seen in 1 Timothy and in your own experience what sort of qualifications would you be looking for in a new "overseer".

PRAY: Verse 24 is a sobering warning for all of us. Pray that God would help you honour him in public and in private. Confess your sins regularly and honestly knowing that forgiveness is yours in Christ (1 John 1:9.)

WEEK 8: 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2A

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:1-2

The New Testament is often critiqued for not doing more to overturn slavery. This fails to understand that New Testament principles were directly responsible for the overthrow of slavery and that first century slavery Greco-Roman slavery was of many kinds, some simply the result of a person who sold themselves as a means of repaying a debt.

1. How was a relationship with Christ intended to transform the way both slaves and masters thought about their position?
2. If you are a Christian employer, what might it mean to be devoted to the welfare of any Christians working for you?
3. If you are a Christian employee working for a believing employer, how should you approach your work for them?

PRAY: Pray that God would grant you the grace, love and insight to think of all areas of your life from a Christian perspective so that God's name will be honoured.

LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD 2

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2

1. Look back over the days of this week. Is there a principle that stands out to you that might tie together the content of this chapter?

2. Using this as your overarching point, try to draw a diagram below to show how the various pieces of this week's passage relate to this point.

3. There are frequently reports of significant failures by church leaders. How ought we respond when we hear about such failures?

PRAY: Consider what you've written above and ask God's help to put it into practice. If you struggled to find a uniting idea, ask God for help with this and come back to it tomorrow.

WEEK 8: 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2A

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What instructions does Paul give for the support and evaluation of church leaders? (Day 1 Q 1)

2. An elder who is sinning is to be rebuked publicly. What would be the effect of such a measure? (Day 2 Q 1)

3. There are frequently reports of significant failures by church leaders. How ought we respond when we hear about such failures?

WEEK 8: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

WEEK 9: 1 TIMOTHY 6:2B-10

Some important clues to bible reading are the tone and the flow of logic and in this passage both should raise questions for you. The tone is the author's attitude to a subject as conveyed by their choice of words. The tone might be warm, optimistic, encouraging, surprised, worried, friendly, assertive, aggressive or angry. The flow of logic is the way one idea flows into another.

Week 9: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:2b-10

1. Try to decide the tone of the passage? Does it change and if so where?
2. What seem to be Paul's major concerns in this passage? Make a list.
3. Paul writes as if he has personal knowledge of these teachers. List the various places in the letter where you have seen similar words or ideas expressed before.

PRAY: Pray that God would give you great discernment about the teaching you receive and the capacity to help others grow in this as well.

WEALTH & GODLINESS

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:2b-6

1 Timothy 4:2, describes the false teachers as men whose “consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” The inference is that they firmly believed in the errors they taught. One key to clarity about the bible’s truth is to compare scripture with scripture.

1. What can you find out about the false teachers from this passage? See also :1 Timothy 1:3-7; 4:1-7 & Titus 1:10-16
2. From this passage, what had been the impact of this false teaching on the teachers themselves and those who heard them?
3. You may know of similar teaching today. What factors should determine the way we respond to the teaching and the teachers?

PRAY: In taking the right approach to false teaching we need discernment, love, bible awareness and courage. Pray that God will give you these.

WEEK 9: 1 TIMOTHY 6:2B-10

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

1. Instead of riches, Paul encourages both us and Timothy to pursue godliness with contentment. How might you do that?

2. Are you content? Either from this passage or elsewhere, what would you say is/are the key/s to contentment?

3. Are there things about which we should not be content?

PRAY: We live in an increasingly anxious world where those outside the kingdom will find themselves looking at us for answers. Pray God would grow your desire for godliness and contentment.

WEALTH & GODLINESS

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

Despite its failed promises, our culture has firmly set its hope on wealth and comfort to deliver the life worth living. This makes it difficult for us not to act as they do.

1. There is nothing evil about wealth in and of itself. Indeed it is the good gift of God. What is the real problem with it? (see Matthew 6:24)

2. What are some foolish and harmful desires which can arise from eagerness to be rich? (V 9)

3. We need help to assess our own hearts but one indication of our attitude to wealth is our willingness to give it away. What does this tell you about your heart?

PRAY: Ask God to deepen your desire for godliness and contentment as evidenced by your capacity to give.

WEEK 9: 1 TIMOTHY 6:2B-10

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:2b-10

1. As you did at the start of the week,, draw a diagram or similar to show the flow of logic in this passage. Has it changed during the week?

2. Our wealth is not our own. It is entrusted to us to use wisely to glorify God in the growth of His kingdom. Beginning with your local church, list as many valuable kingdom enterprises to which you could give.

3. Do an estimate: if you are part of a family, how much of your household income do you give away each year?

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be yours as well.”

Matthew 6:33

PRAY: Thank God for many opportunities, to serve God’s purposes in the world by giving. Ask Him to empower you to glorify Him in this.

WEALTH & GODLINESS

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What seem to be Paul's major concerns in this passage? Make a list. (Day 1 Q 2)

2. From this passage, what had been the impact of this false teaching on the teachers themselves and those who heard them? (Day 2 Q 2)

3. Instead of riches, Paul encourages both us and Timothy to pursue godliness with contentment. How might you do that? (Day 3 Q 1)

WEEK 9: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

TIMOTHY'S FINAL CHARGE

Last words aren't always highly significant but the last words in Paul's letters to Timothy are very different. They are full of weight and deep conviction. Written with the shadow of execution hanging over his head, they capture a sense of Paul's unshakeable faith, his concern for this church and for Timothy, his fellow-servant who'd been like a son to him. There will be last words for all of us. May they be as helpful as these.

Week 10: Day 1

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

As we've seen before during week 1, an imperative is a command or an instruction & one way to get to the heart of a passage is to take note of the imperatives.

1. This passage is full of imperatives. List below all those you can find. Consult the context to understand them properly. For example in v 11, "flee from all this..." Find out what Paul means by "this".

2. Consider these imperatives. Is there one which is especially pressing for you?

PRAY: Commit your answer in question 2 above to prayer.

WEEK 10: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

Day 2

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:12-16

Paul urges Timothy to “fight the good fight of the faith”. In his final letter (2 Timothy 4:7) he will testify to Timothy that he himself has done that and has “finished the race.”

1. In this passage (v's 11-21), what things seem to be involved in fighting the good fight?

2. What else might be involved in “fighting the good fight”? Consider 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Colossians 2:1,2; Colossians 4:12; Hebrews 12:1

3. What might it mean to “take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called”? (See also v 19) How might this determine your actions in the fight?

PRAY: Paul encourages Timothy to fight this good fight by reminding him of the majesty of the God whom He will one day meet and of Jesus who modelled this fight for us. Bearing these in mind, pray that you too will fight well.

TIMOTHY'S FINAL CHARGE

Day 3

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

1. Paul returns in these verses, to the issue of wealth. Why might this be? The start of the letter may give you a clue.

2. Judging by the verses that surround this, what dangers do wealthy Christians face?

3. The desire for wealth exerts its power over both the wealthy and the poor because it can be a substitute god. Can you imagine how you might guard against it?

PRAY: Pray that God would loosen your grip on your wealth and instead deepen your conviction about the realities of heaven and hell.

WEEK 10: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

Day 4

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:20,21

As Paul concludes this letter he turns to Timothy with a final and more personal appeal. Two last related imperatives, which concern that young man's salvation and that of many others.

1. "Guard what has been entrusted to your care." What has been entrusted to us? (see 2 Timothy 1:13,14 and compare Romans 3:2)

2. What is the relationship between guarding what has been entrusted and turning away from "opposing ideas"?

3. List below one thing that will help you live more faithfully and intentionally as one who's been entrusted with God's precious gift.

PRAY: Ask God to help you be a good steward of the gospel God has entrusted to you. Pray for your 3:1:1 contacts that God would create in them a desire to hear.

TIMOTHY'S FINAL CHARGE

Day 5

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:13-16

1. Consider the gravity of Paul's charge to Timothy. It is also given to us. List the issues raised for you in considering this charge? Is there action for you to take?

2. Leaf your way back through the pages of 1 Timothy. Does anything stand out for you that needs your urgent attention?

3. Turn to the self-health guide in the back of this booklet and review what you were working on this term. Did you make progress? Do you need to change tack?

PRAY: Consider what you listed above and commit this to your Heavenly Father in prayer

WEEK 10: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day.”

2 Timothy 4:7,8

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. This passage is full of imperatives. List below all those you can find. (Day 1 Q 1)
2. What might it mean to “take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called”? (Day 2 Q 3)
3. Consider the gravity of Paul’s charge to Timothy. List the issues raised for you in considering this charge? Is there action for you to take? (Day 5 Q 1)
4. Turn to the self-health guide in the back of this booklet and review what you were working on this term. Did you make progress? Do you need to change tack? (Day 5 Q 3)

WEEK 10: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

SELF HEALTH GUIDE

God's grace is powerful. It brings security and optimism when we think we're doing well and even when we think we're not. And his grace will spur us on to grow. Growth can be hard. We're not sure of the way ahead.

The following is a self-health guide. It's for you to use privately. It's between you and God. If you thought it measured how your Father looks at you, it could lead to a sense of legalism. But it doesn't do that. Rate yourself 1 to 5 for each point, with 5 being high. Pick one or two to ask God's help in.

Mission

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I am praying regularly for non-Christians friends to be saved | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take opportunities to speak to my non-Christian friends about the gospel | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel confident that I could explain the gospel to someone who doesn't know it | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I prayerfully and financially support mission partners | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I make use of Grace Church events to help my friends by inviting them. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Maturity

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I engage regularly with the Bible during the week outside church activities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I intentionally make time for prayer throughout my week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am a regular participant with others in a group for Christian fellowship | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My Christian life and beliefs are evident to my friends | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I regularly confess my sins to God and seek to overcome them | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Membership

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I value & prioritise church attendance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take the initiative before & after church to welcome new people | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am alert to opportunities at church and during the week to care for needy members of church | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

I initiate fruitful conversations with brothers and sisters to build them up

I seek to show hospitality in a way that is consistent with my situation

Magnification

1 2 3 4 5

I have a mindset that my daily life is about God's glory

In my relationship with God I regularly experience-gratitude, joy, repentance, forgiveness, satisfaction etc

I feel equipped with practices & habits that help me relate with God during the day

I know my example on a Sunday affects others so I seeking to encourage them in the way I listen, sing, talk etc

I seek to worship God through the way I interact with others

Ministry

1 2 3 4 5

I see all of my life as service and take opportunities outside church to serve others

I serve regularly in a church ministry team and prioritise this in my planning

I feel like I'm using my skills, gifts and time wisely for God's kingdom

The gospel drives me to serve as much as I can to further the kingdom

I generally serve with humility and gladness

How are you feeling? Good because you think you nailed it? Depressed because you think you're failing? Consider this: *"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect..."*

1 Corinthians 15:10

Pick one or two things you want to grow in and ask God to help you:

