



For the week of October 2

Monday, October 3 — 1 Timothy 6

Chapter Summary: Paul wraps up this letter with many sayings of wisdom. He says that Christian servants are to honor their masters, especially if both are believers. False teachers must be avoided. True riches are found in service to God and godliness with contentment is the real way to be rich. Timothy should pursue righteousness, serving faithfully until Jesus returns. Paul encourages Timothy to trust God and be rich in good works.

Devotional: Paul says "...having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (v.8). What would you like to add to that list? Why is it that a child can be just as happy with a giant cardboard box as they are with an expensive new toy? Paul says that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (v.6). Contentment means finding happiness with the things I already have. Perhaps this explains why a child enjoys a simple box. When contentment is mixed with a desire to please God, the possibilities for happiness are endless! The desire for worldly riches is a trap to many Christians. Instead, Paul suggests refocusing on things that have eternal value, things that we can carry with us when we leave this life. Make a list of things that make you truly happy. Think of a way to use the things you have for the Lord and put it into practice this week!

Questions for more thought/discussion:

- Why does Paul call riches in this present age "uncertain"? (v.17)
- What kind of false knowledge can lead people astray from their faith? How can you know the difference between false knowledge and godly wisdom?

Tuesday, October 4 — 2 Timothy 1

Chapter Summary: Paul reminds Timothy of his godly heritage from his mother and grandmother. He urges Timothy to use the gift God has given him. Timothy should not be ashamed or afraid if he suffers for the gospel. He tells Timothy to hold fast to the gospel and also gives him the news that some have departed the faith while others have been a blessing during Paul's imprisonment.

Devotional: Paul speaks of his own faith as one he received "from his forefathers" (v.3) and reminds Timothy of the legacy of faith he received from his mother and grandmother (v.5). He also calls Timothy his beloved son (v.2). Our spiritual tree is often filled with family that is related to us by DNA as well as those who are kin to us only in Christ. Who taught you to love the Lord and His word? How has God blessed you with people who have helped to shape your faith? Take some time and think about the role of a spiritual mentor and how they can help you during a difficult time. Take a moment to draw out your spiritual family tree. See if there is someone you need to thank for the role they have played in your life. Is there someone who needs you to be a mentor to them? How can you pass not the faith that you have received?

Questions for more thought/discussion:

- What might have tempted Timothy to be ashamed of the gospel? How does Satan try the same trick with us today?

Wednesday, October 5 — 2 Timothy 2

Chapter Summary: Paul tells Timothy to endure suffering because the reward is life with Christ. He must teach the gospel and warn false teachers and those who like to argue. The man of God must make every effort to live right with faith, love, and fellowship with other Christians while gently instructing those who oppose him.

Devotional: Paul is encouraging Timothy to fight the good fight and be a good soldier of the Lord. He must refute error and endure suffering. But Paul begins everything by telling Timothy to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus," (v.1). How is a good soldier of the cross strong in grace? Often we think more about being strong in doctrine or righteousness. Why do you think Paul makes this the cardinal command for being a good soldier? How can the church be stronger in grace as we contend for the truth?

Questions for more thought/discussion:

- Paul tells Timothy that he must remember the things Paul taught him and he must commit them to other faithful men who will also teach them. How is this the model for both evangelism and church leadership?
- Paul warns Timothy to avoid foolish and ignorant disputes. What are some examples of these kinds of church fights you have seen? How should a true servant of the Lord respond in the face of disputes like this (v.25-27)?

Thursday, October 6 — 2 Timothy 3

Chapter Summary: Paul warns Timothy about many dangers in ministry. There will be trouble and hardship as well as people who pretend to serve God but really serve themselves. While living a godly life will bring about suffering, continuing on in faith is the only response. God has given us the Scriptures which are inspired and provide wisdom for salvation as well as equipping the minister for every good work.

Devotional: Paul reminds Timothy that all Scripture is inspired by God. When he says all, he is telling Timothy to be sure and read, study, and teach the passages he likes as well as the ones he doesn't like. Paul goes on to say that Scripture is profitable. He doesn't mean a preacher or teacher will get rich from his teaching, but rather that Scripture has value. It has value if you want to teach, correct what is wrong in someone's life or show them the right way to live. Paul reminds us that our goal in teaching the Scriptures is always to change the life of a lost person. We aren't out to prove we're right or to demonstrate how much better we are than others, but to help everyone bring their life in line with God's will. The Bible is a tool that leaves us "thoroughly equipped" for this good work!

Questions for more thought/discussion:

- Read the list of how Paul describes people in the last days (v. 1-7). How do you see those same temptations luring people away from faith today?
- Paul says that suffering and persecution will come to every Christian (v.12) who desires to live a godly life. What kind of persecution is he talking about in his day? What kind of persecution do we face today? Are his words still true today for us as Christians?

Friday, October 7 — 2 Timothy 4

Chapter Summary: Paul charges Timothy to preach the word and fulfill his ministry. Paul knows his own death is near but takes comfort in knowing he has served faithfully. He looks forward to the crown of righteousness he will receive. He needs Timothy to come to him quickly, as almost everyone else has left at the moment. Although there is still opposition and danger, Paul is strengthened by the Lord and confident in his faith. Paul concludes his letter.

Devotional: “Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments,” (v.13). Paul gives Timothy these instructions and many have questioned what possible motive the Spirit could have had for including them in the pages of inspired Scripture. Surely these trivial things belong more on a personal “to do” list than in the Bible! But to think such things would be short sighted. We see the heart of Paul as he has left a cloak with one who needed it in Troas. We see Paul’s approach to faith as he does not hesitate to ask for help accomplishing this goal. He trusts God but also sees a need to do all he can do. Finally we see his love for the word of God. “The parchments” likely refers to some copies of the Old Testament that Paul owned. Paul wants to spend more time in the word of God. Even in this, he is an example!

Questions for more thought/discussion:

- What was it that allowed Paul to embrace “the time of his departure” so freely? Was he excited to die? How would you describe his attitude?

Join us all year as we read through the entire New Testament as a congregation. You can find each devotional guide online as well at www.hcofc.com.

