



For the week of **September 25**

**Monday, September 26 — 1 Timothy 1**

**Chapter Summary:** Paul writes to Timothy whom he calls his “son in the faith.” Paul urges him to stay in Ephesus and refute false teachers who were stirring up trouble. Paul reminds him that the heart of the gospel is that Christ Jesus came to save sinners and Paul is very thankful for the mercy God has shown to him. Paul charges Timothy to fight the good fight of faith and avoid the disasters that others have faced by abandoning their faith.

**Devotional:** “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul encouraged Timothy to remember this faithful saying as a starting point for his ministry. But Paul also lived out this saying! He freely shared his story including all the ugly parts and then celebrated God’s forgiveness. As the church, we must always remember that Christ came to save sinners. It is the focus of everything we do. But as individual Christians, it wouldn’t hurt to have the humility of Paul and add “of whom I am chief.” Is there someone who needs to know your story of salvation? Can you encourage someone who is struggling by telling them of your imperfections? Can God use your past to make an eternal difference?

**Questions for more thought/discussion:**

- Why would Paul call Timothy his “son” in the faith? How does Timothy’s family background (Acts 16:1) play a role in this? How can older church members act like family to younger Christians?
- How is Christianity at once about saving sinners and waging war against false teachers? How do we decide when to fight and when to rescue?

## **Tuesday, September 27 — 1 Timothy 2**

**Chapter Summary:** Paul says the church should pray for all men, especially those in civil authority. We should pray that we can live quiet lives and that everyone would come to know Christ as Savior. In the church, godly Christian women are to be characterized by modest dress, good works, and a readiness to be obedient. Paul declares that women are not have authority over men in the church.

**Devotional:** Paul says God desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (v. 4). In a very real way this describes the entire Christian life. Our life in Christ begins when we are saved at our baptism and to be sure, we must know a basic understanding of the gospel in order to be saved. But while our salvation is accomplished at that point, our knowledge of the truth should continue to grow throughout our life in Christ. Can you share a story about how your knowledge of the truth of God has grown during your service to the Lord? Have you reached a deeper and broader understanding because of what you have learned? How have you grown in your knowledge of the truth over the course of your time in Christ. What things have benefited your knowledge of the truth and how can you share them with others so they can grow?

### **Questions for more thought/discussion:**

- What does it mean for women to dress modestly? Who determines the standard of modesty in clothing?

## **Wednesday, September 28 — 1 Timothy 3**

**Chapter Summary:** Paul gives lists of qualities a man must possess if he wants to serve the church as either an elder or a deacon. Though he hopes to visit Timothy soon in person, he writes about the mystery of godliness to help Timothy until he can arrive. The mystery revolves around the fact that Jesus is God.

**Devotional:** Paul says that the first qualification of an elder is that he be blameless (v.2). When he talks about deacons, he beings by saying, “Likewise deacons...” (v.8). In many ways this quality of being blameless is the umbrella over all the other qualities. How can a man truly be blameless? Since we know it is impossible for anyone to be sinless, what does Paul mean by “blameless”? It demonstrates spiritual maturity and wisdom for a man to understand and embrace this quality. It makes him a better leader of God’s people, too.

### **Questions for more thought/discussion:**

- As you read through the qualifications of an elder and a deacon, talk about why Paul might have included each one. Why do you think the man's wife and children are mentioned in the qualifications?

- Why are the qualifications for elders and deacons different? How does it reflect the different jobs they perform?

- What does Paul mean when he says the church is the house of God and the pillar and ground of truth?

## **Thursday, September 29 — 1 Timothy 4**

**Chapter Summary:** Paul warns Timothy that false teachers will come who will bring rules and regulations not from God. Timothy is to warn the brethren about these false teachers and encourage them to trust and serve God. Even though he is young, Paul encourages Timothy to be an example to the rest of the brethren by living a righteous life and teaching the truth. In so doing everyone will be able to see Timothy's maturity and many people will be saved.

**Devotional:** Paul gives Timothy a warning about false teachers and says they will come bringing rules that God does not require. They will try to take away the privilege of marriage from God's people. They will make laws about food and eating that God never intended. Paul says this is not the doctrine of God, but the doctrine of demons. It is such an easy temptation to be captured by because the desire to make rules seems innocent enough. What rules have you seen churches make that are actually opinions and traditions of men falsely interpreted as rules? Some denominational structures actually include a book of rules each adherent must follow in addition to the Scriptures. But unwritten rules can be just as bad. Pray that God will help us all to be biblical Christians and nothing more or less!

### **Questions for more thought/discussion:**

- How does Paul's warning about false teachers give Timothy and the church a measure of comfort when these events happen?

- What is the false teaching that Paul is urging Timothy to refute? Who does Satan spread the same lies today?

- What advice does Paul give Timothy and every young Christian concerning being a teacher (v.12)?

- What advice does Paul give in vs 15-16 that will help Timothy and us to share the gospel in a more effective way?

## Friday, September 30 — 1 Timothy 5

**Chapter Summary:** Paul reminds Timothy that church members are due respect and his conduct should be exemplary to everyone. Paul gives instructions for the honor and care of older widows in the church as well as encouragement for younger widows. Paul gives more instructions concerning elders and how they are to be treated in the congregation. He closes by giving Timothy some personal advice and warnings to help his ministry.

**Devotional:** Often our family knows the darkest and ugliest side of our personality better than anyone else. Paul warns Timothy that how people treat their family is an indication of their spiritual maturity. Anyone who refused to help family in need is worse than an unbeliever. Why would Paul say that? Is it because in the church we help those who are in need, even if they aren't part of our family? Or is it because in the church we are all part of God's family and so we help each other? Either way, it is a wake up call for us to take a closer look at how we treat those closest to us. What does your family know about your faith? I need to make sure that I share my faith with the people with whom I share my home! They need to see me living a saved life privately as well as publicly and I need to repent to them when I do not. May God give us Christian homes!

### **Questions for more thought/discussion:**

- Paul makes it clear that all our actions have consequences (v. 24-25). What does it mean that while some good works are clearly evident, none can be hidden?

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