

# **A Walk Through 1 Timothy**

## **Introduction**

*Paul returned to Ephesus after his release from Rome, bringing Timothy with him. They began the work of refuting the false teachers, and strengthening believers. Once the work had begun, Paul established Timothy to continue this, while he moved up to Macedonia for the churches at Philippi and Thessaloniki.*

# A Walk Through 1 Timothy

## Chapter 1

'Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. '

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul writes this crucial message to his disciple, colleague and fellow gladiator for the Gospel. To Paul, Timothy is his son in the faith. Timothy is sent to Ephesus, to help restore what is falling away from the truth. Paul begins with who he is, an apostle or "sent one" from Jesus Christ himself. Jesus sent Paul, and made him the leader to open the eyes of the gentiles. Jesus had set Paul apart by His command on the road to Damascus, and confirmed him by the church leaders.

Paul's message to Timothy is "Grace, mercy and peace" from God. Jesus already overlooks our failings by grace. He has paid the full price for all of it, and so extends His blessing even when we miss the mark or even deliberately fail. He pours mercy over us. He understands each of His children, how we are made, where we struggle, and even why we disobey. His mercy is wrapped up in salvation which covers every fault. And He pours His peace into us. We are assured of who we are in Christ, where we stand with the Father, and His blessings will pour through us by His Holy Spirit in us. The message of Grace, Mercy and Peace means we have a whole new life ahead. This is the foundation for the growth which God will bring in Ephesus.

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'As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. '

1 Timothy 1:3-5

Timothy has been sent by Paul to stop the false teachings and doctrines in Ephesus. His command is to return the believers to faith in Jesus, to pure hearts and consciences, and abounding love. These are the results of faithful teaching, founded upon God's grace and mercy. We must be the people of God, focused on the movement of God. And His movement is salvation in Jesus. He gives this graciously, unearned. And He pours out His love generously to all who will believe in Jesus. Timothy is in Ephesus to bring them back to the Lord.

We are here for the very same reason. We carry God's grace in the gift of Jesus. Salvation is right here for you, for any who will set aside their works and place their whole trust in Him. In Mercy, God sent Jesus to be our redemption. Satan is out, Holy Spirit is in, and you are now His child in faith. So press on with Him! No more empty rules, genealogies, myths or speculations. Instead we dig into Jesus, learn from Him and walk in Him. Let's go!

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'But some people have missed this whole point. They have turned away from these things and spend their time in meaningless discussions. They want to be known as teachers of the law of Moses, but they don't know what they are talking about, even though they speak so confidently. We know that the law is good when used correctly. For the law was not intended for people who do what is right. It is for people who are lawless and rebellious, who are ungodly and sinful, who consider nothing sacred and defile what is holy, who kill their father or mother or commit other murders. '

1 Timothy 1:6-9

Some have missed it. They see the Law and then feel justified. Their own righteousness becomes their pursuit, and the Law becomes their calling card. These have decimated the believers, turning faith into performance, and The Lord's redemption into payment due. Acting as if being right is the result of being good, of ticking the boxes and achieving goals. Teachers expound on how to be a self-made person, whose work brings the reward.

The Law is good, but is not the checklist that makes us clean. The Law was given for those who are lost, to convict of sin, to show the gap, and to drive us on our knees back to the Lord. When the Law works, people repent. Hearts are turned. Those who lack cry out to God who is gracious and loving. The Law gets us back to the Lord.

Don't get caught trying to make your own righteousness. Instead, realize what has been missed, and come with humble hearts. The Lord will make us right!

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'The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching that comes from the glorious Good News entrusted to me by our blessed God. '

1 Timothy 1:10-11

Turn back. Repent. Recognize sin, and walk the other direction. The Law reminds what is evil before God. For our part, we turn from these things. We go the other direction. Temptation and carnal passions may beckon, but God speaks and demands we go the other way. We must decide.

God floods us with salvation in Jesus who paid the full price for our sin, and who sends Holy Spirit to fill us and lead us back to God's walk. We must make the decision. Yet God brings grace and mercy, and gives us the power to walk in a new path. The Law was the roadmap. We are in control of the choice.

Turn today, depart the sin, and follow the Way. This is how we do it!

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'I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. '

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## 1 Timothy 1:12-14

Take time to thank Jesus. He is Messiah, the Christ, the promised one who came to redeem, and to be our Lord. He is the Master. So thank him, as Paul does. He came and rescued, even though we were terrible. We had no life, no hope, and in our blindness we did many things. But He knew us, and rescued us. He considered our future worthwhile, and gave us the message and calling to share Jesus with others. We have the story, we have the experience, and all of this is a gift to us from God. He is gracious and generous, has filled us with faith and love, and given us direction. We carry the good news of Jesus, to everyone we meet. So take time to thank Him. Thank Him today. His mercy and grace have changed everything for us!

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'This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.'

## 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This work of Christ is astonishing. He reaches to the deepest hole and rescues us. His love is not earned, but a very gracious gift. He pours His grace because of His mercy. And He chooses to do so because of an amazing deep love that He has for us.

And then He uses us in His work. People see it and they too turn and believe in Him. And suddenly they have eternal life. Amazing. So we praise Him, bringing Him honor, and glory. He never dies, which means I am forever rescued to Him! Oh join in His worship!

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'Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God.'

## 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Here's instructions to fight well in the Lord's battles: Cling to your faith and keep your conscience clear. Some people don't do this, and have wandered far from their faith. Cling to Jesus. Hold on to His working, and trust in Him. Let Holy Spirit guide your conscience in decisions. Obey the teachings of Christ. And stick to it. Don't throw it all away like Hymenaeus and Alexander have done. Hold fast to Jesus.

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## Chapter 2

'I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. '

1 Timothy 2:1-4

How is Timothy supposed to cling to his faith as Paul told him before? The very first instruction is to pray. Be a person who is aware of what is happening, and pray. Ask God to work for all people, every one you meet, and those you know about. Ask God to help them, to draw them to Himself, Give thanks for them. Intercede, which means taking time to pray for their benefits.

Even though we don't know if these people will be with us in heaven, we are to pray for them. We are to step in front of them and protect them. We intervene to upset the workings of sin, and to pray for God's hand and blessing to cover them. Our time bringing these before the Lord is a direct confrontation of Satan and his hopes to steal, kill and destroy. We are taking back the streets, returning men and women to their Creator. Kings and leaders too.

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'For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. And I have been chosen as a preacher and apostle to teach the Gentiles this message about faith and truth. I'm not exaggerating—just telling the truth. '

1 Timothy 2:5-7

God desires all men to be saved. And there is only one way to do it. There is only one God, and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity. The man Christ Jesus alone can do it. He is God in man's form and substance. His perfect life is not only an example, but renders up a death unearned. This death becomes my deserved death, your deserved death. A perfect replacement given for what I could not do. For what you could not do.

Jesus is the Christ, the specific sent-one from God, come to teach, lead, guide, display God's love, and die in our place. This is the message the Father sent at the perfect time. It's for you!

God set Paul as His messenger to tell all the Gentiles, all the non-Jews, that they are not forgotten, but are included in the offer of Jesus' perfect death in place of ours. We can be reconciled with God the Father, by placing our faith and trust in the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection. This is the truth, and is waiting for you, and many!

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'In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy. And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. For women who claim to be devoted to God

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should make themselves attractive by the good things they do. '

1 Timothy 2:8-10

How do we come to worship? We come with holy hands lifted up, with humble hearts, without anger, without controversy. We come simply, not drawing attention, but joining quietly with the Lord and praising Him. We honor Him, acclaim Him, speak His greatness, declare His attributes. We listen as Holy Spirit speaks. We receive any commands, and we obey them. This is not a show where we are in the spotlight. This is the Lord, communing with us. Come!

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'Women should learn quietly and submissively. I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. But women will be saved through childbearing, assuming they continue to live in faith, love, holiness, and modesty.'

1 Timothy 2:11-15

In the church, authority starts at the leadership. The pastor is over the flock in authority. He teaches and leads, and the men and women follow. Similarly husbands lead and hold an authority and responsibility for the family. Husbands and wives hold authority as parents over their kids. When it comes to sin, Satan deceived the woman, tricking her. But the man was simply drawn to sin. He wasn't deceived, he made a deliberate terrible choice.

In all of this, there is a prohibition about a woman teaching her man, where the authority structure is overturned. Paul says "no". And he then tells of how this whole thing gets fixed. It's in the "childbirth" if we see the Greek. Not birthing all the children, but the birth of the One child, Messiah, who saves all of us.

My wife is brilliant, thoughtful and amazing. I learn tons from her. And our world is rocked because of her impact. Yet never have I seen her strive to overturn authority structures. She continues to live in faith, in love, in holiness and in modesty. Be like my wife!

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'Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says,

“You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.”

And in another place,

“Those who work deserve their pay!”

Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. Those who sin should be reprimanded in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others. '

1 Timothy 5:17-20

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Leadership is hard. Good leaders are hard to find. We must respect and look up to these Elders. We must pay them well so they are freed to do the work of overseeing the believers.

There will be times when leaders are accused. Go prudently, and make sure there are multiple witnesses. Be careful to check out the accusations, and don't believe them unless multiple witnesses come forward. Make sure the accusation is verified before acting on it.

When an accusation is proven, and a leader is found in sin, he must be reprimanded before the whole church. Our God is holy, and we are commanded to likewise stay true to Him. Flee sin, and serve Jesus. This is why church discipline must be before the whole body.

God is among us, living in us, and we are His. So we must live like it! Timothy was given these leadership establishing principles in order to fortify the church in Ephesus. We should follow the very same.

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## Chapter 3

'This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position." So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? '

1 Timothy 3:1-5

Who does the Lord set forth as the leader? Who can care for the people, lead, guide and help people follow Jesus? God sends a man that everyone recognizes as solid, no questions asked.

He's already known for his faithfulness.  
He has developed a beautiful marriage, one wife.  
He has self control, and everyone can see this.  
He lives very wisely, and he has a good reputation.  
He welcomes people into his home, and he is able to teach.  
He's not a heavy drinker.  
He's not violent, but is gently.  
He's not driven in pursuing money.  
He doesn't quarrel or argue to get his way.  
His kids are respectful, and following in the faith.

When you spend time in his home, you'll see this. He is the person to establish and lead the church.

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'A church leader must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons. '

1 Timothy 3:6-10

Church leaders must be established. They should not be brand new believers, but such as have walked with the Lord for some time. They should be well regarded outside the church as well. Deacons and those who help should also be solid believers. They need to be upright and fill the requirements of leaders above. Let them be examined to determine that they are solid in their faith, with experience.

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'In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do. A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus. '

1 Timothy 3:11-13

Turns out that both husbands and wives as deacons must not slander. These must be respected believers who show self control and faithfulness. Deacons must lead solid families, managing the home well. As they serve, the body is encouraged, and the deacons themselves grow in Christ.

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'I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. '

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Paul's entire reason for writing Timothy is so people will know how to live their lives in the family of God. The rules, principles and applications are rooted in God Himself. They reflect the teachings in the Law, and moreso, in Jesus Christ. He is the living God, and His work is active. He speaks, commands, and blesses. Paul may be delayed in coming to Ephesus, and he sends this letter to help Timothy teach, lead, correct and establish the household of the living God.

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'Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith:

Christ was revealed in a human body  
and vindicated by the Spirit.  
He was seen by angels  
and announced to the nations.  
He was believed in throughout the world  
and taken to heaven in glory.'

1 Timothy 3:16

This refrain may well have been a worship song sung at the gatherings. Paul includes it for Timothy, a reminder of the core truth that bears us up.

God has really entered into human time and space by sending His Son Jesus. He is the Messiah, sent to remedy the huge sin problem that we all carry. Holy Spirit showed up and shined the light on Jesus through miracles, through His physical presence at baptism, and ever since through filling us believers. The angels were there with the shepherds at birth, and this good news has been announced to all the nations. One day we will join Him in Glory, but until then, we strive for the people of all the nations.

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## Chapter 4

'Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth. Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer. '

1 Timothy 4:1-5

Deceptive spirits and deceptive teachings are ripping people away from the faith. All of this begins with demons, and it began in a garden with the question, "Did God really say... ?" The people are not speaking the truth. Their actions betray their words. And their consciences are gone. God's word has already clarified what is true here, what is good, and what we must not reject. Receive God's truth with a clear conscience and with thankful hearts. Don't give up on God's Word, and continue in prayer.

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'If you explain these things to the brothers and sisters, Timothy, you will be a worthy servant of Christ Jesus, one who is nourished by the message of faith and the good teaching you have followed. Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." '

1 Timothy 4:6-8

We follow the Lord as He won us to Himself. We trust Jesus, and don't make rules by men. We live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. This is a choice, and one that Jesus shared as Satan was testing Him in the desert.

When life gets hard, it's easy to blame someone else. But our calling is to trust and follow the Lord. He is able to meet every need, and we can count on Him.

Timothy needs to reiterate this lesson to himself, training himself to follow and obey. And leaders must also learn to hear and follow, obeying every word that comes from the mouth of God. Training ourselves to obey is hard work. There is no easier way.

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"Physical training is good,  
but training for godliness is much better,  
promising benefits in this life  
and in the life to come."

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. '

1 Timothy 4:8-10

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Training for godliness is much better. We have benefits right now, and eternal life with our Father. He is the Living God, and His promises deliver. He is a Savior, and all are welcome.

We proclaim it, we count on it, we adjure others to follow as well. This is a long pursuit and requires physical training to keep it! Don't give up. Don't turn to the right or to the left. Follow Jesus - He is alive!

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'Teach these things and insist that everyone learn them. Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them. '

1 Timothy 4:11-13

God created us for Himself in relationship. He gave us His word so we can learn, His Son to save us and restore the relationship, and His Spirit to walk in us and with us every day. So we shun the rule-making. We shun the ideologies that hate God, and we draw near to Him.

These must be taught to the believers as well. Read His word, and encourage all to obey what He says. Live in love, in purity, and in love. Don't let others shun you or bully you, but stand for these things that are true. Our work is making disciples and training leaders. This is how we do it!

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'Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.'

1 Timothy 4:14-16

Don't skip it. Fulfill it. God has given you gifts, and a calling. Dig in and see what He will do! Oversight is Timothy's calling in Ephesus. He is to establish leaders, make disciples, teach the truth, and counter error. Be diligent!

Dear reader, God has given you gifts and a calling too. Be diligent to serve Him, attending to all the tasks. He can overcome the challenges. He can establish His church. Live for Jesus, staying true to Him, His calling, His teaching, and His work! This diligence brings reward, salvation and blessing. So Keep after it!

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## Chapter 5

'Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers. Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters. '

1 Timothy 5:1-2

With kindness, be gentle. Encourage, and exhort. lead and guide, but definitely don't yell or berate. Respect and love goes a long way. This is how we do it.

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'Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God. Now a true widow, a woman who is truly alone in this world, has placed her hope in God. She prays night and day, asking God for his help. But the widow who lives only for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives. '

1 Timothy 5:3-6

We must take care of our families, and our widows. Children and grandchildren must care for their widow moms and grandmothers. This is godliness in action. Our Father is well pleased when we do so. Now the widow who has no children or family must be cared for by the church. As a community we must rally around and make sure she has care. She must keep her hope in God, being diligent in prayer and worship too. And God will help!

Now the widow who is wandering far from the Lord is spiritually dead. She isn't in the group that cares for the church. Pray for her, but let her be. Sometimes God's word is harsh and direct. But take a look around. Are there widows you know who have no family caring for them? Go visit, and care for them!

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'Give these instructions to the church so that no one will be open to criticism. But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.

A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband. She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers and served other believers humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good? '

1 Timothy 5:7-10

It's really pretty simple. We as the Church must care for our relatives. And the older ones who have no relatives, we must care for them as well. Is this for everybody? No, this is not for the general public. We as the family of God are to help the Family of God. And we are to care for our own family too.

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Jesus sends us to provide for the Church, for the family of God. We do help those in need. We are kind to strangers. But we are not public welfare. Outsiders will see this, and may be compelled to follow Jesus. God's call to the world is to repent, and to get busy. For those who are disabled, or crippled, we step in. We do care. But we are not a forever food pantry or an ongoing homeless shelter.

So care for your family! Care for the widows in the Church. And get busy!

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'The younger widows should not be on the list, because their physical desires will overpower their devotion to Christ and they will want to remarry. Then they would be guilty of breaking their previous pledge. And if they are on the list, they will learn to be lazy and will spend their time gossiping from house to house, meddling in other people's business and talking about things they shouldn't.

So I advise these younger widows to marry again, have children, and take care of their own homes. Then the enemy will not be able to say anything against them. For I am afraid that some of them have already gone astray and now follow Satan. If a woman who is a believer has relatives who are widows, she must take care of them and not put the responsibility on the church. Then the church can care for the widows who are truly alone.'

1 Timothy 5:11-16

Younger women who have lost their husbands need to get to work. They need to provide for themselves, rebuild their lives, and not depend on the welfare of the Church. Paul is arguing for people to trust God and work hard. Find a new husband, build a family and care for your own older relatives. Paul does not direct the Church to become a welfare distributor. Instead, the believers are to model their faith and service as they work hard. We should do the very same!

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'I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the highest angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing favoritism to anyone. Never be in a hurry about appointing a church leader. Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

Don't drink only water. You ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often.

Remember, the sins of some people are obvious, leading them to certain judgment. But there are others whose sins will not be revealed until later. In the same way, the good deeds of some people are obvious. And the good deeds done in secret will someday come to light.'

1 Timothy 5:21-25

Give it time! Establishing leaders cannot be done in a rush. Instead, let the Lord bring out character, whether it be good character and morals, or whether it be hidden sin and malice. Take your time. Keep pouring into every believer, and don't take sides. Don't pick winners. Build the body, and establish those leaders whom the Lord brings forward.

And take care of yourself too.

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## Chapter 6

'All slaves should show full respect for their masters so they will not bring shame on the name of God and his teaching. If the masters are believers, that is no excuse for being disrespectful. Those slaves should work all the harder because their efforts are helping other believers who are well loved. Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them. '

1 Timothy 6:1-2

OK, slaves, this is for you! And Kings too! As believers we are to take on our role and do it with excellence. Whether a slave, a master, an employee, a servant, a manager, or an owner. Respect is due each one, each made in God's image, with His purposes and plans. Let us respect each one. And, Timothy, you are to teach these and encourage each one to obey!

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'Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy. '

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Teach believers to obey Christ and love others. Work hard, serve your master, care for your workers, make your employer great, nurture your family, respect your parents, protect your community, stand against evil. Paul sets Timothy to strengthen the church as they obey what Jesus teaches. We are to do the same.

What doesn't help? Arguing over nuance, jealousy, division, slander, suspicion, gossip, causing trouble. Such who do these things are outside the Church, not lovers of God or nurturers of people. Don't be like them. Don't turn your back on the truth, but live the life of Jesus nice and loud!

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'Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. '

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Wealth seems so fulfilling, so secure, safe, and enjoyable. Fulfilment tugs at my soul, and I begin to want more and more. But Jesus calls me to Himself. He gives what I need, and He gives even more. He

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does know the end from the beginning. He does open doors. He does bless me even when I don't deserve it. And He is a good shepherd. He takes me beside still waters. He lets me lay down in green pastures. He restores my soul. He provides a table for me, even before my enemies. Be content my soul in Him. Work hard with the opportunities He lays before me. Seek Him to overcome obstacles. Learn the rhythm of walking with Jesus!

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'But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. '

1 Timothy 6:11-14

What is the Good Fight?

Obeying the commands of Jesus.

Running from evil.

Holding fast to the faith in Jesus.

Pursuing righteousness.

Pursuing a godly life.

Growing in faith.

Growing in love.

Growing in perseverance under duress.

Growing in gentleness.

We argue for Christ, compelling as many as possible to embrace Him, find forgiveness and repentance, joining Him. We argue against ungodliness. And we pursue sincere faith for ourselves, and all the godly character which comes with it. So fight this fight. Stand for Jesus. And bring as many men, women, boys and girls with you as possible!

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'For, At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen. '

1 Timothy 6:15-16

Oh the hope we carry! Christ will be revealed from heaven. He is right on time.

Almighty God is at work. Bless Him - He is the only one who is almighty!

He is the King above every king.

He is the Lord over every lord.

# A Walk Through 1 Timothy

He's the boss over every situation you will ever face.

He alone can never die.

He lives in amazing light. We cannot imagine or see into that light.

But that light sees into me, into us. He knows me completely.

God, I offer you all honor.

What amazing works you have done.

I proclaim your power. I always will.

You are my God, my Lord, and I follow and trust you!

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'Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.'

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Place all your trust in the Lord. Don't bank on your possessions, but in the one who cares for us from even before birth. The Lord is the one who gives us what we need.

And if you have wealth, use it for others. We are caretakers and stewards. True life comes in relationship with Jesus, and all the things remain things. Use them for Him!

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'Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness. May God's grace be with you all.'

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Guard it. Protect it. The good news in you must be proclaimed. Keep it safe. Stay on point, fastened to the truth. And then take it to the leaders. Build the church. Share this gospel that many will be made strong in Christ.

Some have wandered. But you, don't. And God's grace will carry you through!