

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – Timothy  
October 4, 2022 – Lesson 4 – 1 Timothy 2:8-15 – Step into Your Place

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.  
But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*  
2 Timothy 2:15-16

As we begin today's study, let's look at some larger context. Paul's letter to Timothy as pastor of the Church at Ephesus addressed concerns about various groups of people in that church. Timothy would need to deal with each one, and Paul gave him instructions about it all. Here is an overview of some of what Paul wrote:

Chapter 1 verses 3 and following: Some teachers who were Judaizers that mixed in mind science and stirred up controversies;

Chapter 1 verses 18-20: Troublemakers – Paul actually named them;

Chapter 2: The need for prayer;

Chapter 2: Men were especially encouraged to pray;

Chapter 2 verses 9-15: (Today's lesson) The role of women in the church, especially immature believers;

In later lessons we will see: Chapter 3: requirements for leaders in the church; Chapter 4: false teachers... and much more.

So our verses 9-15 today cover just one of several groups of people in the Church of Ephesus who needed guidance and correction.

1 Timothy 2:8: Call to pray

READ 1 Timothy 2:8 – *therefore* – Paul here finished the instructions on prayer. Our actions, thoughts and faith are all involved.

Men are to pray – yet all are to pray, including women.

Looking to the Lord.

In our Study Questions Book, the questions on this verse 8 (page 20-21) are excellent, and we will discuss some of them during our discussion time. So if you are hearing this as live stream or recording, be sure to do those questions on pages 20-21.

1 Timothy 2:9-15: Women in the church

READ verses 9-11

Verse 9 – *In like manner* = likewise – now Paul turned to the role of women in the church.

Women are to look to and obey the Lord.

These instructions concern the behavior in public worship of certain women in the church, as well as how to correct it.

*Modest apparel* – do not flaunt riches.

*Shamefacedness* = steadfastness = reverence = avoiding anything unbecoming.

*Sobriety* = self-restraint.

Verse 10 – The *good works* show who she is.

*Good works* is all that we do, not just helping others.

They show that she trusts God and prays to Him.

The prayers should be followed by *good works* including good behavior in public worship.

This is like wearing clothing that appropriately adorns the person – it should match the person. (As the gaudy, showy clothes and adornments matched the brash, pushy women who wore them.)

Verse 11 – *Learn in silence* – quietly listen to learn and grow in the Lord.

READ 1 Cor. 14:33 – they had a habit of calling out questions and statements during church; they needed to learn quietly and ask questions after the service.

READ verse 12 – here we see that these women went farther, actually trying to teach and dominate the men who were in leadership. Here it is talking about teaching with authority as a leader would, and also trying to take away the men’s leadership.

*Usurp* = dominate, act of oneself

Yet they were immature and did not know the Word well enough to teach. This would be a problem in any case, but immature and brash women would make it even worse.

There is a serious caution for any who would lead and/or teach in James 3:1 *My brethren, be not many masters [teachers/leaders], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation [judgment].*

Note that there were a number of women leaders and teachers in the Bible; they were mature in the Lord and so could lead.

READ verses 13-14 – *Adam* was made first, so he was to be in charge; this sets the pattern for leaders in the church, home, and elsewhere. Again, there are women leaders, but the usual pattern is for the men to lead.

Verse 14 – *Adam was not deceived*; he was there with *Eve*, who was *deceived*, but he did not stop her or correct her. He chose to do what his wife did instead of obeying God.

Eve was deceived. She had not learned enough from Adam – she misunderstood the command and added to it. In effect she usurped Adam’s authority, and he went along with it.

She also was not satisfied with what God had given them. She wanted more “adornment” by being like God in having more wisdom and in knowing good and evil the way that God does. She was not satisfied with the “clothing” God gave them – His presence. Then her being deceived caused her to come into the *transgression* as they lost their clothing of righteous people. They were naked, and God clothed them with skins of animals sacrificed by God for their sin. These new clothes fit the “new” people Adam and Eve had become. READ Genesis 3:1-7, 16, 17, 21

This is strong warning to those who usurp authority, add to God’s Word, and teach error with authority. In this case it was immature, worldly Christian women who needed to be corrected.

Verse 14 – *woman being deceived* – in general women are more easily deceived, so this caution is a reminder to us ladies to be watchful of this vulnerability.

READ verse 15 – *Notwithstanding* = also, in this case as well

Women who bear children are like all other believers who follow the Lord. These women who are wives and mothers are to trust the Lord, walk in love, and live holy lives with self-restraint. Also, they will be kept safe in the Lord. Childbirth was more often dangerous in those times, and here was a reassurance that God would watch over these women. In all circumstances, *faith and charity and holiness with sobriety* are the way all should live, including women. This short phrase covers it all: *faith and charity and holiness with sobriety*:

*faith* – Our relation to the Lord

*charity* – Our relation to others

*holiness with sobriety* – Our relation to ourselves

So our verses 9-15:

Give assurance to women who live the life God has for them – seeking Him, growing in His Word, and doing all those things He has for them. He protects, guides and blesses them.

These verses also warn those women who ignore God's will, leading, and Word in order to push themselves to the forefront. They are dominating, and they use usurped authority to teach things that are error. They set themselves up over the men who lead the church.

Let us hear the Lord's instructions through Paul.

Rather than promoting ourselves, let us be modest, avoiding anything unbecoming, and exercise self-restraint.

Let our actions reflect the godly women that God intends us to be on the inside.

Let us quietly grow in the Word. God will then give us plenty of opportunities to take it to others.

May we be aware of our place in the church and respond when God promotes us.

Let us heed the warning that we ladies can be deceived. Let's stay close to the Lord and His Word.

And may we rest in the assurance that our Lord saves us to the end and in all situations.

*Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12