



## Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

### LIVING IN HOPE LESSON 13

Last week we studied the first ten verses in 1 Timothy chapter 4. These chapters are so rich with great truths that it's hard to finish an entire chapter in one lesson. This week we will continue where we left off in chapter 4. This chapter began with a discussion about false teachers, followed by some characteristics that mark a "good" minister. In these last six verses we will continue looking at Paul's charge to Timothy concerning his work as a minister of Jesus Christ. Before you begin, pray and ask the Lord to soften the soil of your heart, making it ready to receive His Words of life!

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "Do not neglect the gift that is in you ..." 1 Timothy 4:14a

1. Let's begin by reading 1 Timothy 4:1-16. Now reread verses 11-16. Observe and list the facts you find in this section.

It is thought that Timothy was most likely about 22-27 years old when he joined Paul on his missionary journey. If this is true, then he would be about 34-39 years old at the time Paul is writing this letter. The word "youth" was used for anyone from the age of youth to 40. He was a very young man for the position he was holding.

2. How was Timothy supposed to gain respect, despite his age?

**3.** How can we be an example to others in the following ways?  
(Use Scriptures, along with a practical example, if possible.)

- A.** In word
- B.** In conduct
- C.** In love
- D.** In spirit
- E.** In faith
- F.** In purity

**4.** Paul believed he would be returning (vs 13) to Ephesus. What did he want Timothy to do until he arrived?

Timothy is told to “give attention to” or devote himself to the public reading of the Scriptures, which was an important part of their worship. It’s important for people to hear what the Word says, not only someone else’s explanation of what it means. He was to continue to exhort them by challenging them to apply the truths of the Word to their lives. He was also to devote himself to doctrine, or the systematic teaching of the Scriptures. A minister is pulled in many directions, but he must never stray from teaching God’s Word and living a life of godliness. A leader’s life should be a pattern for others to follow.

**5.** Paul tells Timothy not to neglect the gift that was given to him. Every believer receives at least one gift of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12). We are given gifts that equip us and enable us to do the ministry God has called us to do. What gift do you think Paul was referring to? What else does Paul tell Timothy about his gift?

**6.** How is it possible to neglect the spiritual gifts that God has given us?  
Do you think we have a responsibility to use these gifts?

7. What gift have you been given? Has the Holy Spirit given you a gift that you are neglecting to use? (Read a list of the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30, Ephesians 4:11, and Romans 12:6-8 for help.) How can you begin to use this gift to glorify the Lord?

The presbytery, or the elders, had obviously laid hands on Timothy to pray for him. The laying on of hands was used for various reasons. Sometimes it was done to bestow blessings on a person (Genesis 48:14, 18) or to recognize a call of God on someone's life. Hands were laid on someone when there was to be a transfer of authority (Numbers 27:18-20). People who needed healing had hands laid on them (Matthew 9:18), as well as when they would receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18). The apostles laid hands on the deacons when they were chosen (Acts 6:6), and on elders, as we see here in our text.

8. In your own words, what was Paul's final exhortation to Timothy in verses 15-16?
9. If we aren't supposed to be worried about pleasing man, why does it matter what everyone else thinks of us?

The word "progress" is taken from a Greek military term meaning "pioneer advancement." Timothy was told to go first, or be the one out in front, setting the example. Verse 16 tells us that holy living and sound teaching go together.

10. Is the progress of your spiritual growth evident to those around you? Can they see a change in you? Can they see a likeness to Christ? What do you think?
11. Paul says to teach, be an example, give attention to, don't neglect, meditate, give yourself over, make progress, take heed, and continue. In which of these do you think you might need a little work?

Verse 16 shows us that a minister's godly life will have a saving impact on those who hear him. It has been said that a minister's life is his most powerful message. If there is no pattern, there is no power. I wonder if our life is our most powerful message ...

- 12.** Read 1 Timothy 5:1-25. Paul goes on to tell Timothy how the church should treat people in the church family. What Scripture specifically struck you as you read this chapter?
  
- 13.** What does the Word say about older men and women? Read Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31, Exodus 20:12, and Proverbs 1:8, 23:22.

As a young pastor, Timothy had many "situations" that needed to be dealt with. Paul gives him some very practical guidelines for doing that. The problems and questions within the church are timeless, meaning that we deal with the same things today. We are thankful that the Holy Spirit spoke through Paul to give us some direction in ministry.

- 14.** Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16. Why do you think Paul spent so much time on the topic of how to treat widows? Why is it so important to him? (This topic takes up more verses than any other topic in this letter.)
  
- 15.** Paul talks about 4 kinds of widows. List what he says about each:
  - A.** Real widows: (Verses 3, 5, 9, 10)
  - B.** Widows with relatives able to support them: (Verses 4, 8, 16)
  - C.** Widows living in pleasure: (Verses 6-7)
  - D.** Young widows: (Verses 11-15)
  
- 16.** Why does Paul say not to help those who have children, grandchildren, etc.? Is he just being mean?
  
- 17.** Why do you think he says widows who are "really widows" in verse 5?

The phrase “taken into the number” in verse 9 means “to be enrolled and put on a list.” Evidently the church had some sort of official list of widows that they helped out. These widows were most likely very involved in ministering to the congregation.

**18.** Read the following Scriptures to find out what God thinks about widows:

- A.** Deuteronomy 10:18
- B.** Deuteronomy 14:29
- C.** Isaiah 1:17
- D.** Malachi 3:5
- E.** James 1:27

**19.** Are you involved with helping widows in any way? List some ways that you can help them, besides financially. Pray and ask the Lord how you can help meet this need.

“Relieving the afflicted” in verse 10 can mean ministering to many different kinds of needs, such as the sick or the poor. “Bringing up children” can mean taking in orphans who were left homeless. If they were referring to their own children, they would have to have died in order to receive help.

**20.** Can you find any other stories in Scripture about widows?

**21.** What else did you learn about widows?

**22.** Paul sums it all up in verse 16 by restating his point. Why is it so important to take care of the needs of your own family? By doing so, what are you freeing up the church to do?

**23.** Read 1 Timothy 5:17-21. What is the main point of this section?

Just as the widows were supposed to be honored, the elders were to be treated carefully also. It may be that Timothy was having some problems with the elders in his church. Paul wanted to make sure he understood how to treat them, specifically in terms of pay and discipline.

**24.** What are elders who “rule well” worthy of?

Double honor can mean either generous pay or a generous sense of recognition. Because of verse 18, it seems very likely that Paul is referring to the elder’s pay. God’s design was for the church to meet the pastor’s needs. There was an Old Testament law that forbade farmers to muzzle their oxen while working to prevent them from eating the loose grain. God was teaching the basic principle that every worker has a right to partake of the fruits of his work. Paul shows that, because an ox receives its due, which is grain, and a laborer receives his due, which is wages, so shall an elder receive what is due him.

**25.** What could be a reason that Paul had to deal with this?

**26.** Regarding recognition or respect, why do you think pastors and elders should receive “double honor” if they are ruling well? Also read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.

**27.** Do you respect your leadership? How can you show respect for them? What are some practical ways that you can “esteem them” for their work’s sake? (I’m not just saying this because I’m married to the Pastor!)

**28.** Now Paul talks about how to honor them in the way you receive an accusation against them. What needs to happen if they are being accused? Why? (Deuteronomy 19:15)

**29.** If the accusations are true, and he continues to sin, what must be done?

**30.** Why are elders dealt with more severely and publicly?

**31.** Why can more damage be done to a congregation when a leader falls?

We understand Paul's exhortation to Timothy in the way to treat elders. They are to be honored for their work for the Gospel. When accused of a sin, it is essential to make sure the facts are correct by having witnesses, so as not to ruin his reputation by a lie. If the accusation is true, he must be confronted. If he repents, then he is disciplined. If the elder continues to sin he must bear the consequences, which is to be rebuked openly. This is for his good as well as the good of the body. I pray that this section will once again remind us of the severity of sin. May we be diligent in our pursuit of holiness.

**32.** What is the main point of verses 21-25?

Why does Paul talk about the elect angels in verse 21? Some think that Paul uses them simply to add weight to his statement. Others think that Paul wanted to make sure Timothy understood the importance of this teaching, because all of the Heavens were watching. We are supposed to be pleasing God and not man.

**33.** The leaders are told to "lay hands" on the elders to acknowledge the call of God to the ministry, or to set them apart for service. Why did Paul caution Timothy not to hurry this? What are dangers of putting a man into ministry before their lives are thoroughly investigated?

Verse 23 is parenthetical, or a parenthesis in the middle of a thought. Paul stops to give Timothy a personal word of advice before he continues his thought.

**34.** Was Paul giving Timothy a license for social drinking? What was his point?

It is thought that Timothy, because of his desire to be an example of godliness to others and not stumble his brethren, decided to refrain from the drinking of any wine at all (1 Corinthians 8:12-13, Romans 14:13-23). The water in the Middle East was very impure and carried many diseases. Paul wasn't encouraging Timothy to drink for the sake of drinking, but for medicinal purposes.

**35.** What is the main point of verses 24-25? (Remember they tie in with verse 22.)

Paul is still speaking about the process of ordaining men into the ministry. He says that the sins of some men are so evident that they are obviously unfit as church leaders, while the sin of others may not be uncovered until careful investigation. The judgment that Paul refers to is not the final judgment, but the judgment of the church to determine whether or not the man is suitable for the position.

In the same way, the good works of some men may be very obvious, but others may be hidden. As you "investigate" their life, those good works will be brought out into the light as you will be able to see their true character.

**36.** What practical and spiritual lessons did you learn from this chapter? How does this chapter apply to you, personally? What hope does it bring? Let's put it into practice this week ladies, shall we?