



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 9

This week we will be studying 1 Timothy chapter 1. I hope that after reading the entire book and getting some background, you feel a bit familiar with our text. Isn't it fun to see Paul's heart and his passion for the Gospel as he shares it with Timothy? Paul was committed to keeping the Gospel of Jesus Christ pure and uncompromised. He wanted none of it to be tampered with. I'm sure Paul would be incredibly grieved at the false teaching that is going on today in our world. I pray that studying this book will ignite a passion in our hearts for the truth of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse of the Week: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry"
1 Timothy 1:12

1. Read 1 Timothy chapter 1. Make note of any facts you find, as well as repeated words and phrases. Who's speaking? To whom? Why?
2. Read verses 1-2 again. If Timothy was such good friends with Paul, why do you think the greeting is so formal? Why did Paul need to state his authority? (I asked you this last week ... just wanted to see if you remember!)
3. How many times does Paul use the word "our" in verses 1-2? Why is this significant?

4. Notice that Paul refers to God as our Savior in verse 1, as well as in 2:3 and 4:10. (See also Isaiah 43:3.) Why is this significant?

The word “commandment” (vs 1) is from the Greek word “epitage,” which refers to a royal command that is mandatory, rather than voluntary. Paul had been specially commissioned for service by God Himself, and he took this command very seriously. The Gospel had been committed to him by God (1:11), and he committed it to Timothy (6:20), who was to guard it (2 Timothy 1:14) and pass it on to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2).

5. Paul calls Timothy his “true” son in the faith. In regard to the false teachers that are discussed in this chapter, why is that term so significant?

6. Why did Timothy need grace, mercy, and peace in his situation?

Paul doesn’t want Timothy to give up. He tells him in chapter 6 to fight the good fight. Charles Swindoll said this: **“How many people stop because so few people say, ‘Go’?”** Go, Timothy, go!

7. What does Paul urge Timothy to do in verses 3-11?

8. The word “charge” means to give strict orders from a superior officer. What did Paul want Timothy to command “them” to stop doing?

9. Was Paul surprised by these false teachers? Read Acts 20:28-30.

10. What does the word “doctrine” mean? What doctrine did Paul consider to be “sound”?

It's not clear what exact false doctrine was being taught, or who was teaching it. Some believe it must have been coming from the Ephesian elders, while some think it contained some type of Judaism because they were concerned with certain teachings of the law. Some believe that this was the beginning of Gnosticism because in 1 Timothy 4:3, it seems that they were trying to receive divine acceptance and obtain holiness from certain types of legalistic self-deprivation. Whatever was being taught, we know that it was raising certain questions and leading people astray from the truth. The false teaching was robbing them of their hope in Christ. The result of this doctrine was not producing love from a pure heart, a good conscience, or sincere faith (vs 5).

- 11.** Ephesus was not the only place that was having problems with false teachers. What else did Paul say about them in the following verses?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 2:17
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:2
 - c. 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - d. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - e. 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 12.** What does Paul think should happen to those who teach false doctrine? Read Galatians 1:8-9.
- 13.** How can standing on "false doctrine" practically affect how you live your life? Have you ever bought into any type of false teaching? What happened?

Paul says that the goal of sound doctrine is to produce love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. He contrasts these with the result of teaching bad doctrine.

- 14.** How would you define: (Use Scriptures if possible.)
 - a. love from a pure heart?
 - b. a good conscience?
 - c. sincere faith?

The definition of conscience, according to Webster, is a knowledge or sense of right and wrong, with a compulsion to do right. Irving Jensen defines it as “An inner voice that judges a thought, word, or deed as it is contemplated, in process, or consummated.” Conscience judges according to standards, of whatever sort. It has also been defined as “The God-created, self-judging faculty of man. It either affirms or accuses a person (Romans 2:14-15). The mind knows the standard of right and wrong, and when that standard is violated, the conscience reacts to accuse, producing guilt, shame, doubt, fear, remorse, or despair” (Titus 1:15).

- 15.** Read 1 Timothy 4:2 and Titus 1:15-16. What can happen to our conscience? How?
- 16.** Because of this, why can't we always take the advice of Jiminy Cricket, who said, “Let your conscience be your guide”?
- 17.** Do you see a pure love flowing from your life? How about a good conscience? A sincere faith? Take a minute to honestly evaluate yourself in these areas.

It's bad enough to want to teach something you don't know much about, but it's even worse to be dogmatic about it. James 3:1 says, “Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement.” D. Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote that “teaching the Word is such an awesome task that a godly man shrinks from it. Nothing but this overwhelming sense of being called, and of compulsion, should ever lead anyone to preach.”

Some think that these teachers may have been teaching the law as a means for salvation, instead of salvation by grace. Their motives were most likely self-seeking and stemmed in pride.

- 18.** Why is there a stricter judgment for those who teach God's Word? Is this fair?

- 19.** Is the purpose of the law to save? Read Romans 3:20, 28; Galatians 2:16 and 3:11. What is the purpose of the law? Read Galatians 3:10-29.

******The law that Paul is referring to is the Torah, or the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch, written by Moses. He now gives some examples of the type of people for whom the law was made. If they would heed it, it would show them their sin and their need for salvation.

- 20.** The background for 1 Timothy 1:7-11 is Exodus 20:1-17. Read through The Ten Commandments. Which ones are being violated by the examples Paul mentions?
- 21.** Are The Ten Commandments only for the people in the Old Testament? Are we supposed to obey them? Why or why not?
- 22.** Why do people have to see they are guilty before they understand salvation by grace?
- 23.** Have you ever thought you were a “good” enough person to go to Heaven? Have you ever been guilty of trying to do enough “good works” to earn your salvation? What did you find out?
- 24.** Can you think of a person in Scripture who was caught up in good works, or thought they could earn their right to salvation by keeping the law?

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” We know that we are not saved by our works, but works are evidence of our faith (James 2:14-26). Martin Luther once said, “Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works.”

- 25.** Using Ephesians 2:8-10, as well as other Scriptures, can you explain in your own words what it means to be “saved by grace”?
- 26.** There are two extremes concerning the law. The first is Legalism, which teaches that we can be saved by works. The other is Antinomianism, meaning that the law does not apply to Christians. How and why are each dangerous?

We should be judging everything we hear by God’s Word. Like Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:10, we should turn away from anything that is “contrary to sound doctrine.” We can ask ourselves these questions regarding any doctrine being taught:

1. Is their teaching Biblically sound? (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. What is their goal? (Is it to glorify God or for personal gain?)
3. What is their motive? (Selfless or selfish?)
4. What is the effect of their teaching? (Is there fruit?)
5. How do they define the Gospel?

- 27.** How does Paul describe himself in verses 12-17?
- 28.** For what two reasons does Paul say he was shown mercy? (vs 13 and 16)
- 29.** Does Paul believe that being ignorant excuses him of his sin? Why or why not?

The phrase “this is a faithful saying” appears five times in the pastoral epistles. This means that this statement ought to be regarded as fully reliable. This saying was referring to Christ’s forgiveness of sins. (vs 15)

- 30.** Read the other “faithful sayings.” What does each saying refer to?
- a. 1 Timothy 3:1
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:8-9
 - c. Titus 3:8
 - d. 2 Timothy 2:11
- 31.** Paul doesn’t say, “of whom I **was** chief.” He said “**am.**” What does that reveal to us about Paul’s character? Also read 1 Corinthians 15:9 and Ephesians 3:8.
- 32.** How is Paul’s life a “pattern” for us? (vs 16)

Paul recognized the depth of his sin. Because of his past, God’s grace was very clear to him. Paul was not excusing his past but was focusing on the divine mercy that intervened. Looking at his sin caused him to be thankful, rather than guilt-ridden. He could’ve allowed his sin to paralyze him, hindering anything that God wanted to do with his life. Instead, he allowed it to motivate him to pursue holiness and righteousness. Because of Paul’s life, we see that there are no limits to God’s forgiveness and mercy!

- 33.** How does this section encourage you? What were you like before you met Jesus? How would you describe yourself?
- 34.** How can we hinder the present and our future by living in our past?

35. What happens when you look at your past? Do you feel guilty, thinking that God would never forgive you, or use you in ministry? Have you ever felt that you are just “not good enough” for God? Or do you react like Paul, rejoicing in your salvation? (Read Philippians 3:12-14)

36. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20. After Paul’s testimony to us in verses 12-16, why do you think Paul ended this section like he does in verse 17?

Because God is eternal, the truths Paul talks about are for all generations. Immortal means imperishable or incorruptible. Because He is invisible, He cannot be seen, except by faith. There is only one wise God, who is unique, incomparable, and glorious. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 40:12-31) Paul ends his own doxology with an emphatic agreement ... AMEN!

37. How does verse 17 minister to you? Which aspect of God’s character mentioned is specifically meaningful to you today?

38. Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20. What does Paul charge Timothy to do? (Charge is a military term referring to a command, not a suggestion.)

“Wage the good warfare” can also be translated “fight the good fight.” We know that we enter a spiritual battle zone as soon as we accept Christ. Satan is warring against the church for many reasons.

39. How does Paul say to fight the good fight?

40. Practically, how can you and I “fight the good fight”?

- 41.** Do you feel like you're in a battle? Are you "fighting the good fight" or have you given up? Paul believed it was Timothy's duty and responsibility to hold on to the faith. Do you feel that same responsibility?

It seems like Paul now uses navy terms, referring to Hymenaeus and Alexander as having been shipwrecked. We don't know much about these men. Hymenaeus is believed to be the same one mentioned in 2 Timothy 2:16-18. The name Alexander is listed in 2 Timothy 4:14-15 and Acts 19:33, but it was such a common name at the time that it is unknown whether or not this is the same one Paul mentions in 1 Timothy 1:20.

- 42.** Why does Paul equate rejecting the truth with being shipwrecked?

- 43.** What do you think Paul meant by the phrase "delivered to satan"? Read Matthew 18:15-17, 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14 and 1 Corinthians 5:3-5 for help.

- 44.** What is blasphemy?

- 45.** Why was the sin of blasphemy so serious? Why is it so dangerous within the church? In what ways is it possible for Christians to commit that sin today? Does it have to be "spoken" to be blasphemous?

Paul delivered these two men over to satan, meaning that he put them out of the church, or dis-fellowshipped them. They were taken out of the protection and covering of God's church and put into satan's grasp. This was not done to be mean, but to teach them that there were consequences to slandering God.

- 46.** Consider this statement: "A good conscience is the rudder that steers the Christian life." What does that mean?

Paul reminds Timothy that it was his duty as a leader to fight for the truth, to hold on to a good conscience, and to keep the church pure from false doctrine. Timothy readily stepped up to the plate and accepted Paul's charge. How about you? Are you ready to accept the charge to be a good soldier and fight the good fight?

This chapter lays the foundation for the rest of the book. I pray that as you study, you ask the Holy Spirit to show you how each and every verse applies to you. Whether you are in organized ministry or not, we all are called and commissioned by God, our Commander in Chief. When God calls your name ... do you step up to the plate? See you next week!

**"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to
God who alone is wise, be honor and
glory forever and ever. Amen."**

1 Timothy 1:17