

A large, dynamic splash of blue water, rendered in various shades from light to deep blue, occupies the upper half of the page. The splash is composed of many overlapping, fluid shapes and droplets, creating a sense of movement and energy. The word "TIMOTHY" is centered within this splash.

TIMOTHY

FOURTH
STREAM
FINDING HOPE

Welcome to 1 Timothy!

To begin your study of 1 Timothy, meditate upon the contents of the book reflected in the overview chart below. As you consider the three major sections, what do you learn about a possible purpose for this book? We have chosen 3:15 as a key verse that reflects the book's overall theme. As you meditate upon this verse, what instruction do you receive? If we are to participate in a healthy church community, we must practice the principles provided in this very practical book! God desires His Church to be the "pillar and support of the truth!"

1 TIMOTHY			Church's Ministry		
SOUND DOCTRINE		ORDERLY LIVING		GODLY MINISTRY	
1:5, 18, 20		2:1, 8; 3:2, 8		4:6, 16; 5:1, 17; 6:11, 12	
1		2-3		4-6	

"How we should conduct ourselves in the household of God."
 - 3:15

Also note the Scriptures listed within the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to investigate each one, looking for relationships between the section titles and key verses we have chosen. What have you learned thus far about 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy focuses our attention on God's concern that we would live within the truth in very specific ways. We are to pursue and hold out God's truth in a world that seems to endlessly slide ethics. We must pursue soundness in the church to build strength of moral character. We must also pursue a straightforward approach to our neighbors - speaking the truth in the face of adverse circumstances and even chilling unbelief. The church ministry must not only be relevant, it must be consistent with the truth revealed in the scriptures.

Open your heart as you read and meditate!

Are you able to discern sound teaching? Is your local church maintaining proper order through strong leadership based upon committed character? Are you fighting the fight in an accurate and effective manner? Finishing your course? Keeping the faith?

AUTHOR OF 1 TIMOTHY

Written by Paul, the older and experienced apostle, to Timothy, the young and inexperienced pastor-teacher of a large community of believers in Ephesus.

DATE

About 59 A.D.

HISTORY

Paul makes clear his purpose for writing this letter to Timothy in 3:14-15, "Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." We have summarized the theme of this verse and letter in the phrase "Church's Ministry." Paul states that the church's ministry must be built upon a solid foundation of truth (Chapter 1).

The second foundational element of the church's ministry is one of living worship which is the primary purpose for us to come together (Chapter 2). Paul then explains how spiritual leaders are to conduct themselves in God's household and gives a considerable list of character qualities by which a man aspiring to the office of elder or servant may evaluate himself (Chapter 3).

The next foundation stone Paul set in place is the issue of consistency between our lives and our message. Of special importance is our walk and talk (Chapter 4). Paul cites two groups that deserve special care and consideration in the church's ministry; widows - as well as spiritual leaders who rule well and work hard at preaching and teaching (Chapter 5). Paul concludes his letter with an exhortation to pursue true godliness - which will be great benefit to any church community's ministry (Chapter 6).

Why study the book of 1 Timothy?

1. To learn the essentials for any relational church ministry and establish those principles as the pattern for your own spiritual ministry in your local fellowship of believers.
2. To learn principles of helping others follow Christ as reflected in the relationship between Paul and Timothy.



1 Timothy Chapter Chart

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Soundness in Doctrine

Read Chapter 1

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		

Reading One: "The Fight of Faith"

Read 1:1-20

1. What do you learn about Paul's relationship with Timothy?
2. What challenges was Timothy experiencing?
3. What command and counsel was given to Timothy?
4. What do you sense as Paul's attitude and purpose in this letter?
5. What do you think it means to be "delivered over to Satan?"

What about today?

Paul seems to be encouraging Timothy to press on as he fights the good fight of faith. In what ways do you need to press forward in the fight? Are there any similar distractions in your own life to those Timothy may have encountered? Do you live with a "clear conscience?"

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Acts 20:18-35. What assured Paul of his own good conscience?

My thoughts about my own fight of faith:

Chapter Title

Key Verse

2		
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Reading Two: “Prayer and Women”

Read 2:1-15

1. What principles of prayer could you extract from this section?
2. What is the foundation Paul appeals to for his teaching on women? How does this relate to the issue of culture?
5. What is the application of 2:9 to today?
6. What does 2:15 mean and why is it placed here?

What about today?

How do you feel about your prayer life? Does your praying measure well to the standard that Paul is portraying? Do you think Paul’s stand on women was culturally skewed? We believe that the appeal to Adam and Eve for this teaching (who were neither Jewish nor from the same time period as Paul) negates the cultural argument often used for this passage. What place does culture play in interpreting Scripture?

Chapter Title

Key Verse

3		
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Reading Three: “Experiencing Leadership”

Read 3:1-16

1. What does it mean to aspire to something?
2. What is the "office" of an overseer?
3. What kind of a man should an elder be?
4. What are the differences between qualifying as an elder and that of a deacon or servant?
5. What does it mean to hold to the mystery of the faith?
6. How does the discourse of verse 16 relate to the statement of verse 15?

What about today?

The local church is supposed to be expressing all that the universal church is in the eyes of God. God is interested in conduct that produces honor. Do those who lead you have this kind of character? Do you know those who lead you well enough to know whether this standard is being applied? Note 1 Peter 5:1-5 for some further insight on church leadership.

Chapter Title

Key Verse

4		
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Reading Four: “All about Discipline”

Read 4:1-16

1. Do you believe we are in the last days? Where does the Spirit say these things?
2. What do verses 4 and 5 mean and how do they relate to the church today?
3. What did Paul define as nourishment?
4. What would be a present-day example of a worldly fable?
5. How does Paul see the relationship between bodily discipline and godliness?
6. Paul gives Timothy some specific commands in this section. What were they and why do you think each was given?
7. Note 1 Corinthians 7:9 and 1 Timothy 4:3 for some further insight into "laying on of hands."

What about today?

How has the apostasy of the last days affected you? What does it look like to engage when you "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness?" Direct each of the commands in this section toward yourself. What encouragement/admonishment and/or nourishment do you receive?

Chapter Title

Key Verse

5		
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Reading Five: “All about Relationships”

Read 5:1-16

1. Make a list of all that should be done for widows. Define what qualifies a widow for help within the church.
2. Note the context of 5:8.
3. What should be the usefulness of widows in the body and how should they occupy themselves?
4. 5:1 gives important instruction for the young, the old, and the in-between!

What about today?

What is the church’s responsibility toward widows today? Are you gentle and kind and generous in your dealings with others in the body? Read James 1:27 as you consider the issue of widows.

Godly Ministry

Read Chapter 5

Chapter Title

Key Verse

5		
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Reading Six: "About Spiritual Leaders"

Read 5:17-25

1. How would you define "double honor?"
2. What does it mean to "rule well?"
3. What does it mean to work hard at preaching and teaching?
4. How can a church muzzle an ox?
5. Elders are given a high standard. Why must this standard be maintained without bias?
6. What does it look like to lay hands on someone too quickly?
7. What do verses 24 and 25 mean in their context?

What about today?

Spiritual leaders are to maintain a high standard for pursuit of character. Read Hebrews 13:7 as you encourage yourself in your support of those who lead you - and for insight into your relationship with your church leaders.

Godly Ministry

Read Chapter 6

Chapter Title

Key Verse

6		
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Reading Seven: "What About Godliness?"

Read 6:1-21

1. What principles do we learn in 6:1-2 that can be practiced in a job situation?
2. What is the "doctrine conforming to godliness?"
3. How can one know if he or she is "content to be godly?"
4. Are you content with food and covering? What does this mean?
5. What can loving money eventually lead to?
6. Why is Paul's final charge so solemn? What makes it solemn?

What about today?

The tone of this section seems to indicate that we need to be careful to not be seduced from the ministry into the cares and desires of this world. Read James 5:1-6.

Welcome to 2 Timothy!

To begin your study of 2 Timothy, meditate upon the content of the book reflected in the overview chart below. As you consider the four major sections we have outlined, what do you learn about Paul's purpose in writing his second letter to Timothy? We have chosen 2:15 as a key verse that we feel reflects the book's overall theme of Church's Minister. As you meditate upon this verse, what instruction do you receive? If we are to be useful in building the Kingdom we must practice the principles of perseverance which are portrayed in this letter. God wants His followers to be unashamed workmen who can accurately handle the truth!

2 TIMOTHY Church's Minister

<p>Unashamed FAITH</p> <p>1:5,7,12,14</p>	<p>Disciplined STRENGTH</p> <p>2:1-6,22</p>	<p>DIFFICULT TIMES</p> <p>3:1,2,7,13-17</p>	<p>HOPE for the Future</p> <p>4:1-6</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

"A workman who does not need to be ashamed!" 2:15

Also note the scriptures listed within the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to investigate each one, looking for relationships between the section titles and key verses we have chosen. What have you learned so far about 2 Timothy?

This letter gives very practical instruction on what it means to have a persevering faith! As times become more difficult, there are and will be more and more things which seek to seduce us from faith. The very nature of the end times (3:1-9) indicates that it will be difficult to persevere in doing what is right. The church's minister (all who care for the Bride of Christ) must not only work, we must work in a manner consistent with God's revelation (2:1-2,15; 3:14-17).

Open your heart as you read and meditate!

Do you have any reason to question whether or not your faith is sincere? Is your life one of intentional, disciplined, spiritual strength? In what ways do you believe that these are difficult? Are you confident in the accuracy of your world view? Are you living for future reward or temporary pleasure?

AUTHOR OF 2 TIMOTHY

Paul - this letter could be considered the great apostle's last will and testimony. Paul bares his heart and gives a deep appeal to his own son in the faith!

DATE

Around A.D. 65-68 in Rome (1:16-17) from a prison (2:9) with Paul's death imminent (4:6-9). 2 Timothy was probably written during the persecution by the Emperor Nero. The letter was written to Timothy in Ephesus. Support for this is seen in the fact that greetings were sent to Onesiphorus who was from Ephesus (1:16-18; 4:19), the reference to Tychicus' coming to Ephesus may imply that Timothy was in Ephesus (4:12), and that he was to come to Rome by way of Troas, a normal route for journeying from Ephesus to Rome (4:13).

HISTORY

The purpose of this book is to render a sketch of a man of God who would care for Christ's Church. Such a person is described as "a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2:3), "a workman that does not need to be ashamed" (2:15), "a vessel for honor, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work" (2:21), "the Lord's bondservant" (2:24), and "the man of God" (3:17).

In addition to describing a spiritual leader-servant in this book, Paul also seems deeply passionate about stimulating Timothy to press on. He also hopes Timothy will come to him soon.

The specific areas in which Paul desired to encourage Timothy were his courage and faith, his opposition to false doctrine, and in choosing faithful men to join the "work."

Why study the book of 2 Timothy?

1. Today there are many misconceptions of what the church's "minister" is to be and do. This book, if thoroughly studied and applied, would settle many of these questions. The concept that there is some separation between "clergy" and laity is biblically disingenuous.

2. It reveals what was foremost in the heart and mind of a great minister - just before his death. This should help all workmen to set our priorities in proper perspective and to "fulfill our ministry" (4:5) by being fulfilled in true ministry.

3. To teach us principles of discipleship so that those whom we encourage spiritually will eventually come to do the same for others. There is no greater legacy than one of younger men and women energized to carry on the work of building Christ's Church!



2 Timothy Chapter Chart

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Unashamed Faith

Read Chapter 1

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		

Reading One "I Am Not Ashamed"

Read 1:1-18

1. What does it mean to serve God with a clear conscience?
2. In what ways is Paul a good example in prayer and love?
3. What does it mean when Paul "recalls the tears" of Timothy?
4. What do you think Paul meant by being ashamed?
5. To what three things was Paul appointed and what are the differences and significances of each?
6. What does Paul use from his own life to encourage Timothy?
7. What was the treasure?
8. What do you think were the reasons Paul refers to Phygelus and Hermogenes and Onesiphorus when he does?

What about today?

1. Do you have a clear conscience?
2. How would Paul be able to recall the evidence of your sincere faith?
3. In what ways do you see yourself "guarding the treasure?"

Paul is encouraging Timothy not to be ashamed or shrink back. Note Hebrews 10:35-39 and Joshua 1:7-9 in this regard. Are you unashamedly "pressing on?"

2		
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Reading Two: “Suffer, Compete, and Work”

Read 2:1-13

1. How can a person be "strong in grace?"
2. What are the "things" that are referred to here?
3. What are the three examples Paul uses to exemplify being strong in grace?
4. What instruction do each of these three examples give you concerning what it means to have a reliant and God-relevant faith?
5. What insight does verse 10 give into Paul’s theology related to sharing the Gospel?
6. Compare the words deny and endure of verse 12 with 4:7,8 and the three examples we have just considered. What do you learn?

What about today?

1. Who are the men you are observing as faithful to be entrusted with God's priorities?
2. How do you measure up in the suffering the hardship of being an obedient soldier? A disciplined athlete? A hard-working farmer?

Read Proverbs 20:6. Are you a faithful man by Paul’s standards? Faithful men appear to be difficult to find (2 Timothy 4:16)!

Reading Three: “An Unashamed Workman”

Read 2:14-26

1. What does it mean to "wrangle about words?"
2. Why was the sin of verse 18 such a bothersome one to Paul?
3. What are some "youthful lusts" from which you need to flee?
4. What does it mean to call upon the Lord from a pure heart?
5. Verse 24 is significant to anyone in leadership. It is all too easy to get frustrated and quarrel with those who are contentious or in error.

What about today?

1. In what ways are you proving to be a diligent workman?
2. In what ways are you accurately handling the word of truth? Do you have confidence in your knowledge of the Word and ways of God?

Flee youthful lust today! Read Genesis 39:7-18 in this regard. The choice to not flee youthful lust can have far-reaching consequences. :0

3		
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Reading Four: “Difficult Days and Times”

Read 3:1-9

1. Why do you think that being disobedient to parents is used in this solemn list?
2. What does it mean to love yourself?
3. How does the phrase "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" relate to American culture today? To the church in America today?
4. How do you picture an example of 3:5 in today's terms?
5. Who were Jannes and Jambres? Why are they used as an example in this context?

What about today?

Review this list of characteristics of mankind in the last days and honestly ask yourself how you measure up. We must be careful to not have a mere "form of godliness" in our devotion. In the future everything will be revealed - including the motives of our hearts (1 Corinthians 4:5)!

Reading Five: “A Persevering Workman”

Read 3:10-17

1. What were the things Timothy was to emulate in Paul's example and what do you think it meant to exemplify each one?
2. In this context, what does it mean to desire to live godly?
3. How do we avoid being taken in by evil men and imposters?
4. What is the Word good for in life? Do you know what each "profitable thing" means? What are some concrete examples of each?
5. What is the purpose of knowing the sacred writings?

What about today?

1. In what ways have you suffered true persecution for the sake of righteousness?
2. In what ways have you been taught through the Scriptures? Reproved? Corrected? (compare 4:2).

The sacred writings lead us to salvation. We must be careful to not be drawn away from the path of true wisdom. The Living Word is taught by the Holy Spirit of God (compare Proverbs 1:20-33).

4		
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Reading Six: “A Solemn Charge”

Read 4:1-8

1. Note the use of the word solemn. This is possibly Paul’s last communication with Timothy - as well as the church. What would be the last things you would want to convey to your own dear son or daughter in the faith?
2. Why does Paul view this imperative in such a weighty manner?
3. What does it mean to be poured out as a drink offering? Note Philippians 2:17.
4. What does it mean to love His appearing?

What about today?

1. In what ways do you see yourself as sober in mind?
2. In what ways are you enduring hardship?
3. How are you engaging in the work of an evangelist?
4. How is the ministry described in 2 Timothy being fulfilled in your life?

Let us hope God will find us profitable servants - faithful in little and entrusted with much!
Matthew 25:14-30

Reading Seven: “Personal Insights”

Read 4:9-22

1. Demas is an example of someone who did not persevere (Colossians 4:14). How do you think this kind of situation made Paul feel?
2. Mark is an example of someone who once did not persevere but had since become faithful (Acts 12:12; 13:13; 15:36-41).
3. How do we see Paul’s reliance upon God in this section?
4. What did it mean to be delivered out of the lion’s mouth?

What about today?

Paul could not afford to have a faith that would rise and fall with circumstances. Nor can we. Paul persevered because of future reward, not merely the blessings of the present! Do you have the same unashamed commitment to experiencing God’s reward?

CONCLUSION

The Church’s minister must be a person who has a true and working faith. He must be bold in his confidence in God and meek in his confidence in the flesh. He must be a man who holds up under trial - believing that future glory is not even worthy to be compared with the sufferings of this life. Are you this kind of servant of God’s people?