



1 AND 2 TIMOTHY: Week 2

Author: Carrie Busch
Project Supervisor: Nick Diliberto & Becky Forkel
Artwork: Kate Forkel
Editor: Angela Ivey

Created by Ministry To Youth
www.ministrytoyouth.com

1 AND 2 TIMOTHY

WEEK 2: Serving God and Loving Others

BIBLE: 1 Timothy 4:12 - *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.*

BOTTOM LINE: Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. (Taken from **1 Timothy 6:11**)

SUMMARY OF WEEK 1

Last week, we studied 1 Timothy 1-3.

This book of the Bible was written by Paul to Timothy, a young man of faith.

We learned that Timothy was leading the church in Ephesus.

Paul gave Timothy lots of advice concerning this leadership position, much of which sounds really difficult!

From calling out false teachings to making sure that other leaders were handling their positions with wisdom and godliness, Paul was sure to advise Timothy on what the church should look like.

But he also encouraged him not to fear the challenges that were sure to come.

Before we move on to 1 Timothy 4, let's start with some discussion questions.

Discussion questions:

1. What does our culture say about young people in leadership roles?
Is it common to see young people leading?
Why or why not?
2. What character traits come to mind when you think of godly leadership?
Do you welcome advice from spiritual mentors?
3. How do you respond to constructive criticism when it comes to your walk with Christ?

LESSON

Read 1 Timothy 4.

1 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. **2** These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.

3 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. **4** Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. **5** For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer.

6 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. **7** Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. **8** "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." **9** This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. **10** 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.

11 Teach these things and insist that everyone learn them. **12** 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. **13** Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.

14 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. **15** Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. **16** 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.

Wow. No pressure, right?

In these verses, Paul tells Timothy to teach others by modeling holy living.

In other words, we must be an example to others in everything we do.

This is a lot of pressure.

Apply this advice to your own life.

Do you set an example of godly living for your family, your peers, or your circle of influence?

Have you ever assumed that your age determined your effectiveness as a role model?

Timothy was young, but Paul encouraged him not to let anyone look down upon him.

I think we can all relate to this idea.

We tend to equate age with wisdom, and this isn't always the case.

Sometimes, we can learn from those who are younger than we are.

And this is exactly what Paul wanted Timothy to see.

He believed that Timothy could lead this church just as effectively as an older person could.

He knew that Timothy's actions—the way he lived and loved and his show of faith and purity—is what makes up effective leadership.

Yes, our words matter.

But our actions show what we really believe and value.

At the end of 1 Timothy 4, Paul reminds us why setting an example is so critical.

Let's read it again.

16 *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.*

Discussion questions:

1. Why is it so important for Timothy and us as believers to set a godly example for others?

What are the consequences of us not doing so?

2. At what age do you think people can become spiritual leaders?

Why so?

3. On a scale of 1-10, how comforting is it to know that God is with you as you lead?

Is it hard to trust Him to help you?

Read 1 Timothy 5.

1 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. 2 Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.

3 Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her. 4 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.

5 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. 6 But the widow who lives only for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives. 7 Give these instructions to the church so that no one will be open to criticism.

8 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.

9 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. 10 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?

11 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. 12 Then they would be guilty of breaking their previous pledge. 13 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. 14 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. 15 For I am afraid that some of them have already gone astray and now follow Satan.

16 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.

17 Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. **18** 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!”

19 Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. **20** Those who sin should be reprimanded in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others.

21 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.

22 Never be in a hurry about appointing a church leader. Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

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

24 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. **25** In the same way, the good deeds of some people are obvious. And the good deeds done in secret will someday come to light.

The early church was a place to find help, security, and truth.

Today's churches should also fulfill this calling.

In the verses that we just read, Paul goes into detail about how the church should help the widow.

Of course, Paul is sure to explain what a true widow is (a godly woman over 60 whose husband has died and left her alone).

On the other hand, widows who still have living family members should not be taken care of by the church, but rather by their family members.

Here, Paul is simply distinguishing between those who are truly in need and those who already should have help.

Paul then explains that those who preach and teach (those in leadership roles) should be honored and paid well for their hard work.

Just as the church should honor the faithful widow, the church should give “double honor” to the leader who preaches and teaches faithfully.

Why?

Because, through the leader's hard work, truth goes out into the community and deep spiritual needs are met.

And spiritual needs are more important than physical needs.

Without those who preach and teach, where would Timothy's church hear the truth?

In the last section of these verses, Paul makes an interesting statement about good works and sin.

Both can be obvious, and both can be hidden, but both will also come to light eventually.

This is a good reminder for us because we may tend to assume that we know everything about a person based on a quick judgment of their outward appearance and behavior.

But we aren't the "judge".

God is.

If you ever end up in a spiritual leadership role like Timothy, remember this advice from Paul.

We are not God, and we'll never be able to look on the heart like God does.

All we can do as leaders is spend time in God's Word, pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit, and lead with wisdom that comes from being in relationship with God.

May we always be humbled when we're tempted to look down upon and judge others!

May we always be gentle in our approach!

And may our interactions with those we lead be filled with truth and love.

Discussion questions:

1. What was the mission of the early church?

Do you see that mission reflected in modern American churches?

2. Describe a time when your church helped someone in need.

What was it like to be a part of that generosity?

3. Have you ever made a decision without much thought?
What, if any, were the consequences of this rushed decision?

Read 1 Timothy 6.

1 All slaves should show full respect for their masters so they will not bring shame on the name of God and his teaching. 2 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. 3 Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. 4 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. 5 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.

6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 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. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

9 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. 10 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.

11 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. 12 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. 13 And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 15 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. 16 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.

17 *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. 18 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. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

20 *Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. 21 Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness.*

May God's grace be with you all.

In these verses, Paul distinguishes between those who appear godly for the sake of wealth and those who are godly because they live in contentment and pursue holiness.

In other words, for some people, it's all about appearance.

Whereas with others; it's about reality.

To determine which of these two groups we fall into, we need to ask ourselves the following question:

What do I long for?

Ask yourself what desires are built up in your heart.

Are they about status, wealth, position, or success?

Or are they centered on holiness, purity, godliness, and truth?

Sometimes, the answer isn't what we wish it would be.

But now is the time to figure out where our desires are, repent for them if they don't align with God's purposes, and move forward in pursuit of God's way.

Trust me, there's nothing that will satisfy like God satisfies.

We are surrounded by a culture that glorifies success, money, and status.

But these will always leave us empty.

They will keep us thinking, “If I could just get more money,” or “Once I get this car or house or toy, I’ll be happy.”

In verses 17 and 18, Paul reminds us that we’ll find “true life” and “riches” in doing good works for the glory of God.

Sounds impossible, right?

God’s Word will often command us to do things that contradict our values, our instincts, and our worldly knowledge.

“The last shall be first.”

“The humbled shall be exalted.”

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

So, we shouldn’t be surprised when the Bible, time and time again, tells us that we will truly live when we die to ourselves.

When your life’s priorities become about God’s people, His church, His truth, and obedience of His commands, you will find the satisfaction and fulfillment that you crave.

Discussion questions:

1. If you could do anything, reach any goal, what would you be doing in 10 years?
2. Why do you think the Bible teaches against money so frequently?
3. Describe a time where you felt satisfaction in helping others.