



to the
HOUSEHOLDER
1 TIMOTHY

1 TIMOTHY TO THE HOUSEHOLDER

Week	Passage	
1	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Timothy's Charge
2	1 Timothy 1:12-20	The Authority of the Gospel and Paul's Experience
3	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Prayer in God's Household
4	1 Timothy 2:8-15	Men and Women in God's Household
5	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Leadership in God's Household
6	1 Timothy 3:14-4:16	Timothy's Pastoral Priority
7	1 Timothy 5:1-16	Various Household Instructions
8	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2	Various Household Instructions
9	1 Timothy 6:3-10	The Danger of Loving Money
10	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Timothy's Final Charge

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

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INTRODUCTION



1 TIMOTHY TO THE HOUSEHOLDER

Timothy is Paul's appointed pastor at the church in Ephesus. The earliest reference to the coming of the gospel to this city is 52 A.D. when Paul made a short visit and left Aquila and Priscilla there (Acts 18:18-21). The goal of Paul's third missionary journey was Ephesus. He stayed there for two years (Acts 19:8,10), no doubt attracted by its strategic importance as a commercial, political and religious centre.

Historical Setting

It is difficult to precisely date the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) since the only internal reference occurs in 1 Timothy 1:3 where Paul commands Timothy to remain at Ephesus while he heads to Macedonia. When we come to 2 Timothy however, we find Paul imprisoned in Rome and facing imminent death. The difficulty is in knowing whether or not this is the Roman imprisonment recorded in Acts 28, although it is unlikely.

Paul's first Roman imprisonment is usually dated between 59-64 A.D. It is most probable that he wrote this letter sometime between 64 and 66 A.D. Paul was executed by Nero in 68 A.D.

Who is Timothy?

Timothy was a young man of mixed Jewish-Greek lineage whom Paul met on his first missionary journey some 20 years before (Acts 13:4-14-27). His Jewish mother and grandmother were both believers (2 Timothy 1:5). The closeness of Paul's relationship with Timothy is shown by his frequent reference to him as his "son" (1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2:1).

Paul often took Timothy along on special assignments to difficult ministries such as Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1-10), Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:17), Macedonia (Acts 19:22), Philippi (Philippians 2:19-24) and, as shown in this letter, to Ephesus.

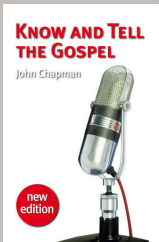
Paul's instruction to Timothy may lead us to think that Timothy was timid. However, it is unlikely that Paul would have entrusted such difficult ministries to someone who lacked courage or decisiveness. More likely, Paul's instructions were designed to encourage a young man facing intense opposition in Ephesus.

What is Paul's Purpose in Writing to Timothy?

The purpose of the letter (1:3) is to counter false teaching by encouraging Timothy to stand for and proclaim the truth (1:18, 19; 6:11-16). Various issues of misconduct within the church (see 1 Timothy 5 especially) seem to have arisen as a result of false teaching, which appears to be a mixture of Judaeo-gnosticism and Hellenistic asceticism. In much simpler terms, there was an emphasis on Old Testament Judaism (1:4,7,8), which required "special knowledge" along with a view of the material world as somehow evil (4:1-5).

This is a personal letter written to a dear friend and a mature Christian, struggling with a need for practical guidance on how to handle the affairs of a church under attack from within. In 1 Timothy, we'll learn God's wisdom for how such a church can continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

SUGGESTED READING



Know and Tell the Gospel, John Chapman

For most Christians, clearly explaining the Christian gospel to someone is more of a dream than a reality. We feel inadequate and reluctant, but at the same time eager to see our friends come to Christ.

Know and Tell the Gospel deals with all the questions that so quickly come to mind on this subject. Just what is the gospel anyway? Is it my job to explain it to people? What is

God's role and what is mine? Where does church fit in? Why is evangelism so often hard? And how can we train ourselves and others to be involved?

In his characteristically friendly and engaging way, John 'Chappo' Chapman provides warm encouragement, insightful Biblical teaching, and a wealth of practical information on evangelism for all Christians.

This new edition has been extensively revised and re-written, and contains up-to-date information and evaluation on current resources for evangelism.

Know and Tell the Gospel is a must read for every Christian who is keen to take the gospel to our lost world.

DAY 2

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. What hints are there in this passage about the closeness of Paul's relationship with Timothy?

2. Paul's father/son imagery is a helpful picture of a discipling relationship between an experienced church leader and younger leader. No doubt Paul's investment in Timothy's life significantly enabled him to take on such a difficult ministry assignment. Investing in other people's lives for the sake of the gospel is a central part of Jesus' Great Commission to see the kingdom of God grow (Matthew 28:18-20). Have you considered how you might invest yourself in another person to see them grow?

Prayer. Pray about how you might begin intentionally investing in someone else. This could be your kids, grandkids, friend/s, spouse, those you serve in ministry with, or others. Where could you begin?

WEEK 1: 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. As we will see in this letter, the gospel integrity of a church's teaching will powerfully shape the way God's people relate together for good or for ill. The Ephesian church was suffering because of false teaching and was spinning out of control as a result. Paul's charge to Timothy was to shut down the false teaching and see the gospel take its rightful place again at the heart of the church.
 - a. What is the goal of the task given to Timothy?

 - b. What things would produce this love?

 - c. How might these things produce love?

2. Would you describe yourself as a person of love? Is that how those close to you would describe you? How might you grow in inner purity, in conscience and in the authenticity of your faith?

Prayer: Pray that God would grow you as a person of love.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20



This week, we will look at the authority of the gospel and Paul's personal experience of its transforming power. To begin, we will look back again at 1:1-11 to clarify the problem with the false teachers' understanding when teaching the law.

DAY 1

Read 1 Timothy 1:3-11; Romans 3:20

1. What parts of the law do the false teachers seem to be focused on, and how does Paul respond?

2. Paul says that the law is "good" when rightly used (verse 8)?
 - a. What is the law's purpose according to this passage?

 - b. How does this compare with Paul's teaching in Romans 3:20?

3. It seems the false teachers thought of the law as a moral code to live by, but Paul says this is to entirely misunderstand its purpose and limit its usefulness to the world of unbelievers (lawbreakers). In this sense, it is of no value to the Christian (the righteous) because God's intended fulfillment of the law is love – a self-giving love for God and each other (1:5). This kind of love can only be produced through the transformation that comes through the hope of the gospel (1:11). How does this truth help us today if we want to grow in love?

Prayer. Pray that God might increase your desire to know and delight in the gospel so that you might increasingly display the fruit of love.

DAY 2

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

1. In 1 Timothy 1:10-11, Paul argued that gospel-based sound doctrine is what produces the fruit of a transformed life, a life of love. Why is Paul's personal story such a powerful example of the transforming power of the gospel?
2. Paul said that the goal of love was possible through a sincere/authentic faith (1:5). How does this passage make clear what this faith looks like?
3. How is Paul's testimony helpful for us to hear today as we think about friends, family, workmates, or others we know who seem so far away from the gospel?

Prayer. Pray that God would open up a way for you to speak about the gospel with the people you know, and that they might be drawn to see His glory, and find forgiveness and eternal life. Pray also for our mission partners in their work to reach others with the gospel.

DAY 4

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

1. Why was Paul shown mercy?
2. Knowing what you do of Paul's character, how does knowledge of God's patience encourage you?

Prayer. Spend some time thanking God for His patience with you and ask that in this respect, He might make you more like Himself.

WEEK 2: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Back in 1 Timothy 1:3, Paul gave Timothy a solemn charge: "...command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer." After a lengthy but important digression he now returns to this charge: "Fight the good fight holding on to faith and a good conscience".

1. What do you think Timothy's fight is?

2. Why is it important to do it by holding on to faith and a good conscience?

3. What has caused Alexander and Hymenaeus to run their Christian lives aground? Here is a warning to us. How might the absence of these things begin to destroy a Christian?

Prayer: Pray that God might deepen your faith and sharpen your conscience so that you might stay strong in the Christian life.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7



DAY 1

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The next two chapters (1 Timothy 2 and 3) form one teaching unit. In 3:14-15 Paul tells us why he has written these chapters. It is so that Timothy will “know how they should conduct themselves in God’s household.” It is most likely that this instruction is given to correct the impact of the false teachers on the way people are thinking and living.

1. How would you describe Paul’s tone in these opening verses?

2. What is the subject matter of Paul’s first instruction to Timothy?

3. What does this tell you about the importance of prayer in the life of the church?

Prayer: How might you pray about your attitude towards prayer while you are gathered with God’s people each week? Is praying with others a part of your Christian life? Who could you pray with this week at church?

DAY 2

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Yesterday, we reflected on the importance of prayer in our life together as God's people. Today, we will focus on the type of prayer Paul is urging and why it matters.

1. Often our prayers are directed towards our personal needs, and for good reason most of the time. While not diminishing this need, what is Paul calling Christians to focus on in prayer? (See verses 1-2)
2. How does a country's leadership impact the ability of God's people to live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness?
3. What issues are we facing in Australia today that would impact our ability to live Christian lives peacefully and effectively in all godliness and holiness?

Prayer. How might you pray for our nation and its leadership today?

WEEK 3: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

It seems most likely that the false teaching was promoting an early gnostic idea that 'salvation' came through special knowledge, which was only available to a select few.

1. Looking at verses 3-4, how might Paul's teaching here correct this gnostic teaching?
2. What does Paul say about God's intention for all people?
3. How does this reason provide the right motivation to pray for all people and those in authority (verses 1-2)?

Prayer: God's heart is for the nations, for people from all over the globe. Pray that God would grant us a heart for all people in line with His so that we might together pray for the nations to hear and respond to the gospel.

DAY 4

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

1. What has God done that ensures salvation can be made possible to all people? (See verses 5-6)

The word Paul uses for 'ransom' in verse 6 occurs only once in the New Testament. It means, "that which is given in exchange for another as the price of redemption". Since Jesus paid our ransom to set us free from slavery to sin, we are rightfully His possession (1 Corinthians 6:20).

2. Meditate on this ransom paid. What implications does it have for your life?

Prayer. Pray that you might grasp more deeply what it means to belong to Jesus as one who has been ransomed by Him. What areas of your life do you struggle to surrender to Him and His service?



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15



MEN AND WOMEN IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

This week's passage is a contentious one in today's culture. In fact, it may be a difficult passage for you for a range of different reasons. We live largely on the other side of a vigorous 30-year campaign to see the equal status of women recognised in a range of spheres in our society – and at many levels we totally applaud this! However, in our current cultural climate, the debate for gender equality is pushing so strongly that it now seeks to do away with gender distinction entirely.

As Christians, we want to endorse whole-heartedly the equal value, dignity and worth of all people regardless of gender, race or religion. However, we need to be clear in our thinking about gender roles. To do this, we must come before God in His Word and seek to understand how He made us and how He intends us to live as His image bearers. John Stott, a well-known pastor and theologian, helpfully challenges us that “we must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behaviour”.

For Christians, the nature of God Himself allows us to appreciate that while co-equal in their divinity, the Father, Son and Spirit share a clear distinction in roles. The difference in roles in no way diminishes their individual value. It is from our understanding of God that we can now begin to consider the way God has made all people. We are male and female, both bearing His image, with clear gender and role distinctions that in no way affect our intrinsic value as people.

In fact, it is with an appreciation of gender and role distinction that we find God's purpose for marriage: men and women are different but complementary. It has been that way from the beginning as can be seen in Genesis 2:18 where the woman is made as God's image bearer, but her role is to be man's 'helper'. As we will see through 1 Timothy 2-3, this distinction also importantly shapes the way God intends His church's leadership to be shaped.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

In this passage, God's plan is given for how men and women are to understand their roles in marriage. The type of submission a woman is to exercise finds its pattern from the believer who voluntarily surrenders themselves to the authority of a loving saviour, Jesus. The wife is called on to voluntarily surrender her right to rule in the relationship, while the husband is commanded to love, nurture and care for his wife self-sacrificially.

1. In verses 22-30, different roles are entrusted to the husband and the wife. What reasons are given to explain these different roles? What model are they based on?

2. The initiative for spiritual leadership in God's created order rests with the man.
 - a. For men, in what practical ways do you need to work at fulfilling your God-given role here?
(If you are married, discuss with your wife. If you are not married, consider how is this a helpful model for understanding the nature of manhood?)

 - b. For women, what does it mean in practice for you to submit to your husband's headship?
(If you're married, discuss with your husband. If you're not married, consider how is this a helpful model for understanding the nature of womanhood?)

Prayer. How can you pray about your responses today? Is your thinking in line with God's about gender roles in marriage? What steps can you take to grow in this area?

WEEK 4: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15



DAY 2

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-10

In verse 8, Paul continues his concern that prayers should be made for everyone (2:1). It goes without saying of course that women should also pray – and indeed, frequently they do so with more diligence than men!

1. What negative impact might the false teaching be having on men's and women's behaviour in the church for Paul to be saying these things?

2. Why is the command that men pray an appropriate expression of their role described in Ephesians 5? (See yesterday's notes)
 - a. For men, do you show yourself to be one who takes the initiative to lead spiritually in your families and other relationships? In your leadership, are you growing in holiness?

 - b. For women, consider your attitudes to dress and outward appearance. Are they in keeping with God's encouragement to you here? Why is it important to be mindful of your outward appearance?

Prayer: Take time to reflect on your responses. Our external life reveals our inner life and God is concerned we grow in both areas. How might you pray about this today?

DAY 3

Read 1 Corinthians 11:3-12

In today's passage, Paul is concerned that God should be honoured by the manner in which public worship is conducted. Paul tells us that God's honour is reflected through the way men and women understand themselves in relation to each other, and to God.

1. What can you discover from this passage about God's order in creation? (See verse 3)
 - a. Does this imply that Jesus is inferior to the Father?

 - b. If not, what is being said about the relationship between the Father and the Son? (See also John 4:34, 6:38, 8:28, 14:31, and Matthew 26:39)

2. In verses 7-12, how do men and women differ from one another by virtue of their created order (verses 7-9)? How are they the same (verse 11-12)?

DAY 4

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-14

These verses develop further what is said at the end of verse 10. They aim to fill out the idea of “good deeds that are appropriate for women who profess to worship God”. It is important to remember that the context of this chapter is explained in 1 Timothy 3:14-15, where Paul makes it clear that these instructions demonstrate “how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household”.

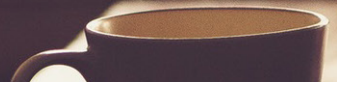
1. What are women commanded not to do in verses 11-12?

2. What reasons are given for this prohibition in verses 13-14?

3. In what way was Adam’s sin different from Eve’s?
 - a. How is the order of creation reversed in this episode?

4. In contrast to Paul’s prohibition for women to teach in this passage, he commands that God’s people teach “one another” in Colossians 3:16. How might the expression of teaching in 1 Timothy differ to that in Colossians 3:16?

Prayer. As we have seen in the readings over the past few days, it is not an insignificant thing that the roles of men and women are clearly understood and enacted. God’s honour is tied to this matter. Do you come to this matter feeling the weight of God’s honour as you ought? What do you need to pray about regarding your responses today?



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 2:15

This verse is surely one of the most difficult in all of the New Testament; however, the clues to its likely meaning lie, as always, in the ideas that surround it.

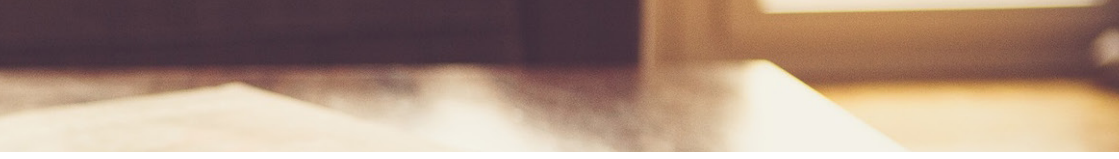
1. What could Paul mean by the word “saved”? How do the surrounding verses help?

Since God is always consistent in what He says, this verse cannot mean that the salvation of women depends on their bearing of children! (See Ephesians 2:8-9). Almost without exception when Paul speaks of being saved, it is rescue from judgment that he has in mind. Given this, there are two possible interpretations:

- i. The words should read as in the Revised Version: “she shall be saved by means of the child-bearing” (i.e. the Messiah referring to the promised ‘serpent crusher’ in Genesis 3:15).
- ii. The verse says that women will be saved as they work at being models of godliness, known for their good works, which according to 1 Timothy 5:11 and 14 include marriage, bearing children and keeping a good home.

Notice, however, that Paul cannot bear to imply that salvation might be attained by this good deed, so he adds the proviso at the end that she is a woman of faith who continues in this with love and holiness with propriety.

2. What things in verses 9-14 speak for the first interpretation above?

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3. What things in verses 9-14 speak for the second interpretation? (See also 1 Timothy 4:16, Titus 2:4-5)
 - a. For women, what does this passage teach you about what it means to live a godly life?
 - b. For men, what do you need to do to help women live as the scriptures call them to?

Prayer. Pray that God would help you want to honour Him with your life.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 3:6-7

Desire has at least some part in the office of an overseer (1 Timothy 3:1). However, in sinful beings, even the best desire can be corrupted!

1. How do these verses suggest that desire may be corrupted?
2. It is important for an overseer to have a good reputation with outsiders. How does the non-Christian community regard you as a citizen, a neighbour, a member of your family, a member of a sporting team?
3. Pride is the essence of sin. It expresses itself in all kinds of ways and none them are good! As sinful people, it so important to guard ourselves against pride for the sake of the gospel. Where do you see pride impacting your life in unhelpful ways?

Prayer: How can you pray about your responses today for yourself? Pray also for your church leaders and mission partners because pride is a great risk to them too. Pray they would remain faithful and humble before God in their ministry.

WEEK 5: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

1. Verses 6-10 suggest that caution is exercised before appointing overseers or deacons (meaning 'servants'). What kind of "test" do you think Paul had in mind? (See verse 10)
2. Verse 13 seems a bit unusual. "Deacons who have served well gain an excellent standing", but with whom? And "great assurance in their faith", but how? Paul cannot mean that their service somehow earns them points with God, so what does he mean? Does Philemon 6-7 help to shed light on Paul's comment?
3. Since all Christians are deacons (in a broader sense), how can you best serve the body of believers here at EV Church?

Prayer: Pray about how you might extend yourself by serving in ministry to help see your brothers and sisters in Christ grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

DAY 2

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1. Verse 16 is most likely an early Christian hymn (or part of one), which Paul has included to explain the “mystery of godliness”. The word “mystery” refers to something previously hidden but now revealed. For Paul, “godliness” is a word used to describe the integration of faith (truth of the gospel) and behaviour (fruit of the gospel). Here, the focus of what godliness looks like includes all the teaching from chapters 2-3 about how to live as a member of God’s household.

How does Paul’s quoting of this hymn provide a reason or basis for this new way of living that has been revealed? (See also 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:5-6.)

2. The humanity of Jesus (Christology) is the basis on which reconciliation between people and God can take place; this is a major theme in this letter. It seems as though Paul wants to awaken the church to their global gospel mission by reminding them of the ransoming work of the man, Jesus Christ (while at the same time correcting false teaching, which seems to be inward focused and anti-flesh, see 1 Timothy 4:1-5).

How does reflecting on the centrality of Jesus’ global mission help re-focus us as a church today?

3. In what ways do you give your time and energy to see that people hear the gospel?

Prayer. Pray that God would awaken you and refocus you on the central priority of seeing the good news of Jesus made known. What steps can you take to be better equipped to do this?

DAY 4

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-10

1. What does Paul say is the mark of the good minister or servant of Christ?
2. What do you think it means to train yourself to be godly? Consider Hebrews 5:12-14.
3. What would a 'godliness training routine' look like for you?

Prayer. Pray that God would stir your heart to want to know the gospel more deeply, to take the steps necessary for your growth so that you would make decisions in your life that reflect the gospel's priority.

WEEK 6: 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:16



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16

1. How was Timothy to overcome the tendency of some people to look down on him because of his age?
2. Reflect on your own progress in the five areas Paul mentions to Timothy in verse 12. Which areas are you doing well in? Which areas do you need to give more attention to?
3. Why does our growth and progress matter so much, especially for our leaders?

Prayer: Pray that God would stir you to greater growth in the Christian life, that the fruit of the gospel might be obvious in your life. Pray also that the example of your life might be a powerful encouragement to those around you for their growth and good.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16



DAY 1

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16

1. What issue/s seems to dominate this passage?
2. Timothy was a young man and would face many difficult and potentially tempting situations (5:11). How does Paul's instruction in 5:1-2 help him approach these situations with a godly mind?
3. Think about your own life and relationships. How is Paul's instruction here important for you to take on board today?

Prayer: Pray that you might have great wisdom in your relationships so that you are freed to love them with honour and respect. Pray also that you might not fall into temptation or sin.

DAY 2

Read Acts 6:1-7

Right from the beginning, caring for widows was an important aspect of church life. As you can imagine, the overwhelming nature of this need could have easily taken over the time of the Apostles.

1. What do we learn here about how the Apostles managed this need?
2. Without diminishing the need to care for the widows, what is the greater work the Apostles were to give their time to?
3. What was the result of the church appointing deacons to manage the care of widows instead of the Apostles?
4. There is an important principle here that we need to continue to wrestle with today. In what ways can we work together as a church in order to see the gospel make the greatest impact?

Prayer. Pray that God would grow your conviction about the central importance of seeing people saved and matured as the gospel is taught. In what roles are you serving at church? How might you be able to stretch yourself in your service to see people grow? If you're not serving, what could you do to maximise our potential impact to teach more people about Jesus? Pray about your responses.

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-10

One important problem in the church at Ephesus was the younger widows. Widows and single mothers have unique needs that are easily overlooked.

1. According to what Paul says here, what responsibilities do we have for our own families? What is the warning if we neglect to care for our own families?
2. Who are the widows in genuine need (verses 5, 9-10, 16)? If you are among us as a widow, what encouragement or word of exhortation do you have from God here?
3. Are you aware of anyone in our fellowship who lacks the support of their families and are in need? How could you help?

Prayer: Pray that God would grant us all wise and generous hearts, ready to love and share with those in need, beginning with those in our own families.

DAY 4

Read 1 Timothy 5:11-16

1. What reasons does Paul give for not putting younger widows on the “list”?

Verses 11-12 are a little tricky to understand at first reading. It seems that being put on the ‘list’ involved some formal duties performed on the basis of a pledge. Some have suggested this duty was conditional based on a vow of singleness but that seems an unnecessary conclusion in light of Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 7:39.

Paul’s purpose is to see people’s behaviour shaped in such a way that gives “the enemy no opportunity for slander”. Most likely he means to contrast the lifestyle of the false teachers, which have brought the church community into disrepute.

2. What do we learn here about avoiding temptation? (See also 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13).
3. Gossip can be an easy thing to get entangled in. Sharing what is not yours to share with those who don’t need to know is neither wise nor helpful. It’s really destructive! Do you ever find yourself talking to someone about someone else in a manner that is neither loving nor helpful? Do you find yourself asking about people’s lives out of curiosity rather than love or concern?

Prayer. Pray that God would help us relate together in a way that is loving, constructive, respectful and honouring of each other. If you find yourself with excess time on your hands, seek ways to use your time tirelessly to do good works – to love and serve God’s people in a godly way.

WEEK 7: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 5:11-16

Verse 16 is another difficult verse but it seems most likely that Paul is returning to his general concern that widows are cared for. Initially, the responsibility of care was given to the immediate family. Then, guidelines were given about those who could be placed on the list for the church to care for and those who shouldn't be. It seems most likely that Paul now returns to the concern to care for those who may fall in between these categories, but are in genuine need. He does this by appealing to some women in the congregation to make sure care is offered to these widows without further burdening the church. Most likely these are the wives of men who have sufficient wealth to share, or perhaps they themselves are wealthy in their own right. Generosity towards those in genuine need, especially those in God's household, is an important mark of the church's health.

1. Do you find it easy to be generous towards those in need?

2. One way to assess how important something is to you is to let it go, or give it away. Generosity towards those in need is not only a blessing to those who need it, it's also an important way to grow in your own godliness. Jesus said, "it's more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35). When it comes to thinking about your wealth, how healthy are you?

Prayer. Pray that God might make it possible for you this week to bless someone who really needs it.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-6:2



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 5:21-6:1-2

1. What is the connection between Timothy's appointment of leaders in verse 22 and "sharing in the sins of others"? (See verses 24-25)
2. What is the principle here for us? (See also 1 Timothy 3:10)
3. Nothing remains a secret forever; eventually both sin and good deeds bear fruit in a person's life. How is this a challenge (and an encouragement) to you today?

Prayer: Pray God would help you honour him wholeheartedly with all your life, both what you do in public, and what you do in private. Confess your sin today, come before the Lord and be honest about your struggle to live a godly life and seek His forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Acknowledge and receive His forgiveness and pray that the fruit of your life lived for God might be evident and bring glory to God.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. Where does the real problem with wealth lie? (See also Luke 16:13-14)
2. Does this mean Christians should not have lots of money? Does it also mean Christians should never pursue earning lots of money? (See also Proverbs 10:4, 10:22, 22:4; and Luke 16:9-12)

To pursue wealth because of your love of it is a spiritually dangerous thing, and Jesus warns us sternly about it. Of itself, money is nothing: it has no life or power, but when it's made the object of our affections, we bring it to life as a rival god, an idol. However, when viewed rightly, money can be used for great good as well. Mathew Henry writes, "People may have money, and yet not love it; but, if they love it inordinately, it will push them on to all evil."

There can be a thin line between the pursuit of money for godly ends and the love of money, so let us take care not to be deceived by the false promises of wealth. At the same time, let us never look down on those believers we know who have been blessed by the Lord with material wealth. Such an attitude is also evil.

3. How well do you know your own heart? Are you able to discern whether your attitude towards money is a problem for you? Start giving it away and you'll soon find out. Instead of storing it up for yourself, invest your money in seeing God's kingdom grow.

Prayer. Pray that you would not desire what is not good for you. Instead, pray that God grants you growth in godliness and contentment regardless of what you have so that you would be generous without counting the cost.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 6:19-24

1. One of the great realities the gospel reveals is that life on earth is fleeting, it will soon pass and what is to come is so much more important. What do you learn here about the connection of your heart to your treasure?
2. If your eyes are focused on your earthly treasure, what does Jesus say about the health of your heart?
3. How does verse 24 help us find the way forward when it comes to money?
4. Our money must be forced to serve the greater purposes of God's kingdom. We must make it the servant so it doesn't become the master. Do you give generously towards the gospel work at EV Church? Do you give towards our mission partners? Have you thought about financially supporting an MTS apprentice at EV Church? Have you considered supporting a new church plant through Geneva Push?

Prayer. Thank God that there are many opportunities to make our money serve the greater purposes of God in the world. How might you stretch yourself in your giving?

WEEK 9: 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-10



DAY 5

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. The tone of Paul's instruction here is heavy. What are the risks about not taking this matter seriously?

2. Jesus also warned us that the seed of the gospel would be choked out by the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for other things (Mark 4:19). At best, Jesus warns that it can render your life fruitless; at worst, it may cause you to walk away from the faith altogether. It's a matter for great caution and care; it's a matter to act on today. What steps can you put in place to ensure money doesn't hold its power over you?

Prayer: Pray that God might loosen your grip on money and tighten your grip on the treasure of heaven in the hope of the gospel.

A blurred background image showing a person's hands holding a book, with a warm, golden light illuminating the scene.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21



DAY 1

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16

1. What is Timothy to flee?
2. What is he to pursue?
3. Last week, we spent time thinking about the dangers of wealth. Today, we will reflect on what Paul says Timothy should pursue in verse 11. A helpful way to think about the Christian life is *conviction, character and competence*.

Conviction is our understanding and commitment to the truth of the gospel, it shapes how we see the world, our values and priorities. Character is the outworking of these convictions in the way we live. Our character is seen in our actions. Finally, competency is a way of thinking about how well we are equipped to do what we are doing. As you reflect on Paul's list, how might our pursuit of these characteristics impact our convictions, our character, and our competence?

Prayer: Pray that God gives you strength to flee from ungodliness in all its forms. Instead, ask that He grows in you a desire to pursue righteousness and godliness, faith and love, endurance and gentleness.

WEEK 10: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21



DAY 3

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. Given Paul returns back to the matter of wealth again, what does it suggest about how important this matter is for Christians to think deeply about?
2. What danger do Christians with wealth face, and what is Paul's command to them?
3. Do you need to address this matter in your own life today?

Prayer: Pray that God would loosen your grip on your wealth and increase your conviction about the reality of life, death, heaven and hell.



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

EV MISSION PARTNERS



Derek and Anna - Southeast Asia (OMF)

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Derek continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



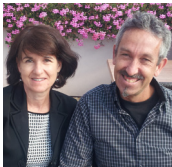
Colin and Jill Bakon - SIM: Latin American Ministry

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. He is also working with a taskforce in SIM, to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM. This will see work happening in areas where there is no church, and development of missionaries being sent out from all countries where SIM works in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Kirstin Hawkshaw - CMS Missionary in Nepal

Kirstin works as an Occupational Therapist in Pokhara, Nepal seeking to be salt and light as she trains locals and cares for people with disabilities through a community rehabilitation program. She is praying for many more opportunities through church, work and life to be a witness to Jesus and to be discipling Christians in the relatively young-thought-vibrant church of Nepal.



Paul and Sandra King - Strasbourg, France (CMS)

Paul and Sandra are thriving in their university ministry in Strasbourg and somewhat newer ministry in a local church plant. They serve alongside French Christians in the University Bible Group (GBU), involving the training of Uni students in evangelism, discipling, and teaching the Bible. The church planting work includes a coffee shop and teaching English to connect the church with people in the community.



Martin and Jen Shadwick - AFES Newcastle Uni

Martin and Jen (Hannah and Evie) work full time with AFES at Newcastle University discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to lead the AFES staff team who work with both local and overseas students including a ministry to Muslim students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



Jono and Amy Vink - Tanzania (CMS)

Jono and Amy, along with their children, have been working in at Bunda Bible College, Musoma, Tanzania. Training church leaders, grounding them in Biblical theology and in practical exegetical skills. They are working towards coming back to Australia in the middle of this year, so are focusing on handing ministries over to other people. They will be settling into a new ministry area in Australia towards the end of 2016.



Jono and Grace Wright - AIM

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aborigines in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. They are with Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). Their ministries include preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups, weekly prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



The Geneva Push

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. It has set in place a high quality assessment process and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to ensure the biggest impact as planters.



Liam and Lucy Doyle - Lake Mac Church

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. There is a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



Jai and Jay-Elle Wright - MAKE Church, Mackay

Jai and Jay with their four children; Amber, Ebony and Kade and Jett, have planted the MAKE church in Mackay. They are continuing to develop depth in the church through leadership development and have two new MTS workers to help with this task. They are longing to see a community of people who are permanently living in Mackay and actively living their faith out as a witness to all who live there.

EV MISSION PARTNERS



NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



