

God loves you, and has a wonderful PLAN for your life.

God's love

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost, but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God's plan

(Christ affirms) "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it in abundance"

Man is SINNER and is SEPARATED from God; therefore he can not know or experience God's love and plan for his life.

Man is a sinner

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Man is separated from God

"For the wages of sin is death ..." [ie spiritual separation from God.] (Romans 6:23)

Jesus Christ is the ONLY provision of God for the sinner. Only in him can you know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

He Died in Our Place

"But God shows his love for us, in that while we are still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

He resurrected

"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried, and ... He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures ... He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve, and then He appeared to more than five hundred ..." (I Corinthians 15: 3-6).

He is the Only Way

"Jesus said to him: I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by Me" (John 14: 6).

We must receive Christ

"But to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave them the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

We Receive Christ Through Faith

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

We Receive Christ Through a Personal Invitation:

(Christ says) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him ..." (Revelation 3:20).

YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST RIGHT NOW THROUGH PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ: Thank you because you love me and I understand that I need you. I open the door of my life and I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Make me the person you want me to be. Thanks for forgiving my sins. Thank you for having entered my life and for listening to my prayer according to your promise.



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The Book of 1 Timothy with Notes A study

Using The Message Bible

1 Timothy 1

1 I, Paul, am an apostle on special assignment for Christ, our living hope. Under God our Savior's command,

2 I'm writing this to you, Timothy, my son in the faith. All the best from our God and Christ be yours!

3 On my way to the province of Macedonia, I advised you to stay in Ephesus. Well, I haven't changed my mind. Stay right there on top of things so that the teaching stays on track.

4 Apparently some people have been introducing fantasy stories and fanciful family trees that digress into silliness instead of pulling the people back into the center, deepening faith and obedience.

5 The whole point of what we're urging is simply love—love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God.

6 Those who fail to keep to this point soon wander off into cul-de-sacs of gossip.

7 They set themselves up as experts on religious issues, but haven't the remotest idea of what they're holding forth with such imposing eloquence.

8 It's true that moral guidance and counsel need to be given, but the way you say it and to whom you say it are as important as what you say.

9 It's obvious, isn't it, that the law code isn't primarily for people who live responsibly, but for the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life,

10 sex, truth, whatever!

11 They are contemptuous of this great Message I've been put in charge of by this great God.

12 I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work. He went out on a limb, you know, in trusting me with this ministry.

13 The only credentials I brought to it were invective and witch hunts and arrogance. But I was treated mercifully because I didn't know what I was doing—didn't know Who I was doing it against!

14 Grace mixed with faith and love poured over me and into me. And all because of Jesus.

15 Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—

16 of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever.

4. Discuss how it might be possible to chase money, via business or other gain, directed or not by the Spirit, that could distract you from the beautiful life God has in store for you. (10)

5. You might be running toward God right now, but in what ways could you run more fervently? (11-12)

6. Jesus was brave enough to stand before a King and testify. List people in your life you would need more help from God to be able to stand before, in the same way Jesus stood before Pilate. (13-14)

7. There are always those who say that Jesus isn't coming back right away, and begin to sin as a result. We should remember to keep on doing the Lord's work, knowing that when he does, he will be impressive. Discuss His attributes Paul mentions in verses 15 and 16.

8. It is very hard for a rich person to quit devoting time to money and begin devoting time to Christ. Discuss cases you know of where money seemed to disappear from a rich person's life. (17)

9. What ways can a rich person, or you, if you are not rich, can transfer his money to a heavenly bank account. (18-19)

10. What is the treasure Timothy was given? (20-21)

11. Is that treasure available for you, too? How? (20-21)

down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

11 But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy.

12 Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.

13 I'm charging you before the life-giving God and before Christ, who took his stand before Pontius Pilate and didn't give an inch:

14 Keep this command to the letter, and don't slack off. Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way.

15 He'll show up right on time, his arrival guaranteed by the Blessed and Undisputed Ruler, High King, High God.

16 He's the only one death can't touch, his light so bright no one can get close. He's never been seen by human eyes—human eyes can't take him in! Honor to him, and eternal rule! Oh, yes.

17 Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—

18 to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous.

19 If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

20 And oh, my dear Timothy, guard the treasure you were given! Guard it with your life. Avoid the talk-show religion and the practiced confusion of the so-called experts.

21 People caught up in a lot of talk can miss the whole point of faith. Overwhelming grace keep you!

Chapter 1

1. Where did Paul get his authority? (1)
2. Why does Paul call Timothy his son in the faith? (2)
3. What did Paul think of genealogies? (4)
4. Should all “religious experts” be trusted? Why? (7)
5. What should be considered when giving counsel? (8)
6. Why is the law not primarily for those who live responsibly? (9)
7. Consider how a guardrail at the side of a road passively prevents you from danger, but it can be ignored. What are potential consequences of ignoring a guardrail? (9)
8. Consider how the guardrail parallels the function of a law (Do not steal, for example). What are the potential consequences of ignoring a law? (9)
9. How do we become adequate to do the work God calls us to? (12-14)
10. Paul fought against early Christians. Who was he really fighting? (13)
11. Discuss the interaction of grace, faith, and love as Paul refers to them. (14)
12. What was one important reason Jesus came to the world? Why? (15)
13. In what way did Jesus “show Paul off?” In what way will Jesus “show you off?” (16)

17 Deep honor and bright glory to the King of All Time— One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes!

18 I'm passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle,

19 keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself. After all, this is a fight we're in. There are some, you know, who by relaxing their grip and thinking anything goes have made a thorough mess of their faith.

20 Hymenaeus and Alexander are two of them. I let them wander off to Satan to be taught a lesson or two about not blaspheming.

1 Timothy 2

1 The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know.

2 Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation.

3 This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.

4 He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned:

5 that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus,

6 who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free. Eventually the news is going to get out.

7 This and this only has been my appointed work: getting this news to those who have never heard of God, and explaining how it works by simple faith and plain truth.

8 Since prayer is at the bottom of all this, what I want mostly is for men to pray—not shaking angry fists at enemies but raising holy hands to God.

9 And I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions

10 but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it.

11 I don't let women take over and tell the men what to do.

12 They should study to be quiet and obedient along with everyone else.

13 Adam was made first, then Eve;

14 woman was deceived first—our pioneer in sin!—with Adam right

8. And in light of Paul's teaching here in verses 17 and 18, what should we expect as church workers' reasonable compensation?

9. Discuss how untruthful accusations can harm a leader's credibility. (19)

10. Discuss ways to confront a person who has fallen into sin. (20)

11. Paul is very certain he is right in this regard. What would it take for you be able to follow through on these teachings? (21)

12. How could you be an accomplice to sinning simply by appointing someone to church leadership too hastily? (22)

13. In Revelations 12:10, Satan is called the Accuser of the Brethren. How much of what critics might say about you could be ideas planted by Satan? (23)

14. Discuss the idea that both sins and good deeds may or may not be evident immediately. (24 and 25)

1 Timothy 6

1. Paul discusses the attitudes slaves should have, whether their owners are Christians or not. Many countries do not technically have slaves, but there are many people who fill the roles slaves would in their cultures. Discuss how your attitudes are, would be, or could be in those situations. (1-2)

2. Discuss how the negative teachings and attitudes of the teachers Paul mentions in this section can lead a whole community into the epidemic he mentions. (3-5)

3. A very pervasive doctrine is that a devout life brings monetary wealth. Paul points out in this section that the wealth brought by a devout life is better than money. It might include money, but it usually doesn't. But contentment with the things Paul mentions leads to a very fulfilled life. I like to think of this as might a soldier. The commander knows what the soldier needs for the battle ahead of him. Sometimes it is very little, and sometimes it is a lot. Discuss different situations in life that might require few or many resources. (6-10)

who work hard at preaching and teaching.

18 Scripture tells us, "Don't muzzle a working ox," and, "A worker deserves his pay."

19 Don't listen to a complaint against a leader that isn't backed up by two or three responsible witnesses.

20 If anyone falls into sin, call that person on the carpet. Those who are inclined that way will know right off they can't get by with it.

21 God and Jesus and angels all back me up in these instructions. Carry them out without favoritism, without taking sides.

22 Don't appoint people to church leadership positions too hastily. If a person is involved in some serious sins, you don't want to become an unwitting accomplice. In any event, keep a close check on yourself.

23 And don't worry too much about what the critics will say. Go ahead and drink a little wine, for instance; it's good for your digestion, good medicine for what ails you.

24 The sins of some people are blatant and march them right into court. The sins of others don't show up until much later.

25 The same with good deeds. Some you see right off, but none are hidden forever.

1 Timothy 6

1 Whoever is a slave must make the best of it, giving respect to his master so that outsiders don't blame God and our teaching for his behavior.

2 Slaves with Christian masters all the more so—their masters are really their beloved brothers! These are the things I want you to teach and preach.

3 If you have leaders there who teach otherwise, who refuse the solid words of our Master Jesus and this godly instruction,

4 tag them for what they are: ignorant windbags who infect the air with germs of envy, controversy, bad-mouthing, suspicious rumors.

5 Eventually there's an epidemic of backstabbing, and truth is but a distant memory. They think religion is a way to make a fast buck.

6 A devout life does bring wealth, but it's the rich simplicity of being yourself before God.

7 Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless,

8 if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that's enough.

9 But if it's only money these leaders are after, they'll self-destruct in no time.

10 Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going

14. What gives Paul the authority to pass on his work to Timothy? (18)

15. Discuss how "relaxing your grip and letting anything go" can affect your faith. (19)

16. Discuss what it means to "let them wander off to Satan". Does a Christian have authority to do that? (20)

I Timothy 2

1. Discuss what problems there might be with praying. (1)

2. Discuss the value of praying for rulers whether we perceive them to be good or bad. (2)

3. What value is there in praying to any mediator besides Christ? What does it imply to pray to anyone else? (5)

4. Being captive implies restricted movement, privileges, and coming judgment. Choose one sin and discuss how sin can hold a person captive concerning those implied restrictions. (6)

5. To what extent should or could we have the same goals as Paul? (7)

6. Again, Paul stresses the importance of prayer. In what ways can we make time available for prayer while remaining responsible in our daily lives? (8-9)

7. Are there more men or women in the church? Does Godly counsel and management come from a majority vote or, if not, by what means? (11-12)

8. "Adam was made first, then Eve;". Does that have implications for today? (Genesis 2)(13)

9. Discuss who can be deceived and how that can be detected. (14)

on her heels.

15 On the other hand, her childbearing brought about salvation, reversing Eve. But this salvation only comes to those who continue in faith, love, and holiness, gathering it all into maturity. You can depend on this.

1 Timothy 3

1 If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good!

2 But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about,

3 not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry.

4 He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect.

5 For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church?

6 He must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up.

7 Outsiders must think well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap.

8 The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it.

9 They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things.

10 Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on.

11 No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine.

12 Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs.

13 Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith.

14 I hope to visit you soon, but just in case I'm delayed, I'm writing this letter so

15 you'll know how things ought to go in God's household, this God-alive church, bastion of truth.

16 This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our

I Timothy 5

1. Why is it important to show more respect to the older men? (1)
2. Why is it important to show more respect to the older women? (2)
3. What attitudes should a family have towards widows among their own family? (4 and 7-8)
4. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. But Paul goes further, discussing widows who are legitimate and those who are not. Discuss this among yourselves. (5-6 and 9-10)
5. Some women become widows at a young age. Discuss what Paul suggests for them. (11-14)
6. What specifically is Paul talking about with this verse? (15)
7. The problem of how the church should work with widows must have been very complicated, since Paul spends so much time on it. We can catch a glimpse of it here, in verse 16. The church could be overburdened with taking care of widows. Compare this to Acts 6:1-5. The very earliest church tried to figure this out, even appointing seven men devoted to this ministry. The ministry would have been, not only time consuming, but very expensive as well. Stephen, one of the seven, preached so well he became a martyr. Philip, another of the seven, started the first revival in Samaria. I'm sure the other five were of similar caliber. Paul, many years later, had developed a plan that kept more leadership resources and funds in active ministry. Discuss Paul's solution and the original church's solution to see which one you like better.

experience salvation.

1 Timothy 5

1 Don't be harsh or impatient with an older man. Talk to him as you would your own father, and to the younger men as your brothers.

2 Reverently honor an older woman as you would your mother, and the younger women as sisters.

3 Take care of widows who are destitute.

4 If a widow has family members to take care of her, let them learn that religion begins at their own doorstep and that they should pay back with gratitude some of what they have received. This pleases God immensely.

5 You can tell a legitimate widow by the way she has put all her hope in God, praying to him constantly for the needs of others as well as her own.

6 But a widow who exploits people's emotions and pocketbooks—well, there's nothing to her.

7 Tell these things to the people so that they will do the right thing in their extended family.

8 Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place.

9 Sign some widows up for the special ministry of offering assistance. They will in turn receive support from the church. They must be over sixty, married only once,

10 and have a reputation for helping out with children, strangers, tired Christians, the hurt and troubled.

11 Don't put young widows on this list. No sooner will they get on than they'll want to get off, obsessed with wanting to get a husband rather than serving Christ in this way.

12 By breaking their word, they're liable to go from bad to worse,

13 frittering away their days on empty talk, gossip, and trivialities.

14 No, I'd rather the young widows go ahead and get married in the first place, have children, manage their homes, and not give critics any foothold for finding fault.

15 Some of them have already left and gone after Satan.

16 Any Christian woman who has widows in her family is responsible for them. They shouldn't be dumped on the church. The church has its hands full already with widows who need help.

17 Give a bonus to leaders who do a good job, especially the ones

10. How does childbearing “reverse Eve,” and how does that relate to faith, love, and holiness? (15)

1 Timothy 3

1. Church leadership is interesting. Make a row of headings on a piece of paper, with the headings, Pastor, Sports Leader, Businessman, Government Leader, Police Chief.

2. List all of the things expected of a pastor in chapter 3 below your heading for a pastor. (1 to 7)

3. Copy anything from the list of pastor's requirements to your requirements (not things you would like to see, but requirements) for each of the other headings. For example, what requirements from the pastor's list would you want in a sports leader, ?

4. How do these compare with what you expect of a pastor?

5. How would it affect the church if the pastor is not committed to his wife and family? (2)

6. How would it affect the church if the pastor is money-hungry? (3)

7. How would it affect the church if his children did not respect him? (4)

8. How would being a new believer be a problem? (6)

9. How would outsiders not thinking well of him lead to a trap? (7)

10. In what ways are requirements relaxed some for leaders compared to pastors? (8-13)

11. Why was it important for Paul to specifically mention women? (11)

12. Comparing verses 6 and 10, it appears there is room for a new believer to be a servant but not yet a pastor. How much time of proving is required? (6 and 10)

13. How useful has it been, that Paul had to write to Timothy? (14)

understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

1 Timothy 4

1 The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars.

2 These liars have lied so well and for so long that they've lost their capacity for truth.

3 They will tell you not to get married. They'll tell you not to eat this or that food—perfectly good food God created to be eaten heartily and with thanksgiving by Christians!

4 Everything God created is good, and to be received with thanks. Nothing is to be sneered at and thrown out.

5 God's Word and our prayers make every item in creation holy.

6 You've been raised on the Message of the faith and have followed sound teaching. Now pass on this counsel to the Christians there, and you'll be a good servant of Jesus.

7 Stay clear of silly stories that get dressed up as religion. Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please!

8 Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever.

9 You can count on this. Take it to heart.

10 This is why we've thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We're banking on the living God, Savior of all men and women, especially believers.

11 Get the word out. Teach all these things.

12 And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.

13 Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching.

14 And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use.

15 Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes!

16 Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will

14. Would it be of use to anyone if you write your thoughts?

15. Discuss the concepts that are “clear enough.”

1 Timothy 4

1. What are some reasons that some people would give up on faith and chase after demonic illusions? (1)

2. Discuss other sins that are like lying, in that if you commit them often enough and for long enough, they become normal to you. (2)

3. What reasons would you be told to not marry? What advantage would someone have in prohibiting you to eat different foods? (3)

4. The Jewish religion has a number of food prohibitions that would be difficult to follow in most foreign countries. The countries Paul was working in were some of those, so he could see the foolishness of trying to comply with complex restrictions. Are there complex restrictions on foods Christians can eat in your country or region or in other countries you know about? If so, what are they? (3)

5. Paul teaches here that God's Word and our prayers of thanks make every type of food holy. Discuss anything else about this that comes to mind. (5)

6. Paul tells Timothy that we can train to be stronger spiritually just as we can train to be stronger physically. Discuss three or more aspects of your spiritual life that can be built up in the same way you can build bodily strength with physical exercise. (6-9)

7. What are different ways we can “get the word out?” What are different ways we can teach God's Word? (11)

8. Can you calculate how much more active evangelism, as mentioned in verse 11, is, versus passive evangelism, as mentioned in verse 12?

9. Does it really make a difference when we lay hands on people when we pray for them? (14)

10. How can you cultivate these things? How can you immerse yourself in them? (15)