

**Lesson Aims***To help students*

- *become acquainted with the letter of 1 Timothy and study its themes.*
- *learn from Paul's instructions to Timothy on how to relate to people in the church.*
- *see that we should pursue godliness and not cling to material wealth.*

**Inspiration for the Teacher**

The challenge before you should bring you to your knees. You will be handling the powerful Word of Life. This Word is capable of rousing young souls bound in spiritual death. If you use it carelessly, precious opportunities may be forever lost.

For such a task you will need “the wisdom that is from above” (James 3:17). God invites you to ask for it. Ask in faith. He has promised to supply all your needs. God alone can make you a useful teacher. You cannot open your heart to God’s wisdom without sensing a deep need for His work in your life.

Solicit the leading of the Holy Spirit in planning, interpreting, and illustrating the lesson. Receive the Word readily, teach it diligently, and you will be ready to give an account “with joy, and not with grief” (Hebrews 13:17).

**Gather the Supplies You Will Need**

- A wall map of the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea at the time of Paul and the early church would be a valuable resource for this and future lessons.
- Photocopies of Optional Worksheet 1 from Appendix A, page 63, if you decide to use it.
- Any necessary items for doing Extra Activities mentioned in Appendix B, page 83.

**Begin With Prayer**

Pray simply. Ask God to bless these students and this class.

**Introduce the Student Workbook and the Course.**

Hand each student a workbook. Tell them this workbook contains lessons taken from the last part of the New Testament, from the Book of 1 Timothy through the Book of Revelation.

**Point of Contact**

1. Read aloud the *Introduction to the New Testament Letters* from the student workbook, page 1. Or have the students take turns reading it aloud by paragraphs, or simply give them a summary of this introduction in your own words. Have students look at the picture on the back of their workbooks. Someone is reading one of the letters (now in the Bible) to Christians who gathered to hear it.
2. Tell the students that the books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are sometimes called the “Pastoral Epistles” because Paul wrote them as fatherly instructions to these two young pastors. Now they are part of the Bible, and we study them. Even if we are not ministers, we can learn a lot from them.

## Paul's First Letter to Timothy

### Page 2

Read aloud, or have students take turns reading aloud the paragraphs and verses before the exercises.

#### Acts 16:1-3 terms

*Derbe, Lystra, Iconium:* towns in Asia Minor

*Timotheus:* Timothy

*Greek:* Gentile, or non-Jew

- “He” in Acts 16:1 refers to the Apostle Paul.
- What kind of reputation did Timothy have among the believers in his hometown of Lystra? *(They gave Paul a good report of him.)*

#### 1 Timothy 1:1, 2 terms

*apostle:* (v. 1) messenger of God

*son in the faith:* (v. 2) spiritual offspring

#### 1 Timothy 1:3-6 terms

*besought:* (v. 3) requested

*minister:* (v. 4) stir up


*edifying:* (v. 4) encouraging


*end of the commandment:* (v. 5) the goal of this instruction


*unfeigned:* (v. 5) genuine

*vain jangling:* (v. 6) useless noise; foolish talk

- Where had Paul requested that Timothy serve? *(Ephesus)*
- Show students Ephesus and Macedonia on the map. Macedonia was a Roman province.

 How might being young have made Timothy's role as church leader extra challenging?

 Why did Paul tell Timothy to avoid fables and genealogies?

 Do you know any fables that it would be best for Christians to avoid?

#### Read 1 Timothy 3:14,15

- Help students paraphrase 1 Timothy 3:14, 15 in contemporary English. *(Example: I'm writing to let you know I hope to visit soon. But in case I can't come for awhile, I want to advise you about how to conduct yourself in the church of God.)*



## 1 TIMOTHY

Paul's First Letter to Timothy

Imagine a well-respected missionary asking you to join him in his travels and help with his work—in short, offering to become your mentor. That is what happened to a young man named Timothy.

Timothy's mother was Jewish, but his father was a Gentile. We do not know if his father was a Christian. Timothy's mother Lois and his grandmother Eunice had taught Timothy the Jewish Scriptures while he was very young. From the Scriptures, Timothy learned about Jesus, the Saviour God had promised to the Jews.

One day a traveling preacher by the name of Paul came through Timothy's town in Asia Minor (now Turkey). Christians in that area spoke highly of Timothy. Paul, impressed with this young man's potential, asked Timothy to join him in his missionary travels. This is how the Bible tells it:



Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him. (Acts 16:1-3)

In spite of their age differences and differing personalities, Timothy and Paul became close friends.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1, 2.

1. What does Paul call Timothy in verse 2? my own son in the faith

Timothy learned much from Paul, and Paul began to trust him with special assignments. When Paul wrote this letter, Timothy was overseer of the church at Ephesus, another town in Asia Minor.

Timothy's job was not easy. He was young, and some Christians at Ephesus were promoting false teachings. He was likely very grateful for Paul's advice.

Read 1 Timothy 1:3-6.

2. What two things does Paul warn against in verse 4?

fables and endless genealogies

3. How does he describe these false teachings in verse 6? vain jangling

Read 1 Timothy 3:14, 15.

These two verses tell why Paul wrote this letter to Timothy—to give instructions on how Timothy should conduct himself as the leader of the church. Paul's instructions throughout the letter centered on two things—Timothy's personal conduct, and his responsibilities as a pastor.

4. Write *personal conduct* or *pastoral responsibilities* before each selection below.

personal conduct

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy . . . meditate on these things, give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all” (4:14, 15).

pastoral responsibilities

“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others may also fear” (5:20).

## Scripture Focus

Page 3


**1 Timothy 4:7-13 terms***profane:* (v.7) pagan; ungodly*old wives' fables:* (v.7)


superstitions


*acceptation:* (v.9) acceptance*conversation:* (v.12) behavior*charity:* (v.12) genuine godly love*give attendance to:* (v.13)

apply yourself to


*exhortation:* (v.13) preaching*doctrine:* (v.13) teaching

 Do you tend to discredit a person in authority who is close your age?

 Discuss the value of physical exercise versus spiritual exercise. Is there any value at all in physical discipline? Why is spiritual discipline so much more valuable?

 Why is "I'm too young" a bad excuse for not doing what God wants us to do?

- "Reading" in verse 13 specifically refers to public reading of the Scriptures in a gathering of believers. Do your ministers follow Paul's advice in this?

 Have students help define all the words in the diagram in exercise 5 and discuss specific ways Timothy (and we) could be an example to others, and how to attend to these things.

Lesson 1

*Scripture Focus***1 Timothy 4:7-13**

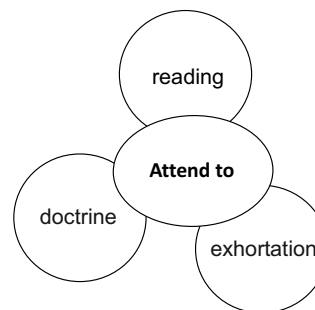
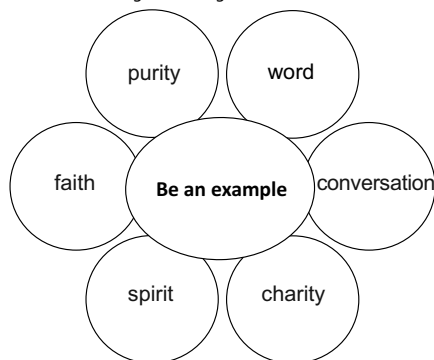
- 7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.  
 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.  
 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.  
 10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.  
 11 These things command and teach.  
 12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.  
 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1. Underline the things Paul told Timothy to do. (There are six: two in verse 7, one in verse 11, two in verse 12, and one in verse 13.)
2. The word *exercise* in verses 7 and 8 means "discipline" or "training." Does disciplining or training our bodies profit us? Explain.

It profits a little, but not as much as godly exercise.

3. How might you train yourself for godliness? Example:  
Read the Bible, associate with godly friends, pay attention in church.
4. What is godliness profitable for? (Find three things from verse 8)  
all things  
the present life  
the life to come

5. Finish filling in the diagrams below with words from verses 12 and 13.



3

## Keep Thyself Pure

Page 4

### 1 Timothy 5:1-3 terms

*elder*: (v. 1) person older than yourself

*entreat*: (v. 1) plead with

*brethren*: (v. 1) brothers

### 1 Timothy 5:20-22.

A substance, such as water, that is pure, is clean and uncontaminated. The word *pure*, applied to our lives, includes our thoughts, words, actions, and motives. For a Christian, purity means being free of anything that contaminates and tarnishes his love for God and others, and anything that mars his testimony for Christ.



Why is it especially important for church leaders to be pure?



Whose job is it to rebuke sin? Just the church leaders? Discuss situations

where it may be appropriate or inappropriate for a young Christian to rebuke sin.



What are some ways young people may be tempted to partiality?

Lesson 1

## Keep Thyself Pure

As a leader, Timothy needed to relate to various kinds of people in his congregation, including those older than himself. Paul gave him good advice about this.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-3.

Match the people groups with Paul's instructions to Timothy.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>B</u> older men     | A. Treat them as sisters, with purity.               |
| 2. <u>E</u> younger men   | B. Plead with them as one might plead with a father. |
| 3. <u>C</u> older women   | C. Treat each one as if she were his mother.         |
| 4. <u>A</u> younger women | D. Show honor to them.                               |
| 5. <u>D</u> widows        | E. Relate to them as if relating to brothers.        |

When problems arise in the church, it is the God-given responsibility of the leader to help restore obedience to God's Word and peace among the members of the congregation.

Read 1 Timothy 5:20-22.

Answer the questions.

- Why is it necessary to openly rebuke sin in the church?  
so that others will be afraid to sin
- In your own words, what caution did Paul give to Timothy in verse 21? Example:  
Don't show partiality or have favorites in the church.  
Treat everyone with equal respect.
- Why is this good advice?  
It is serious responsibility to lead the church. The church should be sure the chosen leader is mature and qualified for the work. A hasty choice could result in a poor leader.
- Sometimes when we try to help a friend who is disobedient to God or his parents, we are tempted to commit the same sins, or at least stick up for him. What words in verse 22 warn against this?  
neither be partaker of other men's sins

## Too Greedy to Let Go

### Page 5

Read the introductory paragraphs.

#### 1 Timothy 6:6-11 terms

*raiment:* (v.8) clothing

*lusts:* (v.9) sinful desires

*perdition:* (v.9) ruin; damnation

*patience:* (v.11) endurance

*meekness:* (v.11) gentleness

Assist students in completing the exercises.

- Is wanting to be rich really so bad? (*According to the Bible, it is spiritually dangerous.*)

“Pierce themselves through with many sorrows” means that those who focus on getting rich will be disappointed again and again. They will always want more and more. No one can take his wealth with him when he dies. Striving to be rich is a dead-end street, ending in sorrow.

## Too Greedy to Let Go

Lesson 1

Seagulls are hungry creatures known for plucking half-eaten hot dogs from the hands of unsuspecting picnickers. But their hunger can be their death when it turns into foolish greed.

A gull feasting on a fish frozen in a chunk of ice on the frigid Niagara River may feast for so long that its feet become frozen in the ice, and it plunges, with its dinner, over the Niagara Falls and dashes itself on the rocks below.

That's a high price to pay for a bit of frozen fish.



Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

Complete the exercises.

1. Seagulls craving food may be trapped in ice. According to verse 9, what can trap people in a similar way?  
wanting to be rich
2. A bird plunges to its death while clinging tightly to its “wealth.” According to verse 9, we can get so focused on making a lot of money that we are in danger of drowning in destruction and perdition.
3. What is destruction and perdition referring to? (*Discuss with your class if you are not sure.*) Examples:  
punishment, including a life of unhappiness and eventually Hell
4. What can lead to all kinds of evil? See verse 10. the love of money
5. Verse 10 says those who long to be rich have erred from the Christian faith.
6. Many people think they would be happy if only they could be rich. How does the end of verse 10 contradict this idea?  
It says when people eagerly desire wealth, it pierces them with many sorrows.
7. What should the Christian pursue instead of wealth? Circle the six qualities below that fit with Paul's instructions to Timothy, a “man of God,” in verse 11.

righteousness

knowledge

patience

meekness

fame

godliness

faith

poverty

love

5

What is wrong with eagerly desiring the following?

- knowledge
- fame
- poverty

How does covetousness affect us mentally? emotionally? spiritually?

When we are discontented, our minds are taken up more and more with plans, ambitions, and anxiety about accumulating things. Material gain is no relief. It only fosters more anxiety. The covetous mistakenly believe that material gain will eventually get them on top. But the reality is clear in these verses. When men desire to be rich, they plunge, as it were, into a quicksand.

*Note: If questions arise about the love of money being “the root of all evil,” point out that this is speaking about the love of money, or the root desire, not money itself. Further, a more correct translation would be “a root” instead of “the root”: The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.*

## Additional Activities and Ideas for Lesson 1

- **Do the Optional Worksheet** for Lesson 1, which you have photocopied from page 63. Find the instructions and answers for the Optional Worksheet on page 73.
- **Memory Work** (*Choose either 1 John 1 or Revelation 20:11–21:5, and use the questions for the chosen passage.*)

Have students turn to the back of their workbooks to find the Scripture portion you've designated for memorization.

- a. Read the first verse aloud together several times and discuss its meaning.

### **1 John 1:1**

"The Word of life" is referring to a Person. Who is that person? (*Jesus*)

What does John mean by saying he's heard and seen and handled "that which was from the beginning"? (*He had personally known Jesus in the flesh.*)

### **Revelation 20:11**

Who sat upon the great white throne? (*God*)

What had happened to the world as we know it? (*It had "fled away," or disappeared.*)

- b. Suggestion for class practice.

Have each member of the class say one word of the verse in order until the verse is completed.

At first, this will be slow. Encourage students to increase the speed each time they recite the verse one word at a time. You could time them to help them see their progress.

- c. Read the whole memory portion aloud together. Ask if anyone has any questions about the portion. Take time to discuss and answer questions.

**Lesson Aims**

*To help students*

- *become acquainted with the letter of 2 Timothy and study its themes.*
- *learn from Paul's instructions to Timothy on avoiding useless controversies.*
- *understand what it means to have a spirit of power.*

**Inspiration for the Teacher**

Although Paul's second letter to Timothy speaks about the abounding peril of the end times, it offers much encouragement as well. No matter how bad the end times become, God will always provide enough grace for His people to faithfully endure. He has "not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1). Notice, the source of this strength is the grace of God in Christ. The power that sustains Christians is more than human energy; it is divine power. If we had to rely on our own strength, we could not endure. But if we rely on God, there is no situation too rough, no temptation too severe for us. God is able to give us the necessary strength and wisdom to endure anything He allows us to face.

**Gather the Supplies You Will Need**

- Photocopies of Optional Worksheet 2 from Appendix A, page 64, if you decide to use it.
- Any necessary items for doing Extra Activities mentioned in Appendix B, page 83.
- Bring items bearing official seals of approval for Point of Contact below.

**Begin with Prayer****Point of Contact**

- Show students items bearing the mark of official approval such as a dollar bill, birth certificate, or high school diploma. Refer to 2 Timothy 2:15 and discuss how important it is to seek God's approval. If you know the song based on this verse, teach the students to sing it.

This verse is often used as a classroom motto, since it mentions study. However, a deeper look at the meaning of the words in this verse reveals that its application is much broader than the academic study of the Bible and other books.

The original Greek word translated *study* means to give diligence, or to labor. And what are we to diligently labor for? For God's approval. The Christian life is more than "getting saved" and then going on just as we had before. Being a Christian is a growing process, and it takes effort and concentration to mature in ways that please God. We are to be laborers whose work is blameless—work that brings shame to neither God nor ourselves. In particular, Paul urged Timothy to "rightly divide" the Word—explain it correctly and clearly to the members of his church. Even young Christians who are not leaders must be careful as they read and interpret the Scriptures.

## Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

### Page 6

A year or so after Paul wrote 1 Timothy, he found himself in prison for his faith. He had been captured in Jerusalem by Jews who were eager to stop the spread of the Gospel. Paul could have been acquitted and gone back to his travels between the churches he had established. Instead, he appealed to Caesar and the highest court in Rome. He remained imprisoned in Rome for some time.

Paul used his prison time as an opportunity to keep preaching about His Jesus. He couldn't visit his friends in person, but he could write them letters. Paul often dictated his letters to a scribe.

**Read aloud, or have students take turns reading aloud the paragraphs and verses at the top of the page before having them complete the written exercises.**



# 2 TIMOTHY

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

If you found yourself in a Jerusalem prison for being a Christian following Jesus' resurrection, you could probably blame Saul, an enthusiastic young Pharisee. Many years later, this same zealous man, now called Paul, ended up in prison himself—for being a Christian! Jews, as well as the pagan Romans and Greeks, tried to silence the Gospel with violence just as Paul had years before.

**Read 2 Timothy 2:9-12.**

1. Paul was willing to suffer in prison because he was helping people obtain salvation.

Second Timothy is Paul's second letter to Timothy. Like the first letter, this one offers direction and encouragement to be a good church leader. But Paul was also feeling lonely, and he sensed he was near the end of his life.

**Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.**

2. What is Paul referring to in verse 6? He is near to death.
3. What was Paul looking forward to receiving? a crown of righteousness

Paul asked Timothy to come be with him. Paul's other friends had left. Titus had gone to Dalmatia, and some had left for other reasons. The first time Paul appeared before the Roman emperor ("the lion"), none of his friends were with him. He told Timothy:



"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me . . . and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (2 Timothy 4:16,17).

Paul prayed "without ceasing" for Timothy (1:3). He wrote that he was "greatly desiring" to see Timothy (1:4), and asked him to "do thy diligence to come before winter" (4:21).

**Read 2 Timothy 4:9-13.**

4. Who had forsaken both Paul and his own Christian faith? Demas
5. What four things did Paul ask Timothy to bring? Mark his cloak his books parchments

Perhaps because some of his other friends had deserted him, Paul urged Timothy not to be ashamed that he was in prison. Paul uses the word "ashamed" three times in the first chapter of this epistle.

**In the verses below, underline the phrases that contain the word "ashamed."**

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God" (1:8).

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (1:12).

"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain" (1:16).

6

### 2 Timothy 2:9-12 terms

*bonds:* (v.9) prison

*elect:* (v.10) God's chosen people

Paul was being treated like a criminal, put in prison "as an evildoer." Instead of feeling sorry for himself, he was happy that "the word of God is not bound." The Gospel cannot be suppressed!

### Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8

- "The time of my departure" in 2 Timothy 4: 6 means the end of Paul's life. He knew he would soon leave this life for the next one.
- In 2 Timothy 4:7, 8, Paul compares his life to an athletic competition. He had "fought a good fight" (*done his best in the race*) and "finished my course" (*run the entire length*). He was expecting a "crown"—a word used for the wreath that was laid on the head of a winner or victor in a Greek athletic contest. Over what had Paul been victorious? (*over sin and spiritual enemies*)

**Assist students in finishing the readings and exercises on this page.**