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# LightUnit 808

## Teacher Notes

### *LightUnit 808*

#### Leaders for the Church

Through all the ages of the church, God has raised up leaders of courage and vision who faithfully study and teach the Word. The church of Jesus will continue to be victorious even though individual leaders grow old and pass away. Faithful men of each new generation must be trained so that true doctrine is taught and people are guided to Jesus. Every generation struggles to maintain godly interpersonal relationships, to faithfully help widows, and to correct those who teach false doctrine. In this LightUnit we will study Paul's encouragement and instruction to younger men whom he had ordained to serve as leaders in various churches. First and Second Timothy and Titus are letters to pastors. Philemon is a personal letter to a wealthy convert in whose home a church met to worship.

#### ==== *Section 1* ====

#### Good Relationships

The lessons in this section are taken from 1 Timothy. Timothy was a church leader whom Paul deeply appreciated. Though young, Timothy had learned a great deal about the ways of God and possessed a mature understanding of Christianity. In many ways his viewpoints were like Paul's, so Paul trusted Timothy to carry on his work. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul encourages and instructs him concerning practical matters that Timothy faced as a church leader. Paul writes about prayer, contentment, helping widows, and avoiding unnecessary arguments. He warns Timothy to pay close attention to his own behavior and preaching because his salvation and that of his congregation would be affected by both. As you study Paul's encouragement to Timothy, you will see that Christians in Paul's time wrestled with the same issues we face today.

#### **Memory Verse:**

*"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." 1 Timothy 4:12*

**LESSON 1 ENCOURAGED TO FAITHFULNESS**

(pages 2-5)

**BEFORE CLASS****Scripture Reading**

1 Timothy 1

**Teacher Meditation**

The Apostle Paul spoke of himself as chief among sinners. Would you rank yourself as second after him?

Paul didn't say he was chief of sinners just because it sounded like a "spiritual" thing to say. Neither does it seem likely that he had a guilt complex or feelings of inferiority. Rather, he said it in recognition of this reality: As I stand before God, I see no greater sinner than I.

If we see ourselves that way, we won't rank ourselves as second to Paul, who claimed the number one slot. Honest humility will not allow us to see ourselves as any better than any other sinners. But, thankfully, such a hopeless reality can be exchanged for a bright future. Notice how God put both of these realities into one verse!

*"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"* (1 Timothy 1:15).

**Lesson Emphases**

## The Pastoral Epistles

- The pastoral epistles include 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.
- The pastoral epistles are written to church elders, addressing issues related to guiding the church.

## The Book of 1 Timothy

- Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, directing and encouraging him in his work at Ephesus.
- Paul loved Timothy and called him his son.

## Faith and a good conscience

- One maintains faith by seeking God every day.
- One maintains a good conscience by making things right when God convicts of wrong.
- Neglecting one's faith and conscience will end in spiritual shipwreck.

## Paul testifies of grace and mercy

- God had mercy on Paul for two reasons:
  - o God showed mercy to demonstrate His love and compassion toward mankind.
  - o God recognized that Paul thought he was serving Him by persecuting the church.
- Grace is God giving us good things we do not deserve.
- Mercy is God withholding punishment we should have received.

**TEACHING THE CLASS****Introduce the Lesson**

The letters Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus are often called the "pastoral epistles" because they give instruction and encouragement to not only these two pastors who worked with Paul, but also to many church leaders since that time. In 1274, Thomas Aquinas wrote "First Timothy is a virtual pastoral rule."

In 1726, a scholar named Paul Anton referred to First and Second Timothy and Titus as the Pastoral Epistles in a series of lectures he gave. Since then, the title has become a common way to refer to these books.

First Timothy was probably written after Luke recorded the Acts of the Apostles and after Paul's release from prison in Rome. One reason for believing this is that we know Timothy was with Paul during his Roman imprisonment. Early church writers such as Eusebius, Chrysostom, and Jerome record



# Encouraged to Faithfulness

**Read – 1 Timothy 1**

Write your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Vocabulary**

**genealogies** (jē' nē ā' lə jēz): records of family lines

**jangling** (jɑŋ' glɪŋ): rambling talk that lacks purpose; angry arguing

**perjured** (pəɹ' jərd): having not kept an oath or promise

**unfeigned** (ən fānd'): sincere; without pretense

- ① The word *doctrine* appears in 1 and 2 Timothy a dozen times. The word basically means “instruction,” but it also means “teachings that have become established positions or beliefs of a religion.” Paul said the Law was intended for anything opposed to sound doctrine.

**Circle the letter of the answer.**

1. Using *Strong's Concordance*, look up the word *sound* as found in verse 10. It means \_\_\_\_ .

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> A. uncorrupt | C. solid |
| B. loud                                       | D. fixed |
2. The Law primarily is needed for \_\_\_\_ .
- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| A. lawyers        | C. righteous people                         |
| B. church leaders | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D. sinners |

**Answer the question.**

3. Whom did Paul consider to be the greatest sinner? himself

## ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

Paul may have written this letter to Timothy after being released from prison in Rome. Paul and Timothy had worked together as a team, with Paul instructing the younger man in doctrine and practical church leadership. Now Paul had appointed Timothy as bishop of the church in Ephesus and left him there to correct false doc-

trine. Meanwhile, Paul went to Macedonia where he wrote this personal letter to give Timothy direction and encouragement in his ministry.

The book of 1 Timothy gives us a detailed view of a seasoned apostle working with a young church leader. Paul loved Timothy deeply, calling him his son. Timothy thought like Paul and,

2

Paul's release from prison in Rome and his travels to Spain and other places in western Europe. We do not know where Paul was when he wrote First Timothy, but we know Timothy was in Ephesus.

When Paul wrote First Timothy, the Emperor Nero was changing from a gentle and compassionate ruler into the brutal persecutor for which he is known. On July 19, A.D. 64, Rome was burned, probably by Nero, who blamed the Christians. Some time after Paul wrote the first letter to Timothy and another letter to Titus, history indicates that Paul experienced a second Roman imprisonment. By writing pastoral letters in the interval between his first and second imprisonments, Paul

used his time wisely to encourage church leaders to be faithful.

## Lesson Plan

You may wish to read the introductory material from page 1 of the LightUnit and preview the memory verse.

Use as many of the following points as you wish in discussing today's Scripture reading.

- Where did we first meet Timothy in this course? Have students turn to Acts 16 and scan the first four verses to review the following points about Timothy.
  - *Timothy was a believer from Lystra whom Paul*

met on his second missionary journey.

- He was part Jew and part Greek.
- Though Timothy was young, the believers at Lystra and nearby Iconium reported good things about him.
- Timothy was willing to be circumcised so that he could more effectively help Paul preach to the Jews.
- (1 Timothy 1:1-4) For what specific purpose had Paul requested that Timothy remain with the church at Ephesus? (To correct some faulty doctrines and useless arguments among church members there.)
- (v. 4) Define “fables” and “endless genealogies.” Why should these be avoided in the church? The end of the verse gives a clue. (A fable is a fictitious tale or a falsehood. A genealogy is a record of one’s ancestors. “Endless” would indicate that one could spend a lot of time in this kind of research and never really get to the end of it. Fictitious stories and genealogies may serve some human purposes, but do little to encourage godly faith. Often, they only bring up unanswerable questions. Paul asked Timothy to help the church get back on track and stop devoting their energies to things that didn’t edify the body.)
- In verses 3 and 4, Paul reminded Timothy of the message he was to deliver to some at Ephesus. In verse 5, Paul stated the purpose of that

in another letter, Paul says no one was as apt as Timothy to follow his example.

The books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are sometimes referred to as the Pastoral Epistles. They are letters written to church elders addressing subjects related to guiding and building the church. The first letter to Timothy emphasizes the importance of true doctrine, the need to guard against false teaching, and the qualities elders and deacons should possess. It also offers various guidelines for correct behavior in the church.

In 1 Timothy Paul instructs the young pastor about some basic aspects of Christian living. One of Satan’s tricks for leading people away from Christ is to get them to focus on issues that do not matter. In Timothy’s time some people argued about their family lines or about how the Jewish law applied to Christians. Paul says the goal of Christianity is to have love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Loving with a pure heart means loving others the way God loves us. A good, healthy conscience comes from obeying God’s Word and listening to the Holy Spirit. Sincere faith spurs our hearts to desire God.

Paul reminds his readers that neglecting one’s faith and conscience leads to ruin. Perhaps Paul calls such a tragedy “shipwreck” because he had firsthand experience of the loss shipwreck brings. The Christian life involves spiritual warfare since the devil opposes those who live for Jesus. Successful Christian living is not complicated. It

does not require discovering some secret, but it does require constant attention. To maintain our faith, we must seek God every day. To maintain a good conscience, we must agree with God and make things right when He convicts us of wrong.

As he encouraged Timothy, Paul testified that God had been merciful to him for two reasons. First, God recognized that Paul thought he was serving Him when he persecuted those who believed in Jesus. Second, God also showed Paul mercy to demonstrate His great love and compassion toward mankind. If God can turn a vicious church persecutor like Paul into a successful missionary, then He certainly will have mercy on anyone who turns to Him. God’s mercy is a marvelous thing!

### Bishop or Elder

The Pastoral Epistles describe the office and role of a bishop. Paul and other missionaries established churches, and they ordained men to serve as leaders in the newly formed congregations. They appointed these men to be spiritual overseers of local congregations and to give direction to other Christian churches. The terms *bishop* and *elder* are synonyms that describe the “overseer” of the church. Different New Testament translations render the original Greek words in different ways.

Various church denominations understand the responsibilities of the bishop or elder in different ways. In some denominations the bishop is the person in charge of weddings, baptisms, and ordinations. In most denominations the bishop serves as overseer of one or more congregations and has the authority to ordain other elders so that the work of the church continues.

Mercy and grace are similar. Both are an expression of God’s love for us. Grace seems to emphasize that God gives us what we do not deserve while mercy stresses His withholding punishment that we should have received. However, mercy is not just God putting up with us; it is His kindness toward us in spite of our mistakes.

message. Paul wanted certain results. What were they?

- Charity (love) from a pure heart
- A good conscience
- Unfeigned (sincere) faith
- (v. 6, 7) In verse 6, the word *swerved* translates a Greek word that has the idea of missing a target or veering from the right way. It appears two other times in the New Testament—both as *erred*; both by Paul; both in letters to Timothy.
  - “Have erred concerning the faith” (1 Timothy 6:21).

Teacher Notes

Lesson 1

## UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

**Circle the letter of the answer.**

4. Which statement best describes Paul's and Timothy's relationship?
- As Paul's son, Timothy appreciated the advice he received from his father.
  - Because Paul was an experienced leader, he required Timothy to follow his advice.
  - Timothy and Paul thought alike and Timothy followed Paul's example.
  - Timothy considered Paul's direction and encouragement unnecessary.
5. For what two reasons did God have mercy on Paul?
- God wanted to show His great love and compassion toward mankind.
  - Paul carefully followed the Law.
  - Paul sincerely thought his actions were serving God.
  - Paul was the worst sinner living at that time.
  - God tolerated Paul's actions because he was part of God's people, the Jews.
6. Which statement best describes how mercy and grace are different?
- Grace gives us what we do not deserve, while mercy withholds the punishment that we do deserve.
  - Mercy is God tolerating us, but grace is His kindness toward us.
  - Mercy gives more than we deserve, while grace withholds the punishment for our sins.
  - None of the above.

**Complete the sentence and answer the questions.**

7. In many ways mercy is similar to grace; both come from God's great love for us.
8. In which city was Timothy and what were his responsibilities as a bishop?  
He was in Ephesus correcting false doctrine.
9. What did Paul say would cause spiritual shipwreck?  
neglecting one's faith and conscience
10. Maintaining faith and a clean conscience keeps us from sin.
- How do we maintain faith?  
Seek God every day.
  - How do we maintain a good, healthy conscience?  
Agree with God and make things right when He convicts us.

**Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false. Correct any false statements.**

11.  **T** **F** To be successful Christians we are required to *give constant attention to maintaining faith*.
12.  **T** **F** The Pastoral Epistles are letters written to *church leaders* about guiding and building the church.
13. **T**  **F** First Timothy was a personal letter written by Paul to ~~rebuke~~ direct and/or encourage a young church leader.

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- "Concerning the truth have erred" (2 Timothy 2:18).

What is the result when members of the church swerve from the truth? Explain. (*They end up in "vain jangling"—useless arguments that serve no purpose.*)

- (*vv. 8-11*) Laws are not made for the righteous, but for the ungodly. Discuss why this is so.
  - *The law is to restrain evil and to redirect the evil ones.*
  - *The law is to mete out punishment to those who go against it.*
  - *The righteous have no need for such restraint, redirection, or punishment.*

- *Thus the law is not directed at the righteous.*

- According to verse 12, what did Jesus do for Paul? (*Enabled him, counted him faithful, and put him into service*)
- The word *injurious* in verse 13 sounds like an adjective, making it seem out of place in a list of nouns. However, the Greek word (*Strong's #5197*) from which it comes is a noun meaning an insulter, or one who mistreats or injures others.
- (*vv. 13, 16*) In spite of Paul's regrettable past, he says twice, "I obtained \_\_\_\_\_." (*Mercy*)
- (*v. 15*) Paul said he was the worst sinner. Is that a true statement? Explain. (*In God's eyes,*



no. In his own eyes,  
yes.)

- (v. 15) Why did Jesus come? (*To save sinners*) Compare with Matthew 9:13; 18:11; and Mark 2:17.
- (v. 15, 16) How can it be a comfort to Christians to know that Paul, who had been a persecutor and murderer of the believers, obtained mercy, faith, and favor with God? (*If God had mercy on Paul and saved him, he is well able to forgive our sins and save us too.*)
- (v. 17) To whom does Paul want all honor to go? (*God—the King eternal*)
- (vv. 18, 19) These verses are reminiscent of what Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:13: “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
- (vv. 19, 20) The expression *delivered unto Satan* sounds like a shocking thing for a Christian leader to do. These men, by blaspheming, had thrown in their lot with the enemy. Paul was no longer praying for their deliverance from evil, but had opted to leave them unprotected and fully vulnerable to the evil one.

A step like this sounds vengeful and awful. Notice the other time it is used in the Bible: in 1 Corinthians 5:5, Paul instructed the church at Corinth to take that step against one of their own. Notice the purpose of that; notice the outcome

## THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

### Complete the exercises.

- ① Paul acted as a spiritual father to Timothy. A young person should have more than one person who can teach and nurture him spiritually.
14. *Think!* Who could give spiritual nurture to an eighth grader?  
Example: It could be one or both of my parents, my pastor  
or an uncle or aunt.
- △ 15. Give two reasons why a good conscience is important.  
Examples: It helps me to hear when God speaks to me.  
It gives me confidence when I pray. It helps me to be honest  
with God.

## FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING

- ① When a man is formally ordained to an office of church ministry, the leader in charge of the ordination lays his hands on the man’s head. This symbolizes the giving of authority.
- 📖 16. Read 2 Timothy 1:6. According to this verse, who ordained Timothy? Paul

## BIBLE MEMORY

### Write the memory verse, including the reference.

17. “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.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Paul desired: “that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

This process was an effort at restoration and deliverance, not something intended to be vindictive and eternally damning. In the case at Corinth, part of Paul’s follow-up letter reads as if their action against that man produced the desired results. (*With the class, read 2 Corinthians 2:6-11.*) Hopefully, the results with Hymenaeus and Alexander were similarly effective!

- (*LightUnit page 2, Exercise 1*). **Note to teacher:** Some print concordances have a typo, giving the Greek number as #5798 when it should be #5198.

## Vocabulary Focus

- **genealogies** (v. 4)  
Sometimes family connections determine how much influence and acceptance a person has. People tend to treat others differently when they know they have royal blood or wealthy, powerful relatives. The Jewish people were especially interested in genealogies linked to the priesthood or the line of David. Families whose genealogies were in this line had more prestige among those to whom this was important. Paul discourages this kind of thinking. Believers are all adopted into God's family as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our genealogy is unimportant for salvation.
- **jangling** (v. 6)  
Have you ever been caught by surprise while doing something you knew you shouldn't be doing? Perhaps you immediately tried to explain yourself, stumbling over excuses that didn't make sense. That is "vain" jangling. Some people in the church at Ephesus were trying to make a show of what they knew, but their words were useless jangling.
- **perjured** (v. 10)  
When someone is tried in court, he is asked to swear to tell the truth. If later he is proved to have lied in his testimony, he will be prosecuted for perjury, which is a serious crime. How much more serious it is to perjure yourself in your promises to God!
- **unfeigned** (v. 5)  
"If you give me your candy, I'll be your best friend." Have you ever heard little children say something like that? We know they are not being sincere—they are feigning friendship. An unfeigned friend is a true friend. Unfeigned love is love that is genuine, not pretended.
- **doctrine** (v. 3)  
The way *doctrine* is used in Timothy is slightly different from the way we use it today. Then, doctrine simply meant any teaching. Today, we sometimes think of doctrine as a specific teaching, as in "the doctrine of nonresistance" or "the doctrine of headship."



## Bible Memory

In contemporary English we do not use *conversation* synonymously with *behavior*. Some dictionaries record that "behavior" is an archaic definition of *conversation*. That helps explain why the King James translators used *conversation* to translate the Greek word *anastrophe* (Strong's #391), which means "behavior."

In our Bible memory selection, Paul encouraged Timothy to faithfulness in what areas? (*Being an example of the believers; that is, living a life that shows what a believer in Jesus is like, by his speech, his behavior, his love, his spirit or attitude, his faith, and his pure character.*)

Give students a few minutes to practice memorizing the verse.

## QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

- We can imagine that Timothy was greatly encouraged to receive letters from Paul. How would your pastor respond to an encouraging letter? Individually, or as a class, write a letter of appreciation and encouragement to their pastor. (It doesn't have to be six chapters long to accomplish your goal!)
- In 1 Timothy 1:15, Paul said he was the chief of sinners, meaning that he saw himself as the worst sinner of all. Is this a proper attitude to have about ourselves? Or does it signify an inferiority complex? (*The Bible encourages us not to compare ourselves. Rather, we are to measure our lives by the Bible and by Jesus' example. When we do that, we find ourselves far short of where we need to be. This is a right attitude to have—recognizing how exceedingly sinful we are without Christ and the help of the Holy Spirit. Only when we recognize our need of forgiveness can we be saved from sin. Keeping an attitude of humility before God will help us to value the mercy and love God has for us.*)

## Assign Lesson 1 in the LightUnit.