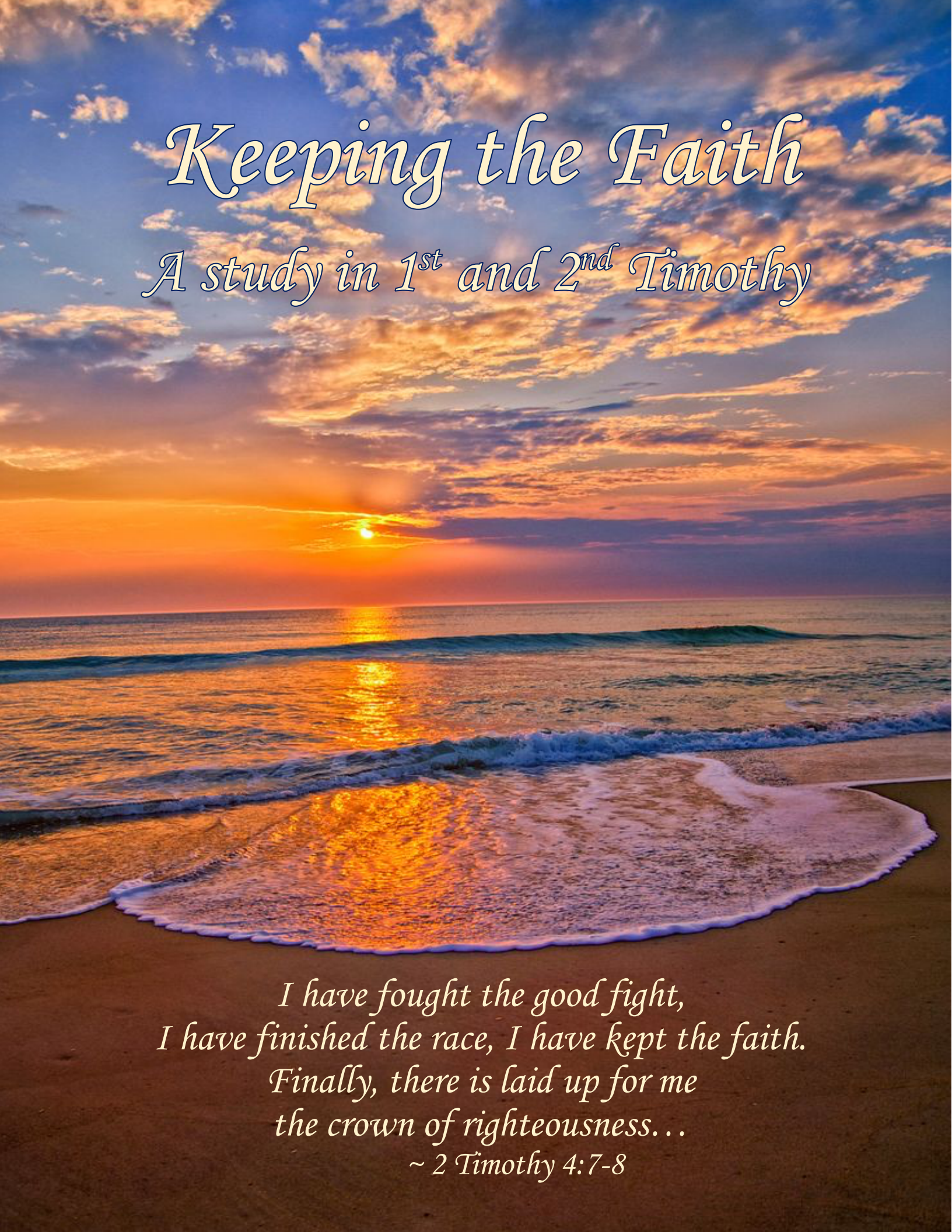




Keeping the Faith

A study in 1st and 2nd Timothy

*I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Finally, there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness...
~ 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Table of Contents

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
- 2 Timothy 4:7*

Sections	Page
How to Use this Study Guide.....	4
1 and 2 Timothy Keeping the Faith	
1 Timothy Introduction..... Study Notes	5
1 Timothy 1:1-11 Greeting and Warning.....	7
1 Timothy 1:12-20 Fight the Good Fight.....	11
1 Timothy 2:1-15 Prayer and Women in the Church	15
1 Timothy 3:1-16 Qualifications for Leadership.....	19
1 Timothy 4:1-16 Overcoming False Teaching.....	23
1 Timothy 5:1-16 Caring for Widows and Others	27
1 Timothy 5:17-6:2 Supporting Leadership	31
1 Timothy 6:3-10 Godliness and Contentment.....	35
1 Timothy 6:11-21 True Riches.....	39
2 Timothy Introduction..... Study Notes	43
2 Timothy 1:1-18 Be Faithful and Unashamed.....	45
2 Timothy 2:1-13 Be Strong.....	49
2 Timothy 2:14-26 The Approved Worker	53
2 Timothy 3:1-17 Difficult Times Ahead	57
2 Timothy 4:1-22 Final Farewell	61
Friends, Prayer Requests	65

How to Use This Study Guide

Bible study is not just learning about God; it is about knowing God and growing in our relationship with Him. When you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, a concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note: The New King James Version (NKJV) was used for this Study Guide, with consideration of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the Amplified Bible (AMP).

Each lesson begins with reading through a portion of Scripture. As you answer the questions, keep in mind that *there are no right or wrong answers*. If you do not understand something, or you cannot answer a question, bring it to your group for discussion. This is the beauty of the small group setting.

Near the end of the study questions, there is a “Growing Stronger” section. This is an important and personal part of the study. As you answer the questions in this section, reflect on how you can apply the lesson personally by asking the following questions: What does this mean for my life? Is there something I can start doing? Is there something I need to stop doing?

Each lesson ends with a “Final Thoughts” section. Consider using a journal to write your thoughts and insights as you answer the questions and reflect on the lesson you completed. Your journal is also a good place to write prayers to God in response to what He revealed to you in His Word.

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. “
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Study notes for 1 Timothy Introduction

1 Timothy 1:1-11... *Greeting and Warning*

This is a personal letter from Paul to Timothy, like a father to a son. Paul addresses the danger of false teachers who were spreading false doctrine. This letter is highly relevant to our own times also.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-7 again

1. How does Paul refer to Timothy?

In what way would this validate Timothy's authority in the church?

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Grace

Mercy

Peace

3. Describe the problem in Ephesus. (verses 3-4)

4. What godly characteristics are necessary for teaching God's Word?
5. How can you tell if an idea or a teaching is "idle talk"? (Psalm 119:9, John 17:17)
6. What problem or sin is at the root of verse 7? (Romans 1:21-22, Titus 1:10-11)

Read verses 8-11

7. For whom was the law made?

What does the law reveal about a person?

8. According to verse 11, where does sound doctrine come from?

What is "the glorious gospel"? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Growing Stronger...

Using the following verses, describe how to cultivate each attribute.

Pure heart:

Psalms 24:3-4

2 Timothy 2:22

Good conscience:

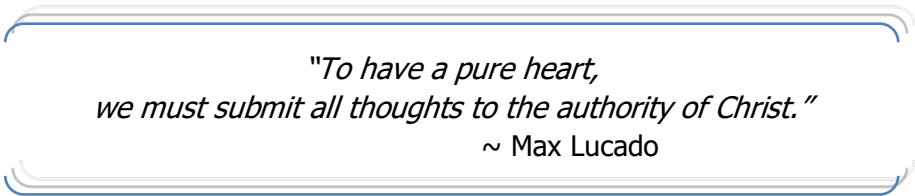
Psalms 32:5

1 John 1:9

Sincere faith:

Romans 10:17

Colossians 3:16



*"To have a pure heart,
we must submit all thoughts to the authority of Christ."*
~ Max Lucado

Final Thoughts...

To help you further cultivate a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith, ask yourself the following questions each time you read your Bible: Is there a sin for me to avoid? Is there a promise for me to trust? Is there an example for me to follow? Is there a command for me to obey? How does this passage draw me into a deeper relationship with God?

Study notes for 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1 Timothy 1:12-20... *Fight the Good Fight*

Paul thanks Christ Jesus for enabling him, counting him faithful, and putting him in the ministry. Paul then encourages Timothy to “fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience.”

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 12-17 again

1. Why did Paul thank Christ Jesus?

What had Paul been formerly?

2. Why did Paul obtain mercy?

Does ignorance and unbelief excuse sin? Explain your answer. (Leviticus 5:17, Romans 1:18-20)

3. What is a “faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance”? (verse 15)

4. Why did Paul believe he was the chief of all sinners? (Galatians 1:13)

Does your past disqualify you from serving God? Why or why not? (2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 1:8-9)

5. For what reason was Paul shown mercy? (verse 16)

What does this show you about God's character?

6. Write verse 17:

How do **you** give honor and glory to God?

Read verses 18-20

7. How do you "fight the good fight"? (verse 18 NASB; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." ~ Ephesians 6:12

8. What do “faith and a good conscience” guard you against? (verse 19)

Explain what it means to suffer spiritual “shipwreck”?

9. What specific things do you need to do in your daily life to live with a “good conscience”?

Growing Stronger...

Paul exhorted Timothy to “fight the good fight” and not give up. How do the following verses help you to persevere during difficult times?

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 5:1-5

Galatians 6:9

James 1:2-4

Final Thoughts...

Do you “fight the good fight” when attacks come into your life? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you through the battle? Do you trust that God will give you the wisdom, courage, patience, and authority you need? Fight the good fight with a clear conscience and never lose sight of the fact that you represent Christ in this world.

Study notes for 1 Timothy 1:12-20

[illegible]

1 Timothy Chapter 2... *Prayer and Women in the Church*

Christians attend church services for a variety of reasons. Some go to hear the preaching, some to see friends, some out of a sense of duty or obligation, and some for the music. According to Paul, the primary reason for public gatherings is to worship God. Paul addresses three of the main aspects of public worship: prayer, teaching the Word, and the role of men and women in the church.

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 2

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-7 again

1. What kinds of prayer are mentioned in verse 1?

2. Who are you exhorted to pray for?

List the reasons for this exhortation.

3. According to verse 4, what should the focus of our prayer be?

4. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Mediator

5. What did our Mediator accomplish for us according to the following verses?

Matthew 20:28

Galatians 1:4

Read verses 8-15

6. Why is it important to pray “without wrath and doubting”? (James 1:19-20, James 1:6-8)

7. How does a woman “professing godliness” dress appropriately? (verses 9,10)

Why is this important? (Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 8:9)

8. Is Paul merely interested in women’s apparel or something else? (1 Peter 3:3-4)

*"Some women will spend 30 minutes to an hour preparing for church externally.
What would happen if we all spent the same amount of time
preparing internally with prayer and meditation?" ~ Leonard Ravenhill*

9. Read Galatians 3:28. How does this verse put to rest any notion that Christianity views men as superior to women?

10. List some of the godly women God has used in your life to help you grow in faith.

How can you show appreciation this week for their spiritual investment?

Growing Stronger...

Authority in the church is given to men. However, women have many influential roles. Read the following stories of women in the Bible who had a wonderful godly influence.

Read 1 Samuel 1

What are you praying for with confidence that God hears you and will answer your prayers according to His good will for your life?

Are you praying with a surrendered spirit, ready to use the gifts God gives for the glory of His name? Explain your answer.

Read Matthew 26:6-13 and 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

How is the fragrance of your life influencing others for Christ?

Read Esther 4:10-17 and 9:23-25

Where has God called you to be strong and courageous “for such a time as this”?

Final Thoughts...

“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Paul begins his instructions on church affairs with the topic of prayer, which indicates the important role of prayer in the church. How vibrant is your prayer life? Are you intentional in seeking the Lord for the lost? Take a moment and write a prayer of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for you.

Study notes for 1 Timothy Chapter 2

[illegible]

1 Timothy Chapter 3... *Qualifications for Leadership*

In this chapter, Paul addresses the qualifications for church leadership. Rather than stress specific duties, Paul directs Timothy to choose leaders with godly character and proper behavior. Paul ends the chapter by reflecting upon Christ, who is the heart of the gospel.

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 3

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-7 again

1. What is said about a man who desires the position of bishop?
2. List the positive traits the person seeking a leadership position needs to possess and the negative traits to be avoided.

Positive Traits	Negative Traits

3. Why is it important for a church leader to be "blameless"?

4. What is the risk of placing a new convert in a leadership role? (verse 6)

*"No man is worthy to rule until he has been ruled;
No man can lead well until he has given himself to leadership
greater than his own." ~ Catherine Marshall*

5. Why is it important for a church leader to have a good reputation among people outside the church?

Read verses 8-13

6. What is required of a deacon's wife? (verse 11)

Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Reverent

Slander

Temperate

Faithful

How are reverence, temperance, and faithfulness evident in **your** life? (Titus 2:3-5)

7. Review the qualifications in verses 2-12. How are you applying these qualifications to **your** life?

8. What is said of deacons who have served well? (verse 13)

Read verses 14-16

9. Read the following verses and describe the “church of the living God”.

1 Corinthians 3:16

1 Timothy 3:15

1 Peter 2:4-5

10. 1 Timothy 3:16 describes Christ in a series of affirmations. What do you learn about Him?

How can focusing on this description of Christ help you conduct yourself like God wants you to?

Growing Stronger...

What insights do the following passages reveal about right motives for those who lead God’s church?

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

1 Peter 5:1-3

Read Mark 10:42-45. How did Jesus define leadership?

Final Thoughts...

In this portion of his letter, Paul presents the qualifications church leaders must possess. These attributes relate not only to a leader’s words but also to their actions. Think about the leadership roles you currently have (parent, supervisor, committee chairperson, etc.). Prayerfully consider which qualifications you want to cultivate or improve upon and the specific steps you will take to do so.

Study notes for 1 Timothy Chapter 3

[illegible]

1 Timothy Chapter 4... *Overcoming False Teaching*

Timothy faced strong opponents in Ephesus – false teachers had already ensnared some of the believers. But Paul reminds Timothy of who **he** is – a disciple of Jesus Christ who is capable of standing in the power of the Holy Spirit against false teachers. He encourages Timothy to embrace his youth, set an example for believers, use his gifts, and hold fast to the true doctrine of the gospel.

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 4

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-5 again

1. Use the following verses to explain why some “depart from the faith”.

Proverbs 13:20

Matthew 24:11-12

Acts 20:29-30

1 Timothy 4:1

2. List the false teachings mentioned. (verse 3)
3. What do you find in Colossians 3:15-17 to help you resist false doctrine?

Read verses 6-11

4. What is your best defense against false teaching? (verses 6-7, Acts 17:11)

"It's been said that only the educated are free, but I contend only those who are educated with the Truth of God's Word can be inherently free. Otherwise you are simply indoctrinated with error." ~ Anonymous

5. Using a dictionary, or online resource such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Doctrine

Godliness

6. What had Paul endured in order to lead people to godliness? (verse 10)

In what specific ways can you pray for missionaries and for the persecuted church?

Read verses 12-16

7. How did Paul instruct Timothy to live so that others would respect him?

What are some practical ways you can apply these to your life?

8. What was Timothy to “give attention to”?

What do these things accomplish? (verses 15-16)

Growing Stronger...

Paul’s instructions to Timothy are valuable for Christians today. He told Timothy to first look to his own growth and godliness. As you “give yourself entirely” and “take heed” to sound doctrine, you will mature spiritually. Answer the following questions to help you move “toward godliness”.

Do you sincerely desire to grow in your relationship with God? What will that entail? (Philippians 3:12-14, Hebrews 12:1-2)

How can you prepare to overcome the attack of your spiritual adversary? (Ephesians 6:10-19)

How will you replace distractions with that which strengthens the inner person? (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:37 AMP)

Final Thoughts...

“.... give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1 Timothy 4:13

The best defense is a good offense. The daily reading of God’s Word, Scripture memorization, sound Bible teaching, and fellowship with other believers are all ways to stay grounded in the truth and recognize false teaching. In what area(s) do you need to improve? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you write out a plan of action.

Study notes for 1 Timothy Chapter 4

[illegible]

1 Timothy 5:1-16... *Caring for Widows and Others*

The way you treat people often depends on how you view them. Paul encourages Timothy to treat people with respect and honor. He then addresses the need for widows, both old and young, to be cared for – making a distinction between support given by the church and a family's responsibility to their own.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-2 again

1. What counsel does Paul give for interacting with the church family?

What underlying attitudes does God want you to have?

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there can be any kindness I can show, or anything I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." ~ William Penn

Read verses 3-8

2. What qualifies a widow as one deserving support from the church? (verse 5)

What kinds of things should a godly widow be doing?

3. How is the treatment of widows connected to the 5th commandment? (Exodus 20:12)
4. What does the lifestyle of a widow who "lives in pleasure" reveal about her? (verse 6, Romans 8:5-6)
5. How does verse 8 describe the one who will "not provide for his own" family?

Read verses 9-16

6. List the qualifications of a widow who is to be "taken into the number."

Why are these qualifications important?

7. What are younger widows not to do?

What are they to do?

Growing Stronger...

Read the following verses and explain what they reveal about God's continual compassion for widows.

Exodus 22:22-23

Psalm 68:5

Isaiah 1:17

Final Thoughts...

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

The church's resources are limited and are for those in genuine need. Those who are able, should serve others. In what practical ways can you help? Sharing a meal, giving a ride to an appointment, or spending time in fellowship would be a real help to someone in need.

Study notes for 1 Timothy 5:1-16

[illegible]

1 Timothy 5:17- 6:2... *Supporting Leadership*

No amount of training can prepare church leadership for every circumstance they will face in ministry. They need our prayers and encouragement. Paul instructed Timothy to uphold the elders, or leadership, of the church. He sets forth the guidelines to financially support, protect, rebuke, and select church leadership.

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 17-21 again

1. Identify one of the church's responsibilities toward its leaders. (verses 17-18)

How do you participate in this responsibility?

2. How should an accusation against a church leader be handled? (Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:15-16)

Why are "sinning" leaders to be "rebuked" publicly? (verse 20, James 3:1)

List some reasons this is important. (Proverbs 16:28, 26:20)

*"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."*

~ Proverbs 10:9

3. What do the following verses say about showing partiality?

Deuteronomy 10:17

James 2:9

Read verses 22-25

4. Why did Paul warn against appointing leadership “hastily”? (verse 22, 1 Timothy 3:6,10)

5. What is the intent of the instruction in verse 23? (Titus 1:7)

6. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Discernment

How does this definition apply to 1 Timothy 5:24-25?

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2

7. What attitude and behavior should you, as a Christian, have toward your employer?

What further instructions and encouragement do you find in Colossians 3:22-24?

Growing Stronger...

The challenges of church leadership are as daunting and rewarding today as they were 2,000 years ago. As a member of the church body, you are called to support and encourage your pastor and ministry leaders in their appointed tasks. Meditate on the following verses and list some tangible ways you can accomplish this.

Psalms 133:1

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Philemon 1:20

Hebrews 13:17

3 John 1:4

Final Thoughts...

Jesus "...made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant..." Philippians 2:7

For believers, work is a sacred duty. Like Jesus, we should work with humility and diligence. Whether you are a hard-working wife and mother or employed outside the home, all that you do should be done to glorify God. Pray for practical ways to better accomplish this. Express in writing what the Lord shows you.

Study notes for 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

1 Timothy 6:3-10... *Godliness and Contentment*

False teachers who are looking to get rich from the gospel do not realize that godliness is gain in itself. The reward of sharing the gospel and teaching the Bible is not about money, but the privilege and blessing of serving Jesus Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 3-5 again

1. List some characteristics of false teachers. (Acts 20:29-30)
2. What impact can conflict have on a congregation? (1 Corinthians 3:3)
3. What should you do when confronted with false teachers? (verse 5, Romans 16:17)

Why?

Read verses 6-8

4. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Contentment

Gain

5. What do you learn about contentment from the following verses?

Philippians 4:11-12

1 Timothy 6:6

Hebrews 13:5

Is contentment important to **you**? Explain your answer.

6. How can remembering you “brought nothing into this world” and will take nothing out of it help lead to contentment? (verses 7-8, Job 1:21)

What leads to true contentment? (Matthew 6:19-21)

"Contentment is an attitude that says, 'I will be grateful with what God has given me.' " ~ Anonymous

Read verses 9-10

7. What happens to those who “desire to be rich”?

8. Is money evil? Why or why not?

9. What does it mean that some have “strayed from the faith”?

Growing Stronger...

According to the following verses, what gain is there in being godly and content?

Psalms 37:3-4

Matthew 6:32-33

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Philippians 4:12-13

Final Thoughts...

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

Money and possessions do not bring contentment; that only comes from a proper relationship with God. Spend time this week thanking God for His faithful provision and ask Him to remind you that “godliness with contentment” is greater gain than money or possessions He may allow you to obtain.

Study notes for 1 Timothy 6:3-10

1 Timothy 6:11-21... *True Riches*

Many people think the good life means having a lot of money and an abundance of possessions. But Paul exhorts us to pursue the true riches of a godly life. Considering that all we have and all we are belongs to God, we should be careful to use it all for His glory.

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 11-16 again

1. What are you to flee from? (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

What are you to pursue? (1 Timothy 6:11)

2. How do you pursue something intangible such as righteousness or faith? (Ephesians 4:22-24)

3. What is the "good fight of faith"? (verse 12, Matthew 16:24-25)

Using the following verses, note some things that help you "fight the good fight of faith".

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Ephesians 6:10-11

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What would a renewed commitment to the battle look like in your life today?

4. Ponder 1 Timothy 6:15-16. In your own words, describe our Lord Jesus Christ.

How can you prepare for His imminent return? (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8)

Read verses 17-19

5. What are “uncertain riches”?

Rather than trust in “uncertain riches”, what are you to do? (Psalm 52:7, Jeremiah 9:23-24)

6. What are the wealthy to do with the treasure entrusted to them? (verses 17-18)

Should your actions be any different from “those who are rich”? Explain why or why not.

What will the result be of properly using your earthly possessions?

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
~ Matthew 6:21

Read verses 20-21

7. What was committed to Timothy’s trust? (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

8. What was Timothy warned to avoid?

9. What is the danger of entertaining “what is falsely called knowledge”?

Growing Stronger...

“Therefore if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value].”

Colossians 3:1-2 AMP

When you “lay hold on eternal life”, you are motivated to live a certain way. How do the following verses remind you that your true riches are in heaven?

Matthew 6:19-20

Luke 6:38

Luke 12:19-21

Revelation 22:12

Final Thoughts....

It does not matter whether God has given us a lot or a little, we are to be generous with what we have. The money and possessions placed in our hands are resources He has given us for building His kingdom and serving His people. As we share with others and support those who work for God, we store up treasure in heaven - an eternal reward.

Study notes for 1 Timothy 6:11-21

[illegible]

[illegible]

2 Timothy Chapter 1... *Be Faithful and Unashamed*

This is Paul's final epistle. Facing imminent death, Paul encouraged Timothy to carry on the ministry and faithfully guard the gospel. In a very real way, this epistle represents Paul's last will and testament. Paul, lonely and in prison, exhorted his son in the faith to endure and remain faithful to the gospel.

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 1

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-7 again

1. What did Paul remember about his "beloved son"?
2. What did Paul "remind" Timothy to do?
3. In what ways has God gifted **you** to serve Him and His people?

"You don't have to be any more talented, any richer, any slimmer, any smarter, any more or less of anything to partner with God. All you have to be is willing to be used by Him in everyday ways." ~ Anonymous

4. Fill in the blanks: "For God has _____ given us a spirit of _____, but of _____ and of _____ and of a _____." (2 Timothy 1:7)

What do the following verses say to you about fear?

John 14:27

Romans 8:15

1 John 4:18

Read verses 8-14

5. What did Paul ask Timothy to “share” in?
6. What key points of the gospel are outlined in verses 9-10?
7. From the following verses, describe what makes suffering for the gospel worth it:
Psalm 16:11

John 14:2

Romans 8:18

Revelation 21:4
8. Why was Paul “not ashamed” of the gospel? (verse 12)
9. What was Paul “persuaded” of?

How would this help Paul as he awaited death?

How does this help **you**?

Read verses 15-18

10. In what ways did Onesiphorus serve as a role model for Timothy?

Growing Stronger...

Paul mentioned several friends in his letters who helped and encouraged him when he faced discouragement, deprivation, imprisonment, and persecution. Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another." (John 13:35 AMP) Read the following verses and describe how they inspire you to be more like Onesiphorus.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Galatians 6:2

1 Thessalonians 5:11

James 5:16

Final Thoughts...

"...you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you." 2 Timothy 1:5 NLT

We are not always aware of the influence we have on those around us. As you live in the power of the Holy Spirit, sincerely love others, and exercise self-control, you will influence others for the Kingdom of God. Consider increasing your influence by memorizing and applying 2 Timothy 1:7.

[illegible]

2 Timothy 2:1-13... *Be Strong*

Paul calls on Timothy to be strengthened by grace, entrust the truth to others, endure hardship for the sake of the gospel, and remain faithful to Jesus Christ. May his words embolden you to stand strong and persevere in the faith.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-3 again

1. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Grace

2. Where does your strength come from? (Psalm 28:7)

Describe a time when you experienced God's strength in your life.

*"The strength of a man consists in finding out the way
in which God is going, and in going that way too."*

~ Henry Ward Beecher

3. Describe your role in passing on to others what you have learned. (Romans 10:14-15)

Read verses 4-7

4. List the characteristics of an effective soldier, athlete, and farmer; then explain how these characteristics apply to you.

Characteristics	Application
Soldier	
Athlete	
Farmer	

5. How does God give you understanding? (Psalm 119:130)

How can you increase your understanding? (Joshua 1:8)

Read verses 8-13

6. What does Paul want you to remember?

Why is this important? (1 Corinthians 15:14)

7. What did Paul mean when he said, "the Word of God is not chained"? (Hebrews 4:12)

8. What will happen if we die in Christ? (verse 11, John 11:25, Romans 6:5)

9. What do the following verses tell you about reigning with Christ?

Daniel 7:27

Revelation 20:6

10. Explain the meaning of, “if we deny Him, He will deny us.” (verse 12, Matthew 10:33)

Growing Stronger...

Not every Christian is called to be a church leader, but every believer needs to be equipped for ministry. What do the following verses reveal to you?

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

2 Corinthians 5:20

Ephesians 4:11-12

Hebrews 13:20-21

Final Thoughts...

“This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” 2 Timothy 2:11-13

These verses evoke some questions for our hearts today. Have you died with Him—that is, have you given your heart to Jesus Christ and received Him as Lord and Savior? Are you enduring in your faith right now—that is, are you enduring with Christ in the midst of your current hardships and sufferings? How much are you willing to suffer for Jesus Christ? Prayerfully consider how much He was willing to suffer for you.

Study notes for 2 Timothy 2:1-13

[illegible]

2 Timothy 2:14-26... *The Approved Worker*

Paul now addresses another problem the church must face – falsehood. He exhorts us to shun false teaching and embrace sound doctrine. God’s Word enables you to recognize, resist, and rebuke falsehood. As you read this portion of Scripture, consider how you can be an approved worker who stands for the truth of God’s Word.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Which verse stands out to you and why?

1. Complete the following chart using 2 Timothy 2:14-26.

Traps to Avoid	Traits to Acquire

Read verses 14-19 again

2. What are “these things”? (verse 14, 2 Timothy 2:11-13)

Explain why remembering “these things” would be helpful.

3. List some ways you can “accurately handle the word of truth.” (verse 15 NASB)

4. What do the following verses say about the believer’s resurrection?

Romans 6:5

2 Corinthians 5:1

Why would believing that this resurrection had already taken place “overthrow the faith of some”? (1 Corinthians 15:16-18)

5. Describe the “solid foundation of God”.

Psalms 18:1-2

1 Corinthians 3:11

6. According to the following verses, how does “the Lord know those who are His”?

Nahum 1:7

John 10:27

1 Corinthians 8:3

*“Faith never knows where it is being led,
But it loves and knows the One who is leading.”*
~ Oswald Chambers

Read verses 20-26

7. How does an individual go from being a vessel “for dishonor” to one “for honor”? (verse 22)
8. How might you, as a “vessel for honor,” be used?
9. How should you respond to “those who are in opposition”? (verses 24-26)

Why is this important?

Growing Stronger...

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Wisdom and understanding come from the Bible. Investigate the following verses and describe the results of following the sound doctrine of God’s Word.

Psalms 119:2

Psalms 119:24

Psalms 119:50

Psalms 119:98

Psalms 119:104

Psalms 119:114

Final Thoughts...

“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone...” 2 Timothy 2:24 NLT

It is tempting to argue with and condemn people who believe false doctrine. Instead, we are to be patient with those who oppose the truth of God’s word. Is there a friend or family member who disagrees with your doctrine? Pray, and if the Lord leads you, invite them to discuss things over a cup of coffee and an open Bible.

Study notes for 2 Timothy 2:14-26

[illegible]

2 Timothy Chapter 3... *Difficult Times Ahead*

Paul addresses the evil that will fill the world in the last days. Many people will be boasters, blasphemers, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Paul challenges us to be different - to stand apart from the world and stand up for what we believe. Just as false teachers are recognized by the way they live, so we, as believers in Christ, are to be recognized by the way we live.

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 3

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-9 again

1. How did Paul describe the behavior of people in “the last days”?

In what ways do you see these behaviors in people today?

2. As a believer, how are you to behave?

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:22-24

Colossians 3:1-3

3. What does “having a form of godliness, but denying its power” tell you about the kind of religion the depraved practice?

How can you prevent **your** faith from deteriorating into a form of faith without power?

4. What does “from such people turn away” mean? (verse 5, 2 Thessalonians 3:6)
5. Describe the women in 2 Timothy 3:6-7.
6. How can someone be “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”? (Matthew 7:15, Galatians 1:6-7, James 1:22)

Read verses 10-17

7. Besides Paul, who will be persecuted?

How are you to respond to persecution?

Acts 5:41

2 Corinthians 12:10

1 Peter 4:12-14

How might failing to accept that persecution is inevitable tempt you to neglect sharing the gospel?

"Faith in God has not saved people from hardships and trials, but it has enabled them to bear tribulation courageously and emerge victoriously."

~ Lee Robertson

8. What influence did the “Holy Scriptures” have in Timothy’s education? (2 Timothy 3:15)

9. What does “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” mean?

Deuteronomy 29:29

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

2 Peter 1:21

10. How is God’s Word “profitable” and what is its purpose? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Growing Stronger...

God’s transforming power is available as we open our Bible and listen for His voice. This spiritual work goes far beyond our intellectual understanding. Consider the following verses and record the effect the Bible can have in your life.

Psalms 119:28

Romans 10:17

Ephesians 5:26

1 Peter 1:23

What priority does the Word of God have in **your** life?

Final Thoughts....

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:9 NIV

What lessons have you learned from the mentoring relationship of Paul and Timothy? As Timothy traveled and worked with Paul, he saw firsthand the way Paul lived, endured, and remained faithful in every situation. Timothy saw the way Paul responded with patience and perseverance to difficulties and never wavered in his commitment to Christ despite persecution and affliction. Are you a “Paul” or a “Timothy”? Pray and ask the Lord to lead you to someone **you** can disciple or to someone who can disciple **you**.

Study notes for 2 Timothy Chapter 3

2 Timothy Chapter 4 ... *Final Farewell*

Like a runner in a relay race who passes the baton to the next runner, Paul is passing on his task of guarding and spreading the gospel. Paul did not focus on Timothy's external success, but on his internal character. As you read this chapter, try to sense the urgency and emotion in Paul's final charge to Timothy.

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 4

Which verse stands out to you and why?

Read verses 1-8 again

1. List the admonitions and exhortations in verse 2.

What is the incentive to do these things? (verse 1)

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Doctrine

Where does "sound doctrine" come from? (1 Timothy 6:3)

3. What are some of the traps for those who will not "endure sound doctrine"?

How can you prevent these from happening to you? (verse 5)

4. What was Paul describing when he wrote, "I am already being poured out as a drink offering"?

In what ways are you called to the same sacrifice? (Luke 9:23-24, Romans 12:1)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

~ Jim Elliot

5. Does the appearing of "the Lord, the righteous Judge" fill you with joy and anticipation or with fear and trepidation? Explain your answer.

6. Who is going to be rewarded "on that Day"?

How does this encourage you?

Read verses 9-22

7. What was Paul's attitude toward those who had abandoned him? (verse 16)

How do you typically respond when you feel abandoned by others?

Using the following verses, describe how you might better respond when others have abandoned and hurt you.

Matthew 5:44

Luke 23:34

8. What did Paul recognize as the ultimate purpose of his life? (verse 17)

How was he able to accomplish this?

9. As Paul looked to the future, what was his hope?

Growing Stronger...

Paul compared this life to an athletic event. He fought a good and noble fight. He ran the course and stayed on track. He was confident of the crown he would receive. Search the following verses for ways you can accomplish the same goals in your life.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Philippians 3:13-14

2 Timothy 4:7-8

James 1:12

Final Thoughts...

“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.”

2 Timothy 4:2 NLT

Even if God has not called you to preach, He has called you to share His truth with others. Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the gospel right now? There is no time like the present! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you and provide an opportunity to share the gospel.

[illegible]

~ Friends, Prayer Requests... ~

“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.”

- 2 Timothy 4:22

