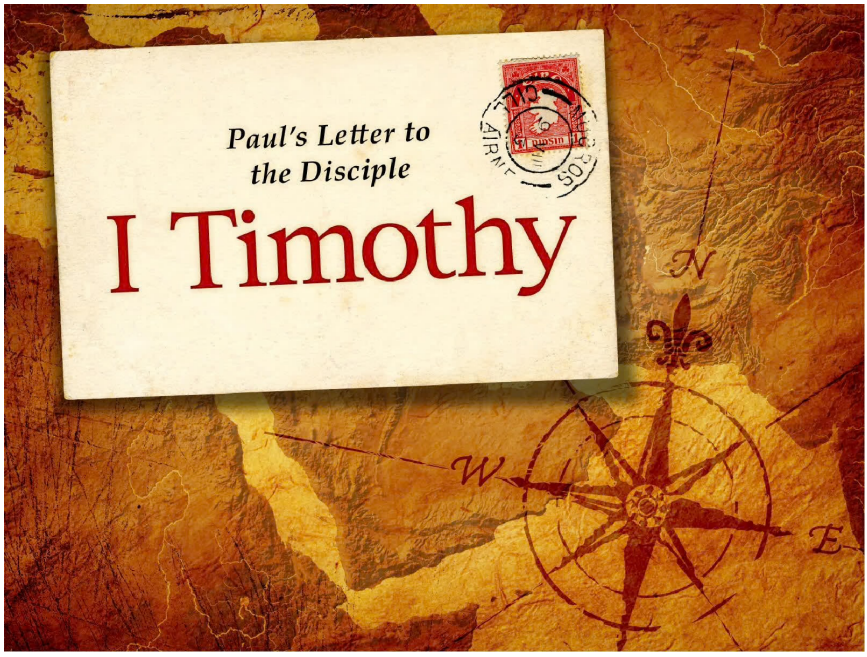
A Guided Inductive Study of 1st Timothy



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of Paul's First Letter to Timothy

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Outline of 1st Timothy

1 Timothy 1 – Doctrine

1 Timothy 2 – Prayer

1 Timothy 3 – Godly Leadership

1 Timothy 4 – Personal Disciplines

1 Timothy 5 – Respect

1 Timothy 6 – Godliness

1 Timothy Verses to Memorize

1:15 Jesus Came to Save Sinners
This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

2:5 One Mediator
For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

3:16 God Manifested in Flesh
God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

4:8 Bodily Expercise
For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

5:8 Provide for Your Household
But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

6:10 The Love of Money
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

1 Timothy 1 - Doctrine

Key verses to think about.

1:3-4 No Fables
Charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

1:9-11 Law is for the Unrighteous
Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

1:15 Jesus Came to Save Sinners
This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1:17 The King Immortal
Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Main Truth:

We are to teach and promote sound doctrine that calls out sin and lifts up Jesus Christ who saves sinners.

Questions:

1 Is there any verse in this chapter you would like to memorize? If so, which and why?

2 Paul emphasized preaching and teaching sound doctrine. What is “doctrine”? Can you name three doctrines that are under attack in today’s church.

3 Verses 9-11 are one thought. Paul is emphasizing that the law is not for making good people righteous but to show sinners how bad they really are. The list of sins and sinners is long and profound. Name a few sins listed here that offend people today.

- lawless
- insubordinate,
- ungodly,
- sinners,
- unholy,
- profane,
- murderers of fathers,
- murderers of mothers,
- manslayers,
- fornicators,
- sodomites,
- kidnappers,
- liars,
- perjurers,

4 Paul often insert doxologies that exalt God and Jesus Christ. What is your favorite biblical doxology? (Not the hymn)

1 Timothy 2 - Prayer

Key verses to think about.

2:1-3 Prayer for All Men
Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

2:4 God Desires All Men to be Saved
For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2:5 One Mediator
For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

2:8 Pray Everywhere
I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

2:11-12 Let Women Keep Silence
Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

Main Truth:

God desires us to pray always for everyone through Jesus Christ alone.

Questions:

1 Paul lists 4 parts to prayers; “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks.” What is the difference between supplications and intercessions? What’s the difference between prayers and giving thanks?

2 Prayers are to be made to God a through Jesus Christ alone. Are there other dead people, saints or Mary through whom or to whom we should address our prayers? Prove it! Quote other scriptures that emphasize this.

3 Have you ever prayer with wrath and doubting? Have you ever prayed angry prayers? When? Why? Have you ever prayed but doubted God would answer? What? When?

4 The role of women in the church is a sore spot in today’s churches. Do you agree with Paul on this?

5 Recently a pastor told me some people in his church got very angry that he prayed for President Trump. Another said a group of people got mad when he prayed for the family of Charlie Kirk. In the light of these verses is that anger justified?

1st Timothy 3
Qualifications for Leadership

Key verses to think about.

3:2-7 Qualifications for elders

3:8-12 Qualifications for deacons

Main Truth:

The role of elder and/or deacon is a spiritual role that requires godly character. It's not a popularity contest.

Questions:

1 Paul gives extensive requirements for elders. List those requirements. (There are 16)

2 Do elders in your church meet these requirements? Are the even mentioned in nominating committees and in elections? Are any of these negotiable? Which?

2 Paul gives extensive requirements for deacons. List those requirements. (There are 15)

3 Do elders in your church meet these requirements? Are the even mentioned in nominating committees and in elections? Do you think any of these are negotiable? Unimportant? Which?

Commentary:

The biblical requirements of elders and deacons. .

Elders

Now the overseer is to be…(there are 16)above reproach,

- faithful to his wife,
- temperate,
- self-controlled,
- respectable,
- hospitable,
- able to teach,
- not given to drunkenness,
- not violent but
- gentle,
- not quarrelsome,
- not a lover of money.
- manage his own family well
- his children obey him,
- not be a recent convert,
- have a good reputation

Deacons

In the same way, deacons are to be… (there are 15)

- worthy of respect,
- sincere,
- not indulging in much wine,
- not pursuing dishonest gain.
- keep hold of the deep truths
- a clear conscience.
- must first be tested;
- nothing against them,
- —their wives are to be
    - worthy of respect,
    - not malicious talkers but
    - temperate
    - trustworthy in everything.
- He is to be faithful to his wife
- must manage his children
- Manage his household well.

I have created a study of these characteristics based on the Greek words describing them. I think it is helpful. I'll place a link to that PDF to download.

Elders:
https://www.ministrytoday.org/elders/elders/qualifications.htm

Deacons: (follow the links)
https://www.ministrytoday.org/elders/deacons/qualifications.htm

1 Timothy 4 - Personal Disciplines

Key verses to think about.

4:1-3 In the Latter Times
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4:8 Bodily Exercise Profits Little
For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

4:10 Jesus is Savior of All Men
For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

4:12 Let No One Despise Your Youth
Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

4:14 Don't Neglect Your Gift
Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

Main Truth:

Paul writes to Timothy about the importance of personal disciplines.

Questions:

1 Have you ever met someone or know someone who has abandoned his or her faith? What happened to them that led them away from the Lord? Paul says the will give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines from the devil.

2 What does it mean to exercise yourself into godliness? How do you exercise godliness?

3 What spiritual disciplines do you exercise every day? Do you even have spiritual disciplines?

4 Paul cautioned Timothy not to neglect the gift that was given to him by the Holy Spirit. What gift, or gifts have you received from the Holy Spirit?

1 Timothy 5 - Respect

Key verses to think about.

5:1 Do Not Rebuke and Elder
Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers,

5:8 Provide for Your Family
But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

5:9-10 Widows
Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

5:17 Elders of Double Honor
Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

5:19-20 Don't Accept an Accusation Without Proof
Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

5:23 A Little Wine for Stomach Sake
No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

Main Truth:

There are a lot of "don'ts in this chapter, basically saying "don't neglect" doing what is right and honorable.

Questions:

1 Do you know who the elders are in your church? How can you respect them if you don't even know them? Find out who they are.

2 If you do know elders in your church is there one that you'd like to emulate? Who? Why? What stands out about them?

3 Paul conveys some negatives about widows, but also women in general. Do you know any widows who qualify under Paul's criteria? Who? Why do you honor them?

4 Paul told Timothy to "take a little wine for his stomach sake and oft infirmities." Was he advocating drinking wine and/or alcohol?

5 If Timothy had recurring infirmities why didn't Paul scold him for not believing in divine healing?

1 Timothy 6 - Godliness

Key verses to think about.

6:6-8 Godliness
Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

6:9-10 Living Money
But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

612 The Good Fight of Faith
Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

6:14-16 Christ Exaltation
He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Main Truth:

The lordship of Christ is that we value him and serve him above all other loves.

Questions:

1 “Godliness” there’s that word again. Paul mentioned it 9 times in this letter. What does godliness mean to you? What is godliness? How can we achieve it? Is it different from holiness? (Hebrews 12:14)

2 “Be content with the things you have.” In our American culture it is difficult not to long for more. More income, a better house, more money, a nicer car, etc. Can you be content with what you have? What is contentment anyway? Complaining is the opposite of being content. How often do you complain?

3 “The love of money is the root of all evil” is a pretty broad statement. Do you agree that it is at the root of all evil? Certainly discontentment, envy, and jealousy are behind most crimes.

4 Verses 14-16 is another doxology, that is, a verbal exaltation of Christ. How often to you verbally exalt Jesus Christ, not just in your heart, but out loud to other people? Think about it. Do you ever exalt Jesus to other people?