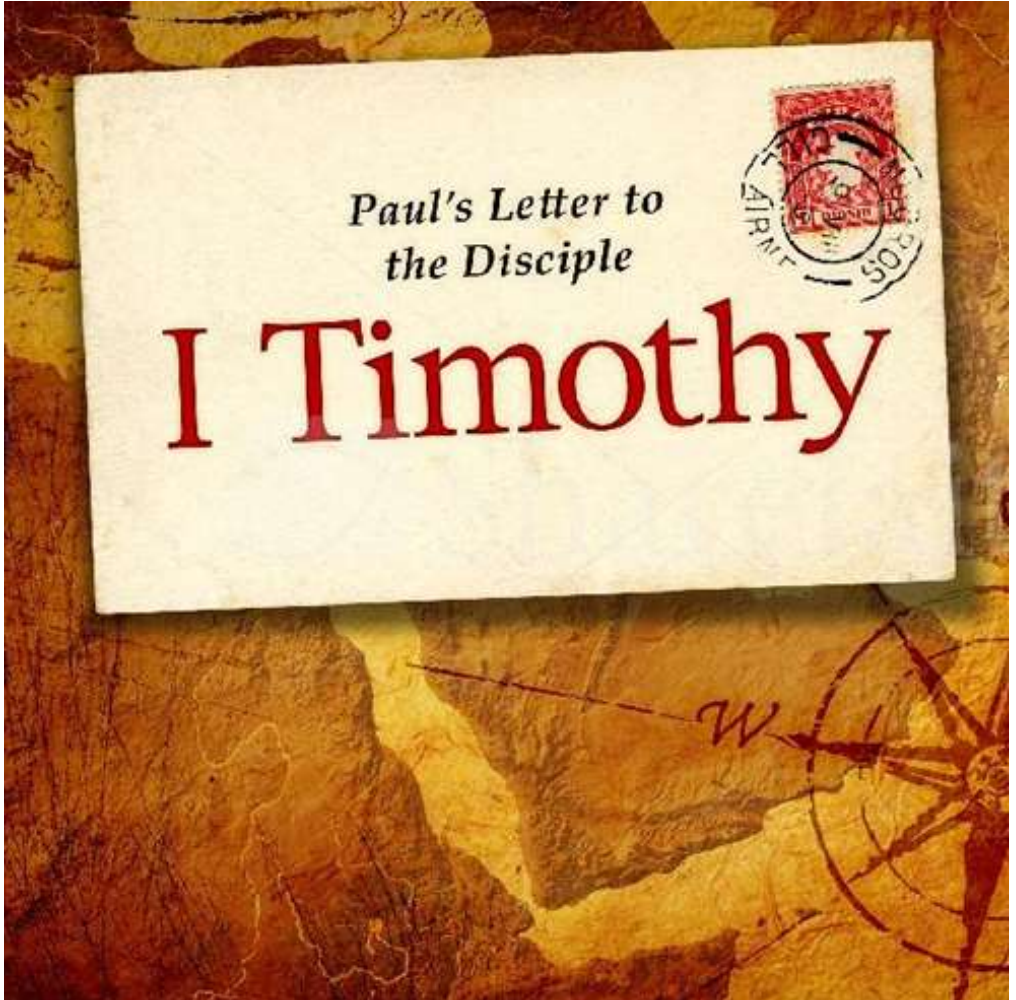


# Let's Worship God

21st-26th May 2018

1 Timothy



Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple

# I Timothy



## Monday - 1 Timothy 5:17-18 - Those Who Labour

Last week, we noted that while all elders have ruling authority in the church and every elder should be able to teach, some are called "teaching elders" because they labour in preaching and teaching. That is, they are supported by the church so that they may dedicate their time to preparing to preach and teach God's Word. Paul says that all elders who rule well are worthy of double honor, and that this is especially true of those who make their living as teaching elders. We see in verse 18 that the way we honor teaching elders involves paying them fairly for their labours. He cites Deuteronomy 25:4 to point out that if even an ox deserves to receive benefits from his labor as he helps to provide food for people, certainly those who labour to feed us with the Word of God should receive a fair wage. (In fact, Deut. 25:4 is likely a Hebrew figure of speech which means the labourer must be paid a fair wage). He then quotes Jesus, who said "The labourer deserves his wages" (Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7). From these statements we learn that it is important that churches pay their pastors adequate wages on which to live while they labour to feed the Church from the Word of God, and those who do well deserve to be paid well.

Another thing of note in verse 18 is that Paul quotes both the Old and New Testaments and calls them "Scripture." Contrary to what many have been taught, it is clear that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written by the time Paul wrote this letter (in the early 60s A.D.). Furthermore, that Paul calls his quote from a New Testament book "Scripture" tells us that Christ's Apostles considered the New Testament to be equally the Word of God with the Old (see II Peter 3:15-16; II Tim. 3:16).

### Questions

1. What does Paul mean when he says we should not muzzle an ox as he treads out the grain?
2. Why should we pay our preachers/pastors?
3. Why is it significant that Paul calls both Old and New Testament writings "Scripture"?

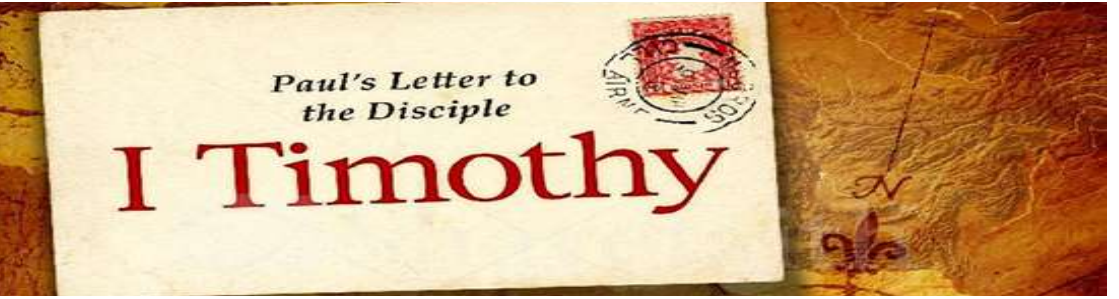
### Prayer Points

1. Pray that churches will have the means to support their pastors well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. I Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 40:10-18 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple

# I Timothy

## Tuesday - 1 Timothy 5:17-25 - How To Treat Elders

In today's passage, Paul teaches us several things about how we are to treat the elders in our churches. First, as we have already seen, we are to honour them, giving double honour to those who rule well (and paying those who labour as teaching elders) (v.17-18). Second, we must be careful not to listen to or participate in gossip about them. A charge against an elder must have two or three witnesses (v.19). Third, the church must follow proper procedures of discipline (see Matt. 18:15-17). In the case of a sinning elder, this may require a public rebuke (v.20), but all must be judged fairly and impartially (v.21). Fourth, we must not be hasty in ordaining men to the office (v.22). Only well-qualified men should be ordained as elders (see I Tim 3:1-7), lest the church appear to be taking part in sin. Thus, Paul cautions (in v.24), that some men's sins are obvious, but others may remain hidden for some time. Likewise, one man's righteousness may be readily seen, while another's may be seen only after much observation (v.25). Therefore, it is important to observe and examine a man closely before entrusting him with authority in the church. Lastly, in verse 23, we find Paul encouraging Timothy to "use a little wine for the sake of your stomach." Whatever else might be said about this verse, it is clear Paul expects Timothy to take care of himself. A healthy pastor or elder can be more effective in ministry. Therefore, the church should encourage an elder to take times of rest and refreshment and otherwise to look after his own health, that he might be able all the more to labour hard at shepherding Christ's people.

## Questions

1. Why is it important that we not listen to gossip about our elders?
2. Why is it important that we not be hasty to ordain a man to the office of elder?
3. Why should we encourage elders to take care of their health?

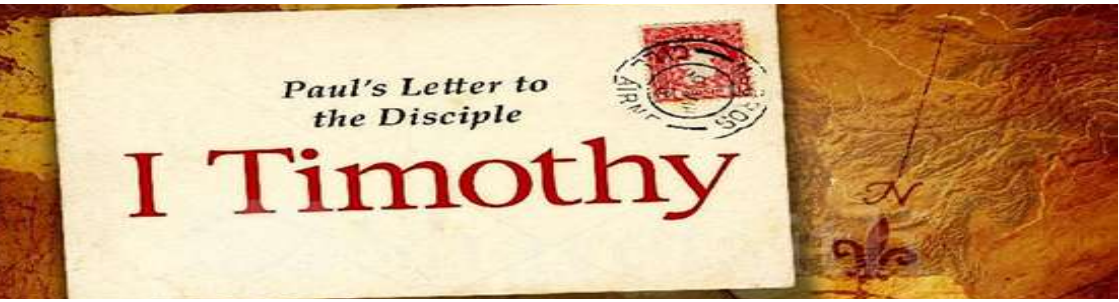
## Prayer Points

1. Pray that churches would treat their elders well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. I Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 104:9-14 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple

# I Timothy

## Wednesday - 1 Timothy 6:1-2 - Slaves

In today's reading, Paul deals with how Christian slaves are to treat their masters. Paul was in no way approving of slavery, but just dealing with the fact that slavery existed in his day. Moreover, the word translated as "slave" may also be translated as "bondservant," and, thus, can refer not only to people who are forced into servitude and treated like property, but also to those who have voluntarily placed themselves in service (usually to pay off a debt), allowing the fruits of their labour to be owned by another. In either case, Paul's interest is that Christians who are in bondage bring honor to God through the way they serve their masters. They are to treat their masters with honour. If they are bound in servitude to a fellow Christian, they must not use their brotherhood as an excuse to serve half-heartedly or to disrespect the master. Rather, they should seek to serve a Christian master all the more faithfully, due to their love for their brother.

Most of us in the western world do not have direct experience with the institution of slavery. (Some who study the issue, however, say that there are more people in slavery around the world today than at any other time in history). Nevertheless, Paul's instructions in this passage apply well to Christian employees. Christians should treat their employers and supervisors with honor. This is especially true when we work under a fellow Christian. When the world sees that Christians work hard and serve their employers faithfully and with respect, the Name of Christ is honored.

### Questions

1. How should Christians treat those for whom they work?
2. How should we treat our master or employer if he is a Christian?
3. What happens when the world sees that Christians work hard and honour their employers?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christians would honour those for whom they work.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 123:all - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple



# I Timothy

## Thursday - 1 Timothy 6:3-10 - False Teachers

A major purpose of this letter is to help Timothy deal with false teachers in the church at Ephesus. In chapter one, Paul reminded Timothy that sound doctrine is that which accords with the Gospel of salvation by grace, alone, working through faith, alone, in Jesus Christ, alone. Here, Paul speaks of "different" doctrines. These teachings are different (strange and unbiblical) because they do not agree with "the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness." Sound teaching will always agree with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the whole counsel of God's Word. Anything else is a false doctrine.

Paul points out several things about one who promotes false doctrines. First, he is "puffed up with conceit and understands nothing" - he thinks more highly of his intelligence, learning, knowledge of the Bible and spiritual things, and ability to reason than he ought. (One way this has occurred frequently in Church history is for a man to claim he understands the real meaning of the Bible, while no one before him has ever gotten it right). Second, he has "an unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels about words" - he is argumentative and enjoys stirring up needless debates. Third, the fruit of his quarreling is division among God's people. Finally, his motive is often financial or other earthly gain. He thinks that by promoting an alternative teaching to that of the legitimate elders in the church, he can make his living (and even enrich himself) from the generosity of the immature who cannot yet distinguish between true and false doctrines, or otherwise gain respect and other earthly rewards.

## Questions

1. With what will sound teaching always agree?
2. What does Paul mean by "an unhealthy craving for controversy"?
3. What often motivates false teachers?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would silence all teachers of falsehood.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 37:11-18 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple



# I Timothy

## Friday - 1 Timothy 6:3-10 - Godliness with Contentment

Yesterday we saw in this passage that the usual motive of a false teacher is the desire for earthly rewards such as money or renown. Paul says that such people view godliness as a means of gain. That he is speaking of false teachers who seek to enrich themselves is seen in the following verses in which Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world and cannot take anything with us when we leave it. He warns that the love of money has produced all manner of evil. (One such evil is the promotion of false gospels). The desire to be rich in the things of this world is a result of lack of contentment, which has led many to fall into following harmful desires, which, in turn, have led to their ruin and destruction.

By contrast, in verse 6, Paul speaks of a type of gain that godliness does bring. As one who has true saving faith in Jesus Christ grows spiritually, he will value the things of this world less and less and value the things of God and the world to come more and more. This produces contentment with whatever our situation in this life might be. This is great gain, for it relieves anxiety, keeps us focused on Christ's Kingdom, keeps us satisfied with what we have (rather than focused on what we do not have) and builds our trust in our Sovereign Creator and Saviour God.

### Questions

1. Of what has the love of money been a cause?
2. How do false teachers think of godliness?
3. In what way is there great gain in godliness?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for godly contentment.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. I Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 49:11-14 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple



# I Timothy

## Saturday - 1 Timothy 6:11 - The Man of God

As we have seen in recent days, teachers of falsehood are often motivated by a love of money, which produces all kinds of evil. Paul tells Timothy to flee these things, calling him a "man of God." Timothy is the only person in the New Testament who is called a man of God. In the Old Testament, the expression "man of God" refers to a man called by God to speak His Word. Therefore, we can easily see how Paul's words to Timothy apply to preachers of the Gospel. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that everyone who is in Christ is a man or woman of God, and, thus, we each of us can rightly apply these words to ourselves.

We must flee the love of money and all the evils it produces. By contrast, we should pursue several things: 1) Righteousness - doing that which God has commanded; 2) Godliness - revering and rightly worshiping God; 3) Faith - trusting God; 4) Love - being self-sacrificial in our service to God and treatment of our neighbor; 5) Steadfastness - being patient and persevering in our service to Christ and His people; and 6) Gentleness - being meek, humble, and gentle in our treatment of others.

### Questions

1. What must Christians flee?
2. What are some things we should pursue?
3. Why does Paul call Timothy a "man of God"?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. I Timothy 6:6

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part2A - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance  
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