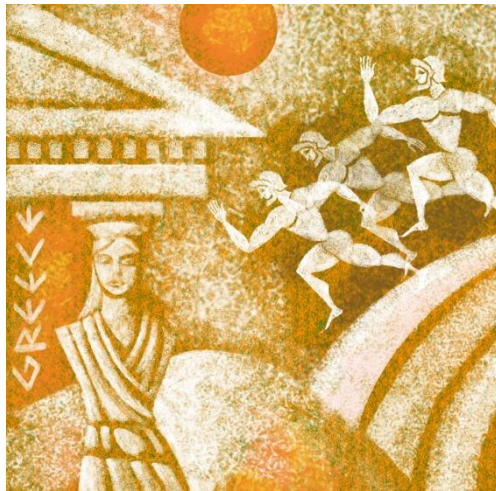


Ι ΤΙΜΟΤΗΥ

Ι Τιμόθεος



Calvary Bible Church 1 Timothy 1:12-20 One-week Study Guide

Wednesday Night Small Groups

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All material can be downloaded from: <http://calvary-bible.org>

The Inductive Method

Observation

What does the text say?

Overview

Establish Context by determining Historical Background

Where does it fit in the Bible timeline?

Ask: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?

Make simple lists of people, places, and events mentioned in the text

Make simple lists of key words that are used throughout large portions of the entire book

Determine Book and Chapter Themes

Mark questions to return to later for future study

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Chapter Studies

Ask: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?

Make more thorough lists of people, places and events

Make more thorough lists of Key Words in chapter or section

Ignore chapter divisions when the theme is carried forward

Mark Contrasts, Comparisons, Expressions of Time, Terms of Conclusion

Beginning of Interpretation: Tie this all together by examining text verse by verse

Outline or complete Structural Analysis to break down difficult text

Examine meanings of Key Words as you study verse by verse

Meditate on text to determine paragraph themes

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Interpretation

What does the text mean in correct context?

What principles do I see that tie to other sections of scripture?

Complete Cross References of those passages of scripture

Complete examination of Key Words: meaning, tense, voice

Notice and examine meaning of verbs & descriptive adjectives

Note commands and warnings

Consult commentaries after completing your own study

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Application

Based on correct interpretation of the text:

What must I do?

How can I apply this truth to my life?

How does this affect me?

How does this better knowledge of God change me?

Meditate on scripture and Memorize important, applicable passages of scripture

What do I see? What does it *mean*? How does this *change* me?

Digging in: Observing, Interpreting & Applying the Text

Read and study prayerfully each day. “Prayer is really a key to effective Bible study. Learn to pray before, during, and after your reading of the Scriptures. Prayer is especially crucial when you come to a place in your study where you are stuck and confused.”¹

The Text: Everyone studies in their own unique way; therefore, there are several study options for you to choose from to assist you in studying 1 Timothy 1:12-20.

- (1) If you prefer to work from one marked copy, remove the working copy at the end of the Overview material, place it in a three-ring binder, and use it for our entire study of 1 Timothy.
- (2) If you don’t like the above option, the text will be printed throughout this material; therefore, you can use this Study Guide alone. The entire book of 1 Timothy is printed at the back to help you keep this section in context within the book.
- (3) Or, use your own bible and simply refer to this material for study suggestions.

This week we will focus in and observe 1 Timothy 1:12-20 carefully and thoroughly.

The importance of careful, thorough Observation continues:

“The more time you spend in **observation**, the less time you will need to spend in interpretation, and the more accurate will be your results. The less time you spend in observation, the more time you will need to spend in interpretation, and the less accurate will be your results.”²

In this material, we move from Observation to Interpretation to Application.

“Start with God’s Word; pray that the Spirit gives you clarity; then study to see what the text actually says. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Bible, so who better to help us as we seek to understand it? Scripture tells us that the Spirit not only inspired the Bible, but also illumines it for us today (1 Cor. 2:12-16 and 2 Tim. 3:16).

“Exegesis: an attempt to discover the meaning of the text objectively, starting with the text and moving out from there.

“Eisegesis: to import a subjective, preconceived meaning into the text.

“The word *exegesis* comes from a Greek word, meaning ‘to lead out’...You start with the text and draw out its meaning. *Eisegesis*, on the other hand, is when you start with an idea or conviction, then search for verses in the Bible to prove your point...The danger in this is that we can take verses out of context to support just about any point of view. For years people have used this style of interpretation in order to justify greed, lust, divorce, and countless other sins. Cults have also used eisegesis to justify their beliefs...The bottom line is that we can easily pursue just about any lifestyle we desire, then find Scriptures to show everyone it’s all right to live that way. **But what would it look like to live *exegetically*? If we were to start with Scripture and allow it to dictate our actions, how would we live?**”³ This type of interpretation and application is the goal of Spirit-filled believers.

This material is designed to help you achieve correct interpretation and life-changing application.

Turn the page to begin your initial observations of 1 Timothy 1:12-20, which is given in two different translations. **As always, use any study suggestions that help you; skip those that don’t.**

¹ Howard G. & William D. Hendricks, *Living by the Book*, Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007, pg. 100.

² *Ibid.*, 43.

³ Francis Chan, *Forgotten God: Reversing our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*, Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009, pg. 23-24.

Day One, Focus on this: What do I see (Observation)? We'll learn what it *means* later.

Contemplate the text in at least two translations. Observe the details.

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV, 1984)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **20** Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Keep in mind the three main charges Paul has given Timothy: **1) Protect the church from the false teachers; 2) Protect your spiritual walk while dealing with lies; 3) Put the church back together**

Use the time God has given you. Skip or adjust any of these suggestions to suit your own study aims.

First Steps:

1. **Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 above and on the facing page. Read it in each translation.** Reading a text in more than one translation gives us new insight. **Read thoughtfully. Read contemplatively.** Read like you've never read it before. **Compare the wording of each.**
2. **Write down observations and questions so you can investigate them later. Mark it up.**
3. **If your study time allows, quickly read through the entire book of 1 Timothy to set 1:12-20 in context (pg. 17-19).** As you read, **notice the sections** where Paul encourages and equips Timothy to protect his spiritual walk.
4. **Remember** what you observed about the main charges of Paul's letter to Timothy (listed above by the scroll). **Circle or underline** the parts of 1:12-20 that address any of these themes.
5. **How** do 1:12-20 illustrate Paul's reason for writing? "I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, **you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth (3:14b-15 NIV)."
6. **Notice words or ideas you want to study in greater detail later and make a note in the margin.**
7. (See the information on outlining, pg. 13, and make an outline if you'd like.)

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (ESV)

12I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, **13**though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, **14**and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **15**The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. **16**But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. **17**To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

18This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, **19** holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, **20** among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

What do you see? Look at the text. Circle your observations or jot them in the margins.

- **For what** does Paul thank God in 1:12? **To what** did God appoint Paul? **Why** this appointment—**what** was God's determination about Paul? **But to whom** does Paul give the credit for his strength? **What does this look like in your life, regarding your appointment to His service?**
- **Before he committed his life to Christ, was** Paul on the list of transgressors in 1:9-10? Look at chapter one on pg. 17 if you don't remember the list. **If you're not familiar with Paul's life before salvation, read Acts 7-8:3; 9:1-2 (he was called Saul then); Gal. 1:13-14; and 1 Cor. 15:9.**
- **In 1:13, how** does Paul describe what he once was? **Why** does he say he was shown mercy?
- **What** was poured out abundantly, overflowing, according to 1:14? **Who** is the source of all these blessings?
- **How** did this come about? **What** saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance? **What** was Christ's mission, according to v. 15? **Why** did He come into the world?
- **How** does Paul describe himself in 1:15b?
- **But why** was Paul shown mercy, according to 1:16? **What** did Paul's salvation allow Christ Jesus to display? **Why** did Jesus use Paul's redemption as an example? **How** does this affect you?
- **Does** Paul's salvation, as the worst of sinners, inform us that *anyone* may come to salvation? **What** about those on the list in 1:9-10? **What** about you? **What** all do believers gain because of Christ's action in coming to save sinners, according to v. 12-16?
- **What** does the consideration of his salvation prompt Paul to do in 1:17? **Pause and consider your own salvation. Adding your own praise, along with Paul's, is entirely appropriate here.**
- **How** does Paul describe Jesus in 1:17? **How** does this description affirm the deity of Christ? **What** does Paul attribute to Christ?
- **Why** does Paul give Timothy this instruction to deal with the problems in Ephesus, 1:18? **If Timothy follows the prophecies once made about him, what will result?** (We're not interpreting yet; we're observing the details so we can interpret later in the week.)
- **What** does fighting the good fight look like, according to 1:19a?
- **But what** have "some" done? Have they held onto faith and a good conscience? **By rejecting these disciplines, what** have these done to their faith? **What** does this tell us about the value of a good conscience?
- **Who** does Paul name in 1:20a? Timothy goes into the situation in Ephesus knowing that at least these two specific men are false teachers. **What** advantage is this to him in sorting out the situation?
- **Using his apostolic authority, what** has Paul done with these men, v. 20b? **How** does the fact that these two men are under church discipline affect the situation for Timothy?

Day Two, Key words: What do I see (Observation)?

1. **Read through 1 Timothy 1:12-20 thoughtfully one more time.** Determine what the key words and phrases are for this particular section. Focus in on the significant words in *this section*. A key word or phrase is one that is crucial to understanding (interpreting) the text.
2. **So what words are crucial?** Consider the questions you answered and meditated on from pg. 4 & 5. What words that helped you answer those questions are necessary for understanding the text? What words, if you removed them from the text, would remove the meaning or intent of the passage? What words tie this passage to Paul's overarching purpose and focus in this letter?
3. **Mark the words you now understand to be crucial—the words that have definitions you *must* know in order to understand the text.**

HOW: Use **color** or **pencil** or **ink**, whichever you prefer. Mark each key word with a unique mark for that particular word (a different color for each key word, or a different way of circling it, or drawing a box around it, or any other creative mark you want to use for each particular word). **The purpose of marking is to help us see the details of the passage.** (1) If you are using the working copy you used to complete your Overview, you will see that some of these words are marked already—words that are significant for the entire letter. (2) If you're not using the working copy, use the text on the facing page (pg. 7), or (3) complete this exercise in your own bible. Or do any combination of the three; it's entirely up to you.

Mark these words with unique markings for each one:

- God, Christ Jesus (the King eternal, the only God), Holy Spirit
- Author (Paul, including pronouns [I, me, my])
- Recipient (Timothy [you, your])
- Other people (some, Hymenaeus, Alexander)
- Key/Significant Words observed and marked during the Overview (refer to the Overview material, if needed)
- Other Significant Words which are crucial for understanding 1 Tim. 1:12-20:
faithful/trustworthy; faith/believe; mercy; save; sinners; unlimited patience; good conscience; good fight; shipwrecked; blaspheme, etc.

Mark any words that are crucial for determining the meaning.

Make lists of details you observe:

Instructions given to Timothy:

Observations about Christ Jesus:

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV, 1984)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **20** Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Jot your notes and observations here:

What all do you learn about Paul here?

As you go throughout your day, meditate on the value and importance of a good conscience.

Day Three: What do I see (observation)? What does it *mean* (interpretation)?


Mark Grammatical Phrases: This exercise will help you see how the main ideas of this section tie together. Note these with marks in the working copy or in the copy of 1 Tim. 1:12-20 on page 9.

- Mark **words of contrast** (*but, however, nevertheless, or, neither, nor, not only, whether, etc.*) with a lightning bolt mark above the word (or any mark you choose that you feel shows contrast). **In the margin of your working copy, write what is being contrasted. For example:**

v. 13, I was shown mercy
EVEN THOUGH

I was once a blasphemer, and a persecutor and a violent man...

- Mark **words of comparison** (*like, likewise, also, in addition, as, furthermore, moreover, etc.*) with an = sign or arrow (or any mark you choose). Are there any comparisons in 1:12-20?

-  Draw a little clock face (or another mark you choose) above words showing **expressions of time** (*then, once, after, until, in the days, etc.*). **Why are these words or phrases important?**
- Mark with an “x” words that show **conclusions or an end result** (*therefore, so that, for this reason, because, etc.*) and **draw arrows** to connect the linked ideas. **What is the author trying to show or prove? What is the conclusion or result he is emphasizing? For example:**



*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, **THAT** he considered me faithful...*

- Mark **commands** in a way that draws the eye, such as highlighting. There are no commands in 1 Timothy 1:12-20, though Paul is giving Timothy instruction.
- The New Testament was written in Koine Greek. Due to Greek word formation and syntax, some things would be obvious in the original Greek that are not obvious in English.
 - In the Greek, these words express continuous or habitual action. Mark like this (~):
 - 1:13, “was,” “ignorance”
 - 1:16, “would believe”
 - 1:18, “made,” “fight” the good fight
 - 1:19, “holding”
 - 1:20, “blaspheme”



As you completed this exercise, what was revealed about the passage? Write down anything you discover that you hadn't seen in the text before:

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV, 1984)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **20** Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Day Four: What does it *mean* (interpretation)? How does this *change* me (application)?

Focus now on comprehending the text. Use the following steps. Each person studies differently; but make it a practice to always try new techniques. **If a particular step or idea doesn't help, try something else.** Come at the text from as many angles as possible.

PRAY FIRST! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you comprehend.

1. What words or phrases do you need to investigate in order to comprehend the text? **Question the text (see box below).** Determine the words you *need* to understand. Commands and instructions are always significant.
2. Read the word and its surrounding text in another translation. Sometimes just reading the passage stated in another way helps us to comprehend.
3. If the meaning is still unclear, look up word definitions in the concordance. **How?**
 - **Page 12 details "how to use a concordance,"** or ask your group leader.
 - For additional help, use your concordance to **find other places these same key words are used** (called finding the "cross references"). Look up the words that are assigned the same Greek reference numbers. For example, "urged" in v. 3 is Strong's #3870 or GK (NIV) #4151. Look at other verses that include words that have the same numbered definitions. **Consult page 12 for "how to find a cross reference."**
 - **There are specific instructions and additional study helps for 1:12-20 on the Help pages, including assistance with: an examination of Christ's mission to *save*, prophecies about Timothy, 1:18, and *handed over to Satan*, v. 20. A list of free online study sites is also given.**
4. Next re-examine each sentence or verse and paraphrase it using the definition. Write it out in your own words to be sure you understand.
5. Then move on to the next word you want to examine.
6. Final option: Examine the notes at the bottom of your study bible or in one of the listed commentaries (pg. 15), after you've completed the above steps. Try on your own first and experience the joy of discovery; then, find out if you were right in your assessment.

AS YOU'RE DOING THIS: Question the text: ask **who, what, when, where, why,** and **how.**

"If you want to understand a biblical text, you've got to bombard it with questions. The Bible is never embarrassed to be asked questions. That doesn't mean it will answer all of them. But you still need to ask to determine if they can be answered. Obviously, if you're going to ask questions, you've also got to look for the answers. Where will you find them? In the text. Observation will give you the basic building blocks out of which you will construct the meaning of a passage. The answers to your questions will come directly from your observation process."⁴

EXAMPLE: **Why** does Paul turn from the charge in 1:3-7 and the list in 1:9-10 to a description of the particulars of his own salvation and the source of strength for his service? **What** might be Paul's motive for reminding Timothy of what he was like before salvation? **Why** would Paul tell Timothy these things he already knows? **How** would this reminder affect Timothy? **Why** did God show mercy to Paul (and to us)? **Why** is everything that was poured out abundantly essential for living the Christian life? **What** is mercy? **Why** does Paul remind Timothy of his commissioning for ministry? **How** is Timothy to fight the good fight? **Of what importance is a good conscience?** **How** does one hold on to a good conscience and faith? **Does** the perilous slide to a shipwrecked faith begin with violating our conscience or ignoring it? **What** does this have to do with the false teachers? **What** does *handed over to Satan* mean?

⁴ Howard G. & William D. Hendricks, *Living by the Book*, (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007), 43.

Use this page to write down definitions and to put verses into your own words:

HELP PAGES

How to use a Concordance & Cross Reference Help:

Complete Word Studies: The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew (some Aramaic). The New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek.

How to use a Concordance:

1. Look up the word in the alphabetized front section of the concordance. (Remember: If you're using a Strong's concordance, you have to find how the word was translated into English in the KJV. "Thank," v. 12 in the NIV, is translated "exhort" in the KJV, for instance; so look up "exhort" in the Strong's concordance).
2. Under the word, look for the verse reference where that specific word is used.
3. Look for the number on the right. Each number corresponds to a Greek or Hebrew word.
4. Turn to the appropriate dictionary or lexicon in the back of the concordance (Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament).
5. Look up the number for the definition.
6. The words in italic are the definition. Write down the Greek word's transliteration (in English alphabet); and write the definition down next to your key, essential word.

How to Find a Cross References: Using the concordance, compare references in the Bible which use any word or quoted passage of scripture that you determine needs further study—you won't do this with every word, just the ones you feel need additional investigation. **Several suggestions follow:**

*Christ came in the world **to save** sinners.* Words related to salvation are used throughout this letter, displaying various aspects of salvation, from the Savior himself to the aspect of our salvation called sanctification. Look up the meaning of the word used in this passage: **to save** (Strong's #4982/GK, NIV #5392). Now examine the other uses of this word, or its synonyms, within this letter. Read these references and their surrounding verses in context, then look up the definitions: 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3, **God our Savior** (#4991/#5400); 2:4, **to be saved**, and 2:15, **will be saved** (both #4982/#5392); 4:10, **God who is the Savior** (#4990/#5400); 4:16, **will save** (#4982/#5392). What do you learn? What are the many aspects of our salvation, other than just our arrival at our final destination in heaven?

*In keeping with **the prophecies** once made about you...Read 1 Tim. 1:18, 4:13-14 and 2 Tim. 1:5-7* to learn about the spiritual gift bestowed upon Timothy for the life of service God ordained for him. We will examine more about Timothy's spiritual gift and *laying on of hands* later in this study. For now, focus on the term we find here in 1:18: **prophecies** and **prophetic message** (4:14), both the same Greek word: Strong's #4394/GK, NIV #4735. **Make a list of everything you notice about this term. An expanded lexicon definition helps us to interpret correctly:**

Prophecies: #4394. *προφητεία prophēteía*; "from *prophēteúō* (4395), to prophesy. A prophesying or prophecy. (I) Particularly prediction, the foretelling of future events, including the declarations, exhortations, and warnings uttered by the prophets while acting under divine influence; of the prophecies of the OT (Matt. 13:14; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21); the revelations and warnings of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19, equal to *marturía* [3141], witness, as in Rev. 19:10. See also 2 Chr. 15:8). **In 1 Tim. 1:18; 4:14**, *prophēteía* refers either to the prophetic revelations or directions of the Holy Spirit by which persons were designated as officers and teachers in the primitive church (cf. Acts 13:2; 20:28; 1 Cor. 12:4-8ff.; 14:24, 30, 31), or to the authoritative declaration made by the presbytery of the fitness for ministry of one whom they are ordaining. (IV) *Prophēteía* is the prophetic rank or work...classed with *diakonia* (1248), ministry or serving, and *didaskalia* (1319), teaching as a *chárisma* (5486), the result of God's grace or divine enablement to be exercised within the church (1 Cor. 12:10; 13:2; 1 Thess. 5:20; **1 Tim. 4:14**; Rev. 11:6; 19:10). Elsewhere it means prophecy, that which is prophesied, foretold (Matt. 13:14; 1 Cor. 13:8; 14:6, 22; **1 Tim. 1:18**; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19). (X) **In 1 Tim. 1:18**, Paul expresses himself as guided by prophecy in relation to the separation of Timothy for the Christian ministry. There was possibly a specific revelation of God to Paul concerning the usefulness of Timothy. Others consider it to have been the formal declaration of Timothy as a minister and the sober charge of duty laid upon him by the presbytery. **In 1 Tim. 4:14**, prophecy is presented as the vehicle through which the spiritual gift was formally imparted at Timothy's ordination. Certainly, Timothy's ministerial gift was present and developing in him before this time. However, the word of the church affords a formal and official recognition to Timothy as genuinely gifted and called to ministry. In 1 Cor. 14:3 Paul mentions three functions of the prophet: "He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." In other words, he builds up the Christian's character, speaks moral precepts and warnings, and gives the encouragement arising from personal testimony, example and sympathy. "He . . . edifieth the church," while "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself."¹ **More information is given on the facing page.**

Zodhiates, Spiros: *The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament*. electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2004.

More about prophecies: **1 Tim. 1:18:** “God had spoken clearly through others to set Timothy aside for his ministry (see note on 1 Cor. 12:10). This assurance of a specific divine calling is to strengthen Timothy for the work.” **1 Cor. 12:10 note:** “The word *prophecy* refers generally to speech that reports something that God spontaneously brings to mind or *reveals* to the speaker but which is spoken in merely human words, not words of God. Therefore it can have mistakes and must be tested or evaluated [1 Cor. 12:29; 1 Thess. 5:19-21]. An alternative view of this gift held by some is that it involves speaking the very words of God, with authority equal to OT prophets and equal to Scripture. A third view is that it is very similar to gifts of preaching or teaching. The gift is widely indicated through the NT churches (see 1 Cor. 11:2-5; 12:28-29; 13:2, 8-9; 14:1-40; Acts 2:17-18; 11:27-28; 19:6; 21:9-11; Rom. 12:6; 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 Tim. 1:18; 4:14; 1 John 4:1). Prophecy is used to build up, encourage, and comfort the gathered community [1 Cor. 14:3]. Prophecy is also used evangelistically to disclose the secrets of the hearts of unbelievers and lead them to worship God [1 Cor. 14:24-25]. Because God used this gift to build up the Christian community, Paul urged the Corinthians to value it highly [14:4-5, 39].”

1 Tim. 1:20, handed over to Satan, “refers to being put out of the church (i.e., excommunication). (See note on 1 Cor. 5:5). This language highlights the importance and protection of church membership, since being put out of the church leaves one more exposed to Satan.” **1 Cor. 5:5 note:** “*Deliver this man to Satan* probably refers to removing him from the church, since those outside of the church are in Satan’s realm (Luke 2:5-6; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 5:19).”⁵

Online Resources

Try these sites: www.mystudybible.com, www.esvstudybible.org/, www.blueletterbible.org, www.biblegateway.com, and www.crosswalk.com. Find which you like best; they all have online concordances. Examples: The first website listed has all tools keyed right to the text—just enter the text; using the word study tool on the right, click the word you want to investigate. This is the: *Holman Christian Study Bible*, another new translation to use for comparison. The *ESV Study Bible* site has excellent study notes. Both of these are simple and very helpful. All of these sites are free.

OPTIONAL: Make an Outline

Consider making an outline of the section or the entire book: Complete a word-for-word outline of each section. If you are the type of person who benefits from this type of structural work, prepare this initial outline skeleton by filling in the theme of the entire book with a theme for paragraph as Roman numerals under the theme of the entire book. Then you can add the text word-for-word under the Roman numerals, with each new paragraph being categorized by a letter of the alphabet.

III. Paul: an example of the effect of the true gospel (1:12-17):

- A. **12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - 1. who has given me strength,
 - 2. that he considered me faithful,
 - 3. appointing me to his service.
- B. **13** Even though I was once
 - 1. a blasphemer
 - 2. and a persecutor
 - 3. and a violent man,
- C. I was shown mercy because
 - 1. I acted in ignorance
 - 2. and unbelief.

- **Other people find that it helps them to break down the text from the first day they begin to study a book or section of the Bible.** Experiment with outline forms or simply breaking down the text in a way that makes grammatical structure more obvious to see if this helps you comprehend more. See previous packet of material for another example of how to do this.

⁵ All quotations this page from *ESV Study Bible*, Crossway Bibles, 2008, in this order: pg. 2327, 2209, 2327, 2197.

Day Five: What does it *mean* (interpretation)? How does this *change* me (application)?

After completing your word studies with the concordance, integrate all the information you discovered. Pull it all back together.

Identify themes within this section, then define the entire section:

As we worked through 1 Timothy 1:12-20, we meditated on the meaning of all we discovered by observing and questioning the text, completing the word studies, and examining any cross references that were helpful. We should now be able to construct a theme for each paragraph that summarizes the content within this section.

Why do this? Just as paraphrasing helped us to ponder on the text and to see if we really comprehended the verse clearly, so stating the theme allows us to pull together the basic ideas of this section so that we retain what we've learned when we go about our daily lives. **This step aids our meditation on scripture by organizing in our minds what's here. See if you can write a concise sentence that summarizes the theme of each paragraph.**

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV, 1984)

Theme of v. 12-14: _____

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Theme of v. 15-17: _____

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Theme of v. 18-20: _____

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **20** Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Theme of entire section, v. 12-20: _____

Next, check your conclusions:

Now consult a commentary. Now is the time to check your conclusions. You'll gain from someone else's study by doing this; but remember, commentary notes aren't scripture. Commentators aren't infallible. Opinions will vary. Save *final* interpretation until you've finished studying the entire book and have had time to contemplate your study.

Good commentaries (hard copies are available in the church library):

- *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus*, by Walter L. Liefeld, Zondervan.
- *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1 Timothy*, by John MacArthur, Moody Press.
- *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Abridged Edition*, Barker & Kohlenberger III, Zondervan.
- *ESV Study Bible*, Lane T. Dennis, Exec. Editor; Wayne Grudem, Gen. Editor, Crossway Bibles.

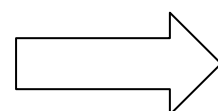
Check the online sources to see what commentaries they have. Investigate the commentary sections of these: blueletterbible.org, crosswalk.com, and/or biblegateway.com.

Now apply it. Let it change you. Begin to live it.

Begin to implement the specific portions which the Holy Spirit moved you to realize were areas of growth necessary for your own life. As you studied, periodically we asked you questions to help you consider how the text might relate to you. Now, consider the questions below and on the next page to contemplate even further application. What additional applications can you find?

Consider these personal questions:

1. In coming to 1:12-20, what did I find to be the most significant statements? Why?
2. What specifically does this section tell me about Christ Jesus? What qualities does he possess? Why did he come into the world? What actions does he take? What all does he provide for believers? What about Christ's actions will encourage Timothy in his task?
3. How can these truths about Christ affect my life and change it?
4. How did the statements in this section relate to the other main points in the letter and to Paul's purpose in writing (3:14-15)?
5. Is there an example here for me to follow? What type of model is provided by Paul regarding transparency about the details of his former life and his salvation? What needs to change in my life in order for me to live a humble and open life like Paul's? How does Paul's example of transparency challenge me to grow in being a discipler of younger believers?
6. What positive motivations do I find in the passage and the book as a whole that convince me to lead a righteous life? Is maintaining a good conscience and holding tightly to my profession and the sound doctrine of the gospel a priority in my life? Or am I on the downhill slope toward a shipwrecked faith because I have neglected or rejected these things? Francis Chan in *Crazy Love* states: "We are on a never-ending downward escalator. In order to grow, we have to turn around and sprint up the escalator, putting up with perturbed looks from everyone else



who is gradually moving downward.”⁶ Holding on to the truths of the faith and to a clean conscience keeps us moving up the downward escalator. **What practical steps am I taking to fight the good fight and hold on to these things?**

7. **Do any portions of 1 Timothy 1:12-20 produce a sense of conviction within me?**
8. **What type of prayer does this section provoke?**
9. **Do any parts of this section cause me to want to live differently? Am I fulfilling the commission God has for my life, as Paul reminded Timothy to do?**
10. **Is there a verse or verses to memorize?**

In this section, Paul encouraged Timothy for the task ahead of him—dealing with the false teachers and instructing the church about how the gospel should shape their lives. Paul shared transparently about his own past, reminding Timothy of these details and of God’s mercy and unlimited patience. Then he recalled to Timothy’s mind his commissioning for ministry, instructing him to fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. **What does that look like?**

“It is in life’s miniscule events that we meet our match. ‘Fight the good fight of the faith’ always conjures the grand image of me heroically holding my ground in a hostile forum of ungodly opponents, like Paul at the Areopagus (Acts 17). But that kind of thing almost never happens...All godly warfare begins in lonely private wrestlings. A young man forgives a young lady who betrayed him—taking on her debt, bringing God the pain, holding back his tongue from slicing at her reputation. It takes a year to do it, and no one ever knows but him and God. This is the good fight of the faith, and all courage is hidden courage. You are in conversation and have a strong urge to inject a comment that would clinch your point. You almost blurt it out, and it would be neither slander nor untruth. But a check in your spirit says it would add nothing to the final outcome, and may embarrass a brother. So you stifle the urge, and find it is surprisingly difficult. This is the good fight of the faith, and all warfare requires a death.”⁷

Timothy must fight this good fight privately, holding on to faith and a good conscience, as he puts the church back together, informing them of how their love for Christ should transform them and providing descriptions of gospel-shaped living. Paul wrote him: “I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, **you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth (3:14b-15 NIV).” Something the false teachers taught prompted Paul to instruct Timothy to give teaching to the Ephesian church on every area of church life. There’s something for all of us in the coming sections.

In moving forward, don’t make these mistakes:

1. Don’t substitute interpretation for application and do nothing.
2. Don’t substitute superficial obedience for substantive life-change.
3. Don’t substitute rationalization for repentance.
4. Don’t substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision to change.
5. Don’t substitute communication for transformation and merely talk about what you’ve learned.⁸

⁶ Francis Chan, *Crazy Love*, David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2008, pg. 95.

⁷ Andree Seu, “Fighting the Good Fight,” *World Magazine*, December 3, 2011, pg. 75.

⁸ Some of these application ideas are drawn from *Living By the Book*, Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks, Moody Press Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2007.

1 Timothy (NIV, 1984)

1 Timothy 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer **4** nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. **5** The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. **6** Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. **7** They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. **9** We also know that law[a] is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, **10** for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine **11** that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, **19** holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. **20** Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Timothy 1:9 Or *that the law*

1 Timothy 2

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. **7** And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, **10** but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. **12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. **13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve. **14** And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. **15** But women[a] will be saved[b] through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Timothy 2:15 Greek *she*
b. 1 Timothy 2:15 Or *restored*

1 Timothy 3

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer,[a] he desires a noble task. **2** Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. **9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

11 In the same way, their wives^[b] are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. **13** Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, **15** if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. **16** Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:

He^[c] appeared in a body,^[d]
 was vindicated by the Spirit,
 was seen by angels,
 was preached among the nations,
 was believed on in the world,
 was taken up in glory.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Timothy 3:1 Traditionally *bishop*; also in verse 2
- b. 1 Timothy 3:11 Or *way, deaconesses*
- c. 1 Timothy 3:16 Some manuscripts *God*
- d. 1 Timothy 3:16 Or *in the flesh*

1 Timothy 4

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **2** Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. **3** They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. **4** For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. **7** Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. **8** For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance **10** (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. **12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. **13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. **14** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **16** Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 5

1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, **2** older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. **4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. **5** The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. **6** But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. **7** Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. **8** If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband,^[a] **10** and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. **12** Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. **13** Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they

become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. **14** So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. **15** Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan. **16** If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,”^[b] and “The worker deserves his wages.”^[c] **19** Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. **20** Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

24 The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. **25** In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Timothy 5:9 Or *has had but one husband*
- b. 1 Timothy 5:18 Deut. 25:4
- c. 1 Timothy 5:18 Luke 10:7

1 Timothy 6

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered. **2** Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them.

These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, **4** he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions **5** and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. **9** People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you **14** to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **19** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, **21** which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.

Grace be with you.