

1 Timothy 1:1-20

Read Acts 20:29-32. What was Paul worried might happen to the Ephesian church when he left?

What threats is Timothy fighting? Why was Paul writing to him?

According to 1:1-7 what is the major issue facing the church?

If not dealt with what might this teaching and lifestyle lead to? (1:20)

What dangers might we face in Paul's command to silence false teachers. How might v5 help?

In verse 7 we see a misunderstanding of the Old Testament law is at the heart of the problem. What is the use of the law? (vv. 9-11 might help)

Does the law make a distinction between any of these wrongdoings? Why is that the case?

How is verse 15 an encouragement to us who maybe discouraged by what we read in 9-11?

What is the main doctrine of the Christian faith that we misunderstand if we think we are saved by being good?

In vv12-14 Paul gives us a very short but important testimony. He tells of how he was saved through God's grace and mercy. Why do you think it is important for us as a church to remind ourselves of what we were and what we are saved by?

How is Paul an example to all believers in regards to God's grace?

What examples of God's merciful treatment of you stick out in your mind?

1 Timothy 2:1-15

What is the very first thing Paul urges Timothy to do? (vv. 1-2)

Are there any indications in this passage that Paul is only talking about the local church rather than broadly about all churches?

To what does Paul appeal to back up his argument in vv11-15? What does this say about the relevance of Paul's teaching to the larger church rather than to the local and cultural situation?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. How is this similar to what Paul is teaching Timothy in 8-15? How does this help with dispelling the argument this is a local & cultural issue?

What things does this passage tell us are pleasing to God? (1-7)

What does it mean to pray with holy hands? How is this explained in the rest of the passage? How might men do this?

What does vv9-10 teach us about how women should come to pray in public? How might they do this?

What does it mean to dress with good deeds?

What reasons do these verses give for dressing with modesty and propriety?

What are women commanded to do in these verse? (11-15)

How can both men and women seek to better live out what Paul is encouraging Timothy with here?

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Before reading the passage, what three things would you list as essential foundations for building a church?

Each time Timothy mentions “here is a trustworthy saying” it is as if he is saying here is a key foundation of church life. What are the first and third trustworthy sayings Timothy says? Why are they important? (1:15; 4:9)

What is the trustworthy saying of this passage? (Did anyone have this as a key foundation in their list?)

What do you think this verse is saying about leadership? Why is it important for someone to want to be a leader?

Work through the list of things required of leaders. How might a leader in the congregation teach?

How are leaders to show that they are living the truth they teach?

Why is it important for leaders to live the truth as well as teach it?

In what areas does the devil seem to attack church leaders most? Why do you think this is the case?

What contrasts can you make between worldly requirements for leadership and those listed here?

What wisdom do you find in Paul’s advice to first “test” a leader to see if that person is fit for a leadership position?

What on this list is not a requirement of every Christian to aspire to?

Again, why do you think it is important for people to want to be or aspire to be a leader?

1 Timothy 3:14-4:16

The Bible tells us we should strive for godliness. Train ourselves to be godly. That godliness is what we're to pray for one another. Only have leaders who are godly. But what exactly is "godliness"? Write down a definition of a godly person?

How does Paul describe godliness to Timothy in 3:15-16?

Paul tells Timothy and us that we should be prepared for false teachers. What is the false teaching of the time according to these verses? (4:1-5)

What are some examples of this which we see around us today?

What is the solution that Paul gives Timothy from verse 6 and following?

What does Paul say is central to church, central to every time we meet together? (4:13)

There is always a push to live healthy lives, to eat right, to exercise and to keep a balanced diet, all of which we struggle with. Paul advises Timothy to exercise, train, practice his godliness. How might we do this?

Why do Christians need to practice living out their Christian faith?

Are you training yourself in godliness? What areas need working on in your life?

What is it in the future that shapes your decisions now?

Why is our labour and striving not in vain? (9-10)

1 Timothy 5

Recap, why is Paul giving these commands to Timothy? (3:14-16)

What is the distinction that Paul is trying to reach here between widows?

What do vv1-5 say to us about Church Family and how we should be treating each other?

What is the benefit of treating people this way?

How is an elder or a leader like an ox and a worker?

In what ways are we to honour the elders of the congregation?

Consider your relationship with different people in our congregation. Think of practical ways 5:1-2 might be worked out with each of these people.

What responsibilities do you have towards:

Your own family?

People in need within our congregation?

1 Timothy 6

What is contentment?

What kinds of things stop you from feeling content?

Is money evil? Explain.

What kinds of harmful desires and evils flow from a love of money?

What are some examples of the kind of “many grief’s” that people can pierce themselves for people who are eager for money?

How would you tell if you had started to become a lover of money?

What reasons does the passage give for turning away from a love of money?

How will focusing on heaven help us not to be lovers of money?

In what ways can we practically encourage each other to have money in perspective?

It seems Paul is summarising the letter so far in 6:11-16. Recap, what does it mean to practice godliness, fight the good fight, to flee the worldly things and pursue righteousness etc?

Remember this letter is written to Timothy to help him set up or build a church. The last things written in letters are usually the things that the writer wants to be remembered most of all. What is the significance of what Paul writes at the end of this letter?