

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of 1 Timothy
Lesson 3 – 1 Timothy 1:18-2:15
A Blueprint for Living
“How the Church Works”

Paul named two men in Ephesus who might give Timothy trouble: Hymenaeus and Alexander. These two men had been a part of the Ephesian church, and Paul had disciplined them because of their blasphemy, probably teaching false doctrine. It was not easy for young Timothy to face these men with God's truth, but he had to do so to preserve the purity and power of the church. There would be less false doctrine today if Christians had withstood false teachers yesterday. The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground. Timothy had been enlisted by God as a Christian soldier. Paul reminds the young pastor of his ordination years ago. Apparently, some of the prophets in the local church had been instructed by the Spirit to single Timothy out and ordain him for special service. “God would not call you without first equipping you!” encourages Paul. The fact that His Spirit set His seal upon you is proof that God will see you through the battles ahead. It is not enough, however, to have correct doctrine, the Christian soldier must also have correct living. It is possible for a believer to maintain orthodox doctrine while living in hidden sin, and this is the way to spiritual shipwreck.

In chapter 2 Paul discusses the public ministry of the church and the roles that different members ought to play. Chapter 1 deals with the ministry of the Word, and in this chapter the emphasis is on prayer. The two main ministries of the pastor are the Word of God and prayer (Acts 6:4). It is sad to see churches robbing their pastors of these important ministries by keeping them “busy” promoting a program, pleasing people, and practicing church politics. If the churches would simplify their organization and purify their motives, the pastors would be able to do a spiritual work for the glory of the Lord. It is important that the church have a balanced ministry of the Word of God and prayer. The Word instructs the church, prayer inspires the church to obey the Word. The church that has an abundance of Bible teaching but little prayer will have “much light, but no heat.” It will be orthodox but frozen! The other extreme is the church that has much prayer and religious enthusiasm, but little teaching from the Word. This may produce a group of people with zeal but no knowledge.

Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20. Pray and answer the following questions:

After briefly alerting Timothy to the nature of the letter he is receiving and reminding him of the history of its author, Paul quickly moves on to offer a number of instructions and advisories about how best to direct the affairs of the church. Before he gets to the meat of his instructions, the apostle thinks it wise to say a few words about Timothy's own spiritual background. How he had been specially chosen and prepared for the difficult task that lay ahead of him.

1. How does 1 Timothy 1:18-20 instruct Timothy to “*wage the good warfare*”?
2. What is this fight and why does Paul call it a fight?
3. A “*good conscience*” is mentioned in 1:5, 19, 3:9. What does it mean to have a good and clean conscience?
4. How did Hymenaeus and Alexander “blaspheme”? What was the result?
5. Is it possible to blaspheme God without words? If so, how?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7. Pray and answer the following questions:

6. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 gives instruction on prayer in four areas. What are they?

7. Do you have a balance among the different kinds of prayer: **requests** for yourself, **praise** for God, **intercession** for others, and **thanksgiving**? In which of these areas would you like to grow?

8. Why is a quiet peaceful life desirable for believers?

9. God's desire is that everyone be saved, and come to the knowledge of His truth. Why is it that not everyone is saved?

10. What is Paul's special task according to 2:7?

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-15. Pray and answer the following questions:

11. Read Matt. 5:21-24. How does this verse relate to 1 Timothy 2:8? Which attitudes are condemned and which are praised? Why?

12. What is the main point of 2:9-10? Is Paul primarily interested in what women wear, or in something else? Explain.

Consider this: Mentoring, Kingdom – Style

Paul describes the powerful process of mentoring in 2 Timothy 2:2. Just as he had helped Timothy during a formative stage of his development, he challenged Timothy to mentor others, who in turn could become mentors and keep the reproductive cycle going. Christians today need to recover this pattern of older believers working with younger ones, which dates to the earliest days of the faith. Here's a few examples from the New Testament:

Barnabas with Paul - A wealthy landowner from Cyprus, Barnabas stood up for Paul, the persecutor turned convert, introducing him to church leaders and vouching for his conversion.

Barnabas with John Mark - In a dramatic split with Paul, Barnabas took young John Mark with him to Cyprus to rebuild his confidence. Years later, Paul changed his opinion, describing John Mark as “*Useful for me in ministry.*”

Priscilla and Aquila with Apollos - Manufacturers of tents, Priscilla and Aquila drew alongside gifted but confused Apollos, tutoring him in the faith and then sponsoring his ministry.

Paul and Timothy - Pioneering leader Paul recruited young Timothy and built on the foundation laid by the young man's mother and grandmother. Enlisting him as a fellow traveler, and tutoring him in the faith, Paul guided him in his first assignment, Pastoring the church in Ephesus.