

1 TIMOTHY



THE GOOD
FIGHT

“Although I hope to come to you soon, 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.”

- 1 Timothy 3:14–15 -

The Good Fight – 1 Timothy

Bad theology kills and good theology is something worth fighting for. What you believe about God (your theology) will ultimately determine what you believe about good and evil and will determine the choices you make in life. 1 Timothy is a letter, written by the apostle Paul, to a young pastor called Timothy who served in a church in the Greek town of Ephesus. In this letter Paul charges Timothy with the difficult task of confronting leaders who have bad theology and presents a wholistic vision of what God's church should be.

The letter is divided up into four main sections of encouragement and rich theology. In Chapter 1, Paul confronts the bad theology going around the church with good teaching about Jesus and the grand story of the whole Bible. He then gives some instructions to the church in Ephesus designed to encourage peace and harmony in the community so that they can get on with the vital work of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known. The next section of good theology encourages the church to focus on caring for widows, rebuke drunkenness among some Christian men, and to work together as family groups to champion the good news of Jesus. Chapter 6 is Paul's commission for Timothy to keep fighting the good fight by confronting bad theology and living simply: in the footsteps of Jesus.

Good theology brings life. The church should be known for its integrity and service to the poor out of its devotion to King Jesus.

As you read through this book and complete the studies my hope is that your love for Jesus and for good theology increases. The good fight that we're called to in 1 Timothy is not one of violence and intimidation: it's one of love and self-control. May the Holy Spirit flow through you as you read this book and apply it to your life. May the example of Jesus and the commissions of this book, which still apply to us today, spur you on in Godly living and faith filled obedience to God. May God almighty bless you richly as you read this book and may He equip you to fight the good fight of the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Rev'd David Browne
Dalby Anglican

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 1 - HOLD FAST

Warming up: What sort of things are worth 'fighting for' in life? What sort of things are not?

Read: 1 Timothy 1

1. Who wrote this letter and who is it addressed to?
2. What are some of the main points made in this first chapter?
3. Doctrine means 'teaching'. What do verses 3-7 tell us about false doctrines and the goal of true doctrine? How can we guard against false doctrines today?
4. How does the law of God and the grace of God help us understand verses 8-11?
5. What do you think is meant in verse 9 when it says: 'the law is not made for the righteous but for sinners and rebels'?
6. How does the author of this letter's own story tie in with his message in chapter 1?
7. In verses 15-17 does the author consider himself a righteous person? How does your perspective of yourself affect your relationship with God?
8. In verses 18-19 we hear about fighting the good fight. What does this fight look like for Timothy?
9. Why does following Jesus sometimes seem like a battle? What does 'fighting the good fight' look like for us today?
10. If you were to pick a favourite line in this chapter what you it be and why?

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 2 - ORGANISED RELIGION

Warming Up: When we come to worship together, what do you think are the most important things to remember and prioritise?

Read: 1 Timothy 2

1. Paul again 'urges' Timothy, just as he did in 1:3. What feeling does this give you as to Paul's attitude, desires, and intensity?
2. In this chapter, Paul gives instructions for public worship. Why do you think he starts "first of all" with instructions on prayer?
3. What do verses 3-4 tell us about what God desires and is pleased with?
4. What do verses 5-6 tells us about what Paul sees as "truth"?
5. Why do you think Paul tells us in verse 7 what his purpose is, and states that he is not lying about it?

These next verses are some of the most controversial in all the scriptures. As we study them, we must first pray and ask God for his wisdom and understanding. And secondly, by his grace discern what are eternal truths and what are transient cultural claims. Here, we will assume that each of Pauls' instructions involve both these things – a mixtures of eternal truths (unchanging principals) and transient cultural claims that we may – prayerfully and not quickly – put aside.

6. What do you see as an unchanging principal in verse 8?
7. What do you see as an unchanging principal in verses 9-10?
8. What do you see as an unchanging principal in verses 11-12?

9. Regarding verse 15 John Stott writes that the most likely understanding of this verse is that “women will be saved through the Birth of the Child... If Mary had not given birth to the Christ-child, there would have been no salvation for anybody.” What are your thoughts on this understanding?

Rubber hits the road: Take some time this week to ponder how you can ensure that you come to Sunday worship with the right motivation, attitude, and priorities.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

God of all wisdom and love, we acknowledge the great privilege it is to join together in worshipping and praising you. We are sorry for those times when we have come with wrong motivation, attitudes, and priorities, and for the times when we have been self-seeking. By your grace, help us to honour and serve you. May we give our whole hearts in love for you and our neighbours. Amen.

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 3 - LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Warming Up: Do you personally know someone who is a great leader? What makes them a great leader?

Read: 1 Timothy 3

1. The title 'overseer' is also translated in other places as 'elder' – someone who held a leadership position amongst local churches. Why do you think Paul makes a point of calling this position a “noble task”?
2. Why do you think the list of qualifications for an overseer is so demanding?
3. Do any of these qualifications surprise you? Do you disagree with the need for any of these qualifications amongst church overseers today?
4. In verses 6-7, Paul twice mentions a warning associated with the devil. Why do you think Paul puts particular emphasis on these two instructions?
5. A Deacon usually refers to someone who assists an overseer – primarily in acts of service. What differences do you notice between the qualifications for an overseer and a deacon?
6. Most scholars believe that “women” in verse 11 refer either to women in leadership (deaconesses), or the wives of the deacons – both of which add context and understanding to 2:11-12. What do you notice about her qualifications?
7. In verses 14-15 what reason does Paul give for writing this letter?
8. How does Paul describe the church and the truth we are to believe?

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 4 - HEALTHY GOD TALK

Warming Up: Who are some of the pastors who have influenced you and cared for you? What made them effective in your life?

Read: 1 Timothy 4

1. What parts of this passage stick out for you? Are there parts you don't understand?
2. What is the Spirit warning us of in this passage? What sort of false teachings are named in this passage? What sort of false teachings affect the church today?
3. In this passage an older and more experienced minister (Paul) is giving advice to a younger minister (Timothy). What are some key pieces of advice in this passage?
4. What sort of advice would you like to give to some of the leaders in your life? (Feel free to gently share this advice with your pastors or people in leadership)
5. What does spiritual training look like and why is it important?
6. What does verse 10 tell us about the mission of a Christian and the church at large?
7. In verse 12 Paul tells Timothy: "don't let anyone look down on you because you are young". What sort of leaders do people look down on today and what impact does this have on the church?
8. In verses 13-16 Paul give some parting advice to Timothy. What do these verses tell us about the role of pastors and leaders in our churches?

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 5 - CARING COMMUNITIES

Warming Up: Do you find it easy or difficult to trust other people and their motivations? Why?

Read: 1 Timothy 5

1. At the end of chapter 4, Timothy was instructed to give himself wholly to teaching the hard truths of the Scriptures. Why do you think Paul now tells Timothy to exhort his congregation as if they were family? What will this cause Timothy to do?
2. Verses 3-4 focuses on taking care of our own families. What does Paul write regarding why it is important to care for those who are widows in our own families?
3. Verses 5-10 give instructions on how to identify a widow who is in need of the church's assistance. What qualifications does Paul note? Do you disagree with the need for any of these qualifications amongst widows today? Would you add or take away any of these qualifications?
4. How would you summarise verses 11-15? What is Paul's underlying message?
5. In verse 16, it seems that Paul is giving us an example of a friend caring for a widow. Why is it important that friends would care for one another just like families?
6. Paul now moves from explaining how to care for widows, onto how we are to care for those in leadership. To do so, Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7. Why do you think he quotes from these verses?
7. Why are the teachings in verses 19-21 significant?

8. In light of verses 19-21, “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands” is thought to be referring to ordination – the calling of someone into official and honourable leadership. Why must we be cautious when placing someone in leadership?
9. Verses 24-25 tell us that people’s good points and bad points often take time to surface. Why is time helpful in discerning someone’s true character?

Rubber hits the road: What are some ways that you can care for those in our parish who are in need this week?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

All knowing God, nothing is hidden from you. We thank you for offering us your wisdom, and for training us in love and care for one another. Please help us to be diligent in caring for those who are in need – both in our parish and out in the community. As we seek to raise up leaders in our community, please grant us discernment, patience and courage. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

PAUL'S 1ST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

WEEK 6 - FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Warming Up: If you were the pastor of your own church, what is the first message you would share with them? Why?

Read: 1 Timothy 6

1. In verse 1, how does Paul challenge the relationship between a slave and their master?
2. Why would Paul instruct a slave with a Christian master to “serve them even better”?
3. What does Paul write about people who teach and insist on things other than what Paul has written in this letter?
4. What do you think Paul means in verse 6? See verses 7-8 and also 4:8-10.
5. In verses 9-10 why does Paul write that we must be careful of prioritising and loving money?
6. How is Timothy – the man of God – to live differently from the false teachers and those who love money?
7. Why do you think Paul adds verses 13-16?
8. What does Paul command Timothy to instruct the rich in doing?
9. What is significant about Paul’s repeated call for Timothy to “guard” what has been “entrusted” to him?

Rubber hits the road: How can you encourage the leadership team at your church to keep fighting the good fight of the faith, and to keep leading in the ways of Jesus?

“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.”

- 1 Timothy 6:12 -



Sunnybank
Anglican Church

Anglican
Church

All Saints' Booval

Anglican
Church

Dalby