

Lessons from I & II Timothy and Titus

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Texts</u>
1	<i>Introduction and Background</i>	Acts 16:1-4; 17:14,15; 18:5 II Tim 1:5; 3: 14-17; I Tim 1:3,4
2	<i>Timothy's Work as a Young Evangelist</i>	I Tim 1:3-7, 18-20; I Tim 3:14-16; I Tim 4:1-6, 11-16; II Tim 4:1-5, 12
3	<i>Living in a World of Sinners</i>	I Tim 1:8-17; II Tim 3:1-13; Titus 3:1-8
4	<i>Roles in the Church: Men & Women</i>	I Tim 2:1-15
5	<i>Roles in the Church: Old & Young</i>	I Tim 5:1-16; Titus 2:1-8
6	<i>Roles in the Church: Elders & Deacons</i>	I Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9
7	<i>Personal Admonition: Purity</i>	I Tim 6:11-16,20,21; II Tim 1:3-14; Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-8
8	<i>Personal Admonition: Development</i>	I Tim 4:6-16; II Tim 2:1-12; 3:14-17
9	<i>Lessons to Servants & Rich</i>	I Tim 6:1-10, 17-19; Titus 2:9-10
10	<i>Dealing with Sinful Men in the church</i>	I Tim 5:20-25; 6:3-5; II Tim 1:15; 2:16-21; 2:23-26; 4:14-18; Titus 3:9-11

Lesson Abstracts

Lesson 1 Introduction and Background

Texts: Acts 16:1-4; 17:14,15; 18:5; II Tim 1:5; 3: 14-17; I Tim 1:3,4
The history of the relationship of Paul and Timothy
The facts surrounding the writing of the letters
The relevance for young people in challenging circumstances

Lesson 2 Timothy's Work as an Evangelist

Texts: I Tim 1:3-7; 18-20; 3:14-16; 4:1-6, 11-16; II Tim 4:1-5
Timothy's tasks and challenges as an evangelist
Difficulties faced and character required
Responsibilities of young people to earn respect and contribute positively

Lesson 3 Living in a World of Sinners

Texts: I Tim 1:8-17; II Tim 3:1-13; Titus 3:1-8
Being different as a Christian
Dealing with our sins
Our responsibilities toward and among sinfulness

Lesson 4 Roles in the Church: Men & Women

Texts: I Tim 2:1-15
Distinctions between men and women, and why
Conflicts with conventional wisdom
Personal role acceptance and self-awareness

Lesson 5 Roles in the Church: Old & Young

Texts: I Tim 5:1-16; Titus 2:1-8
Difficulties of old and young
Potential difficulties in relationships
Strengths and weaknesses of each
Personal responsibilities toward aged

Lesson 6 Roles in the Church: Elders & Deacons

Texts: I Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9
Roles and duties of elders and deacons
Qualifications and rationale
Responsibilities toward elders

Lesson 7 Personal Admonition: Purity

Texts: I Tim 6:11-16,20,21; II Tim 1:3-14; Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-8
Specific dangers of youth
Positive protections
Examples and applications

Lesson 8 Personal Admonition: Development

Texts: I Tim 4:6-16; II Tim 2:1-12; 3:14-17

Talents development
Priorities and values setting
Maintaining hope

Lesson 9 Lessons to Servants & Rich

Texts: I Tim 6:1-10, 17-19; Titus 2:9-10

Wealth defined
Dangers of wealth
Precautions and positive protective actions
Lives of service and accountability

Lesson 10 Dealing with Sinful Men in the Church

Texts: I Tim 5:20-25; 6:3-5; II Tim 1:15; 2:16-21; 2:23-26; 4:14-18; Titus 3:9-11

Betrayal by Christians
disruptive behavior
Motivations for faction and division
Responsibilities toward troublesome members
Consequences of continued evil on the sinner

How to Prepare for and Participate in Each Class Period

Before each class period:

1. Make sure you have a lesson sheet. Get copies in advance if you are going to be absent.
2. Read all the texts listed at the top of each lesson sheet.
 - make notes (on back of lesson sheet) about key points in each passage.
 - note words or phrases that you don't understand, be prepared to ask about these in class.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Write down and learn the "facts to remember".
5. Answer the discussion questions (write your answers on the lesson sheet).
6. Read through the application questions, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

During each class period:

1. Bring your Bible (NKJ version), lesson materials, extra paper, & something to write with.
2. Correct answers on your lesson sheet as they are discussed.
3. Participate fully in all exercises.
4. During discussion of application questions make plans to change your life, based on what you learn.

Lesson 1 Introduction and Background

Texts: Acts 16:1-4; 17:14,15; 18:5; II Tim 1:5; 3:14-17; I Tim 1:3,4

Memory Verse: II Tim 3:16,17

Facts to remember

1. Timothy's home town
2. The journey on which Timothy went with Paul
3. Timothy's mother and grandmother's names
4. Timothy's family situation
5. Timothy's job & location at the writing of I Timothy
6. Paul's instructions to Timothy (reason for the letters)

Discussion Questions

1. What was the religious situation in Timothy's family as a child? Had he been circumcised? What are the implications of his not having been circumcised? Would Timothy have been different from others his age while he was a child? How? What kind of problems might Timothy have faced growing up with his family, religious, and racial situation?
2. What was Timothy's reputation when Paul arrived in his hometown?

Do you think Paul had converted Timothy? If not, who would have been responsible? What had Timothy been doing prior to Paul's arrival? What kind of character does Timothy's willingness to go with Paul suggest?

How did Paul use Timothy (with Silas) in those situations where there was public opposition to Paul himself (see Acts 17:14,15; 18:5; and I Thess 3:1-3)?

3. Did Timothy have a challenging job at Ephesus? What suggestions did Paul give Timothy to help him maintain his character? What was to be his source of strength (his equipping to every good work)?

Application Questions

1. Should Christians be different from most everyone around them? Are you different from most of your peers? How? What problems arise from these differences? Should Christians be different from most everyone around them all through their lives? Give examples of challenges faced by young Christians, by older Christians.
2. What challenges do you face? (tough jobs, difficult situations, complicated problems, etc.) What further responsibilities might you accept, similar to Timothy's?

II Tim 1:5. ...When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

II Tim 3:14-17. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

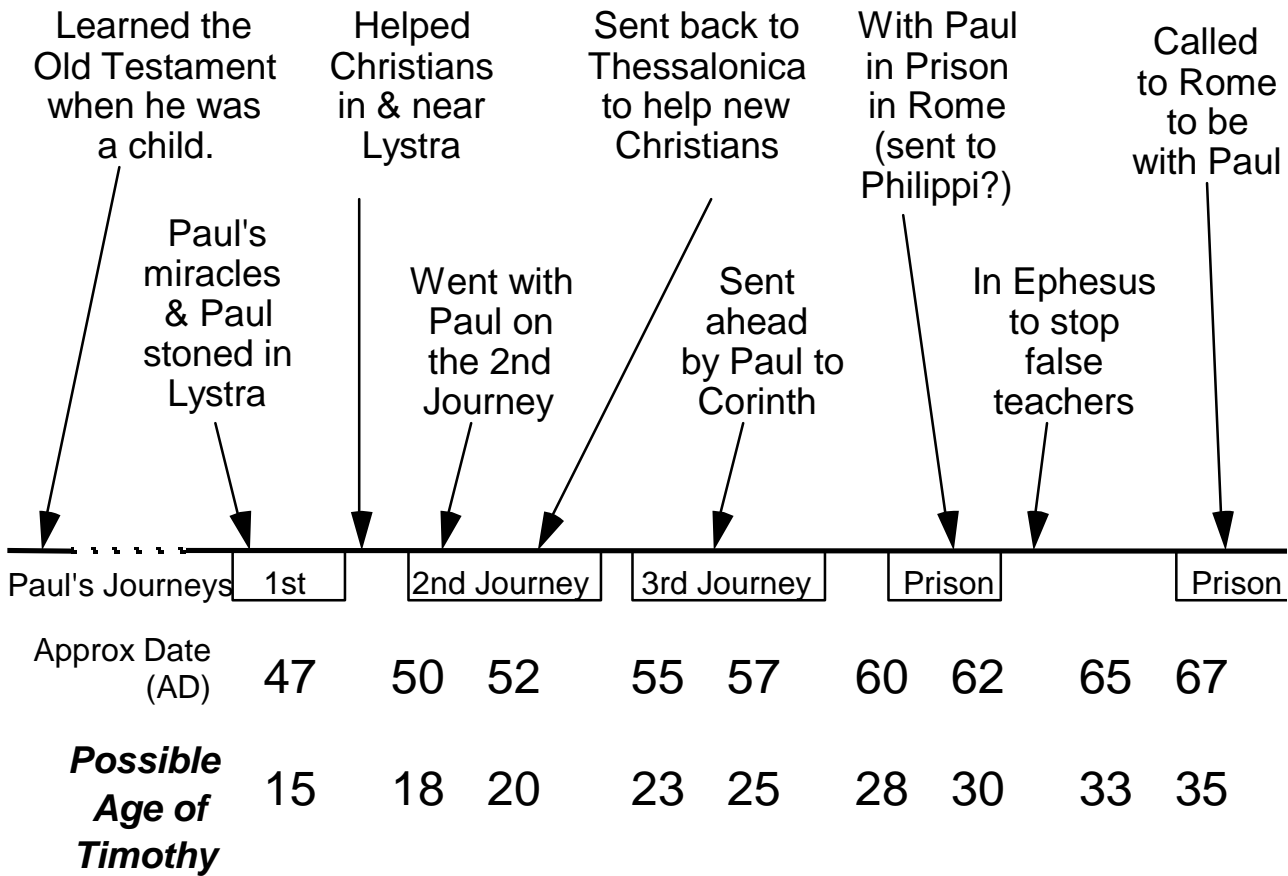
Acts 16:1-4. Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.² He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.³ Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

Acts 17:14,15. Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.¹⁵ So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Acts 18:5. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

I Tim 1:3,4. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

Timeline of Timothy's Life



Lesson 2 Timothy's Work as an Evangelist

Texts: I Tim 1:3-7; 18-20; 3:14-16; 4:1-6,11-16; II Tim 4:1-5

Memory Verse: II Tim 4:2-4

Facts to remember

1. Assignments Timothy had as an evangelist
2. Problems that did (or would) exist in the church
3. Specific activities evangelists should perform

Discussion Questions

1. What is an Evangelist? Did Timothy have an assignment (I Tim 1:3,18)? What was its motive (v 5)? From the passages at the right, list some specific instructions he had. Was he to “charge” others (I Tim 1:3; 6:17)
2. Imagine being in Timothy's place, faced with the dangers and doctrines implied. How would you feel? What would be the toughest part of your work. List five sermon topics that would be appropriate for Timothy at Ephesus.
3. Look up the meanings of the terms (II Tim 4:2): Preach, be ready, convince, rebuke, exhort, longsuffering, & teaching. List some of the daily activities these tasks would require.
4. What problems would Timothy face when he had to reprove those who were older than he was? Was he responsible for earning their respect (see I Tim 4:12)? What could he do to gain their respect?

Application Questions

1. What might create stress for a local Evangelist? How might members undermine his work, which is intended influence their behavior (I Tim 3:15)? How might his own behavior affect his credibility and respect?
2. Would time management be a key skill for evangelists? Why? Was self-development a part of Timothy’s job?
3. Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with the amount of work you have for school, work, church, family, etc.? Give examples. As a person gets older, should responsibilities increase or decrease? What additional responsibilities in church work could you take on? How could you improve your use of time to add these extra responsibilities?
4. Do young people sometimes have talents that could be used, but aren’t? Why? How can young people increase their chances of contributing? How should they prepare themselves to contribute? How can they be encouraged?

I Tim 1:3-7. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

I Tim 1:18-20. This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

I Tim 3:14,15. These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Tim 4:1-6. Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

I Tim 4:11-16. These things command and teach.¹² Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.¹³ Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

II Tim 4:1-5. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

Lesson 3 Living in a World of Sinners

Texts: I Tim 1:8-17; II Tim 3:1-13; Titus 3:1-8

Memory Verse: II Tim 3:12

Facts to remember:

1. Those for whom the law is intended
2. Why Jesus came into the world
3. List of sins that characterize the last times
4. Reason for gentleness & kindness toward all

Discussion Questions

1. Explain: “the law is made for the lawless”. Do the sins in I Tim 1:9-11, & 3:2-5 exist today? (Look up any you do not understand.) Which of these are not considered crimes today? Why are they wrong? How does one determine if an activity is sinful?
2. Will sinful people influence some in the church? (II Tim 3:6-9) Which? How?
3. Was Paul guilty of some of these sins? Are we? (Titus 3:3) What makes Christians different? Describe the process by which a change occurs. (Titus 3:4-8) Would the difference between Christians like Paul and people in the world be evident? Would there be unpleasant results? (II Tim 3:12)

Application Questions

1. Do you think "sinfulness" in the world is getting worse? Give examples. Do Christians stand out more as evil increases? Does persecution increase? How? Have you faced trouble as a result of your moral decisions?
2. What are the root causes of behavior listed in II Tim 3:2-4? (see 2a, 4d, & 5) How can we be sure we are not guilty in a similar way?
3. Can evil people change? Do you know someone who has? Give details. Do we all have things in our past we are ashamed of? Can these sins stop some from becoming Christians? Why? How can these past sins (once they are overcome) help us in dealing with others who have similar problems? Should they lead us to praise God as Paul did (I Tim 1:17)?

I Tim 1:8-17. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust. ¹²And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, ¹³although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

II Tim 3:1-13. But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. ¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Titus 3:1-8. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. ³For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Lesson 4 - Roles in the Church: Men & Women

Texts: I Tim 2:1-15; 5:14

Memory Verse: I Tim 2:1,2

Facts to remember:

1. Two things we should pray for
2. Two reasons a woman should not have dominion over a man
3. Three instructions to women
5. An important authority role for women

Discussion Questions

1. What is to be our prayer for leaders? What is to be a Christian's relationship to civil society? Are we to be change agents or agitators against social evils? (Were there social evils in Timothy's day?) What does God desire for all men?
2. Based on the discussion here (and elsewhere), do you think there were problems or questions in Ephesus about the behavior of women? What practices, or cultural influences might have made these warnings to Timothy necessary?
3. How is women adorning in modest apparel, etc. (2:9) "in like manner" to men praying everywhere, etc. (v 8)? Is there a connection between a woman's apparel and her character?
4. What are the two reasons given for the differences in the roles of men and women? Are these differences because of inferiority? Are they something new that began with the church, or did these roles begin long before? Do you think God gave duties and roles that are compatible with the dispositions & temperaments of men and women?
5. What ideal situation does Paul describe for younger widows? Is this a position of authority and great consequence & responsibility?

Application Questions

1. What differences in the general personalities of men and women have you observed? Do you think people are generally happier when they are doing things for which they are best suited? Does this role difference in leadership and subjection grow out of inner character or is it merely an outward restriction? Should it be applied in other areas of life?
2. What is the modern view of the role of men and women, especially in matters of leadership and authority? How do you feel about it? Has the tension been created by the wisdom of men or the wisdom of God?
3. How can men begin to prepare themselves for roles they must fill in the church? How can women prepare themselves for the roles they must fill? When should they start?

I Tim 2:1-15. Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.⁵For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,⁶who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,⁷for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;⁹in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,¹⁰but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.¹¹Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.¹²And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve.¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.¹⁵Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

I Tim 5:14. Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Lesson 5 - Roles in the Church: Old & Young

Texts: I Tim 5:1-16; Titus 2:1-8

Memory Verse: Titus 2:7,8

Facts to remember:

1. Timothy's treatment of older/younger men/women
2. Qualifications for an older widow to be "enrolled"
3. Responsibilities of families toward their own
4. Recommendations for younger widows
5. What older women should teach younger women

Discussion Questions

1. What problems would widows have had supporting themselves in Timothy's time? Would the problems of older widows be worse than those of younger? How should women prepare for old age (based on qualifications for those who are to be "enrolled")?
2. Based on the warnings to younger widows, what temptations did younger widows have? Why might these temptations have arisen? What two duties could these widows pursue? (vs 14, 16)
4. List five skills older women were to teach to the younger. Is this kind of training done often today? Why? Could the training begin before a younger woman is married? Should it?
5. What kind of personality and reputation was to characterize younger men and women (Titus 2:4-6)? What example was Titus to set before all of these?

Application Questions

1. What difficulties do older people have today? Are some in your family or church having a particularly difficult time? How could you help them? Do you think young and old associate together enough today?
2. Idleness is mentioned as a particular temptation for young widows. Do we have more idle time today? Do single people have more? Are there more temptations to "busy-bodding" and/or emphasizing pleasure when people are idle? How can we eliminate occasions of idleness?
3. What preparation for adulthood, and marriage in particular, can young people make? Who might help them in their training? How can this training be encouraged?

I Tim 5:1-16. Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

³Honor widows who are really widows.⁴But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.⁵Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.⁶But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.⁷And these things command, that they may be blameless.⁸But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.⁹Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man,¹⁰well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

¹¹But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,¹²having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.¹³And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.¹⁴Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.¹⁵For some have already turned aside after Satan.¹⁶If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Titus 2:1-8. But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:²that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;³the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—⁴that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,⁵to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.⁶Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,⁷in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,⁸sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Lesson 6 - Roles in the Church: Elders & Deacons

Texts: I Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9

Memory Verse: I Tim 3:1

Facts to remember:

1. Qualifications of an Elder, and the references
2. Qualifications of a Deacon, and the references

Discussion Questions

1. List reasons these are useful qualifications for elders.
 - Married -
 - Ruling house well -
 - Believing Children -
 - Able to teach -
 - Not soon angry (& self controlled) -
2. What are the qualifications for deacon's wives? Why must deacon's wives that meet these qualifications? Are there implied qualifications for elder's wives? Can a wife help her husband to become qualified and/or serve an elder? Can she hinder him? How? Do children help or hinder?
3. What responsibility did Timothy have toward elders (what he should do and what he should not do, from I Tim 5:17, 19, 20)? Discuss the reasons for these commands.
4. What is meant by "double honor"? Who are elders who "labor in the word and doctrine"? Is there an implied process for accusing an elder of sin? Is it different from that for other Christians (see Matt 18:15-17)?

Application Questions

1. When should a man begin to qualify himself to become an elder or a deacon? What are some things that young people could begin doing to prepare themselves to be elders, deacons, or the wives of these? What choices in life will affect their ability to serve in this way? What support or training could be given to help them prepare?
2. With what specific behavior, and in what circumstances, do members demonstrate respect for and submission to elders? What would you do if you heard an accusation against an elder? What would you do if you knew of something an elder had done wrong?
3. Are the other, more subtle ways than direct accusations in which the authority of and respect for elders can be undermined? Give examples. What could be the motives of such behavior? What harm might result? How can these efforts be prevented or remedied?

Titus 1:5-9. For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you--⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.⁷For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,⁸but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

I Tim 3:1-13. This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;³not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;⁴one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence⁵(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);⁶not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.⁷Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

⁸Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,⁹holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.¹⁰But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.

¹¹Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.¹²Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I Tim 5:17-20. Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.²⁰Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Lesson 7 - Personal Admonition: Purity

Texts: I Tim 6:11-16,20-21; II Tim 1:3-14;
Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-8

Memory Verse: II Tim 1:7

Facts to remember:

1. What Timothy was to flee (also II Tim 2:22)
2. What Timothy was to pursue
3. Two things Timothy was not to be ashamed of

Discussion Questions

1. From the context of I Tim 6, is there a possible relationship between affluence and harmful lusts? Are there more temptations to immoral pleasures among the rich? As Timothy was to flee “these things,” what was he to pursue? Would the temptation to Timothy have been greater if the rich were involved? Why? How is Jesus’ appearance before Pilate relevant? Are there intellectual temptations that might cause an evangelist to lose his faith (6:20-21)?
2. Is there indication that Timothy was fearful or timid? Why would he have been fearful? Does it appear that Timothy may have been tempted to be ashamed of the gospel or of Paul? Why would he? What did Paul tell him to remember (II Tim 1:12)?
3. What does the grace of God teach us to deny? What is sober living? What are we looking for? What is the relationship between redemption and how we should live? (Titus 2:11-14)

Application Questions

1. Do you think young people are subjected to more, or different kinds of, temptations than adults? Explain. Are there more temptations for those that have plenty of money? Why? What can be done (what alternative activities) to reduce the temptations? What alternative thoughts and concerns will help?
2. Are there times when we are embarrassed about our faith (going to church, things we cannot do, etc)? Are there times when we are afraid of disgrace? Why does this happen? How can we keep this from happening?

I Tim 6:11-16. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing,¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

I Tim 6:20-21. O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—²¹by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

II Tim 1:3-14. I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,⁵ when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,¹¹ to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.¹³ Hold fast the pattern of sound words, which you have heard from me, in faith and love, which are in Christ Jesus.¹⁴ That good thing, which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Titus 2:11-14. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Titus 3:1-8. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Lesson 8 - Personal Admonition: Development

Texts: I Tim 4:6-16; II Tim 2:1-12; 3:14-17

Memory Verse: I Tim 4:8

Facts to remember:

1. Three things Timothy was to give attention to
2. Why godliness is profitable for all things

Discussion Questions

1. How could Timothy exercise himself toward godliness? To what three things was he to give attention (I Tim 4:13)? How would this "self-training" help with those who might despise Timothy's youth (12)?
2. What kind of gift do you think Timothy had (I Tim 4:14)? Was the gift something that required no practice or development? (see II Tim 1:6)
3. What are the lessons Timothy was to learn from the soldier? The athlete? The farmer?
4. How much distraction can a soldier accept without degrading his performance? How might Timothy have been distracted in Ephesus?
5. Do you see any hints that Timothy may have been athletic, or admired athletes?
6. When training and discipline are applied, will progress result? (& see 4:15) How is the farmer an illustration of the benefits of hard work?
7. What was he to remember during his "training"? What was the final goal, the purpose of Paul's "endurance"?
8. What is it that "equips for every good work"?

Application Questions

1. List some similarities between athletic training and spiritual discipline. Is this how we usually think about spiritual development? How do we know if we're "in shape"?
2. List two or three skills* you have that you could develop. What keeps you from developing them? Using the comparison to physical training above, how can your progress be accelerated? What practical exercises can you do to develop these skills? (Make a list, make a plan.)

*Example spiritual skills: reading the Bible for comprehension, memorizing the Bible, listening to preaching, singing & learning new songs, Bible study/research, personal prayer, inviting others to study or worship, caring for children, for sick, for older people, preparing/organizing class material, encouraging spiritually weak, assessing the spiritual needs of others, refuting error, teaching children, teaching adults, public speaking, leading singing, counseling others...

I Tim 4:6-16. If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine, which you have carefully followed. ⁷But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. ⁸For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. ¹¹These things command and teach. ¹²Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. ¹⁵Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

II Tim 2:1-12. You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. ⁸Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹This is a faithful saying:

For if we died with Him,

We shall also live with Him.

¹²If we endure,

We shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him,

He also will deny us.

II Tim 3:14-17. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Lesson 9 - Lessons to Servants & Rich

Texts: I Tim 6:1-10, 17-19; Titus 2:9-10

Memory Verse: I Tim 6:6-8

Facts to remember:

1. Two reasons servants should honor unbelieving masters
2. Three commands for the rich

Discussion Questions

1. Is there evidence that there were people from every class and income level in the church at Ephesus? What problems might this cause in the group?
2. How might servants (slaves) feel toward unbelieving masters? What might they be tempted to do (Titus 2:9,10)? How might they feel toward believing masters (I Tim 6:2)? How were the servants to act toward either kind of master?
3. What might the “teaching otherwise” (not “wholesome words”) in I Tim 6:3 be, based on the context (vs 1,2)? In addition to pride, ignorance, obsessions with disputes, what other motive is implied in v. 5b?
4. What other sins do the pride, ignorance, and arguing (v 4a) lead to (v 4b)? Does this imply that someone might exploit doctrinal differences to gain preeminence among brethren?
5. What minimum provisions are to be sufficient for contentment? (I Tim 6:8) Is it true that anything more is excess? For what do we usually use the excess?
6. What is contrasted with being content with what we have? (v 9) What does this desire to be rich lead to?
7. Why would high-mindedness be a problem for the rich? What suggestions are given to the rich to prevent these dangers from overcoming them?

Application Questions

1. Are you rich? Do you desire to be rich? Explain the difference. Can one desire to be rich even while being poor? What symptoms would indicate this problem?
2. List several ways in which some “suppose that godliness is a way of gain” today?
3. Do you know of someone who has very little of this world's goods, but is content,? Do you know someone who has a great deal of money, but does not seem to be happy? What are some practical tests to help us determine if we desire to be rich? How can we avoid having the wrong attitude toward money and position? Is it easy in our culture?
4. Does this desire to be important lead to contentment and happiness? Does it create temptations to other sinful (and harmful to others) action? Does it encourage faithfulness to God? What are ways in which we can learn to be content with a lesser position?

I Tim 6:1-10. Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. ²And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. ³If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. ⁶Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Tim 6:17-19. Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Titus 2:9-10. Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Lesson 10 - Sinful Men in the Church

Texts: I Tim 5:20-25; 6:3-5; II Tim 1:15; 2:16-21; 2:23-26; 4:14-18; Titus 3:9-11

Memory Verse: II Tim 2:24-25

Facts to remember:

1. Kinds of questions that generate strife
2. Motivations for argumentative behavior
3. Proper action toward a divisive man

Discussion Questions

1. Who are “those who are sinning” in 5:20? Are some sins among those in the church obvious (v 24)? May others be hidden or take some time to become evident? What practical advice is based on these principles (v 22)? Do these instructions imply that Timothy and others must judge others as sinful? Is this the “judging” condemned by Jesus in Matt 7:1?
2. Was Timothy to judge whether a person was teaching false doctrine? How could he do this? Were there some questions or disputes that did not clearly involve false teaching? (see II Tim 2:16; 2:23; Titus 3:9.) Could someone’s *manner* of argumentation require a rebuke? Why would a person act this way (I Tim 6:4,5)?
3. Is it possible to teach the truth and be divisive? Is there evidence that Timothy and Titus were dealing with people like this? Were these people sinning? Were they to be publicly reproved? Disciplined?
4. Based on the references to Phygellus & Hermogenes (II Tim 1:15), Hymenaeus & Philetus (2:17), and Alexander and others (4:14-17), had Christians disappointed Paul? What had they done to him? What was his comfort (II Tim 4:17,18)?

Application Questions

1. Have you known of someone who was engaged in obviously sinful (immoral) behavior? Have you suspected someone, but didn’t know for sure? What would be the right action to take in each case? When should we get help--such as an elder?
2. Do you know someone who is always involved in controversy, even over trivial matters? What is the responsibility of a congregation toward such a person? When should action be taken?
3. Who is most vulnerable to discouragement because of the sinfulness of Christians? How can we avoid being discouraged by sinful Christians?

I Tim 5:20-25. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. ²¹I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. ²²Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure. ²³No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities. ²⁴Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. ²⁵Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

I Tim 6:3-5. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

II Tim 1:15. This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

II Tim 2:16-21. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." ²⁰But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

II Tim 2:23-26. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

II Tim 4:14-18. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. ¹⁶At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸The Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and preserve me for his heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Titus 3:9-11. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

REVIEW SHEET FOR LESSONS FROM TIMOTHY

(Facts to Remember)

Lesson 1 Introduction and Background

1. *Timothy's home town
2. *The journey Timothy went with Paul
3. *Timothy's mother and grandmother
4. *Timothy's family situation
5. *Timothy's job and location
6. *Paul's instructions to Timothy (the reason for the letters)

Lesson 2 Timothy's Work as an Evangelist

1. The assignments Timothy had as an evangelist
2. Problems that did (or would) exist in the church
3. *The specific activities and evangelist should perform

Lesson 3 Living in a World of Sinners

1. *Those for whom the law is intended
2. *Why Jesus came into the world
3. The list of sins that characterize the last times
4. The reason for gentleness and kindness toward all men

Lesson 4 Roles in the Church: Men & Women

1. *Two things we should pray for
2. Two reasons a woman should not have dominion over a man
3. Three instructions to women
4. An important authority role for women

Lesson 5 Roles in the Church: Old & Young

1. *Timothy's treatment of older/younger men/women
2. *Qualifications for a widow to be "enrolled"
3. Responsibilities families toward their own
4. *Recommendations for younger widows
5. *What older women should teach younger women

Lesson 6 Roles in the Church: Elders & Deacons

1. *Qualifications of an Elder, and the references
2. Qualifications of a Deacon, and the reference

Lesson 7 Personal Admonition: Purity

1. *What Timothy was to flee (see also II Tim 2:22)
2. *What Timothy was to pursue
3. *Two things Timothy was not to be ashamed of

Lesson 8 Personal Admonition: Development

1. *Three things Timothy was to give attention to
2. *Why godliness is profitable for all things

Lesson 9 Lessons to Servants & Rich

1. Two reasons servants should honor believing masters
2. *Three commands for the rich

Lesson 10 Dealing with Sinful Men in the church

1. *The kinds of disputes or questions that generate strife
2. Motivations for argumentative behavior
3. Responsibilities of the "Lord's servant" to those "in opposition"
4. *Proper actions toward divisive men

Review Quiz on I and II Timothy and Titus

Facts to Remember

1. Timothy's home town
2. The journey Timothy went with Paul
3. Timothy's mother and grandmother
4. Timothy's family situation
5. Timothy's job and location
6. Paul's instructions to Timothy (the reason for the letters)
7. The specific kinds of activities and evangelist should perform
8. Those for whom the law is intended
9. Why Jesus came into the world
10. The list of sins that characterize the last times (*two key attitudes)
11. Two things we should pray for
12. Two reasons a woman should not have dominion over a man

13. Three instructions to women

14. Attitudes toward older men and women
15. Qualifications for an older widow to be "enrolled"

16. Responsibilities families toward their own
17. Recommendations for younger widows

18. What older women should teach younger women
19. Three qualifications of an elder, and the references for the rest

20. The reference for the qualifications of a deacon
21. What Timothy was to flee (see also II Tim 2:22)
22. Two things Timothy was not to be ashamed of
23. Three things Timothy was to give attention to

24. Why godliness is profitable for all things
25. Three commands for the rich

26. The kinds of disputes or questions that generate strife
27. Proper action toward a divisive man

Memory Verses

II Tim 3:16,17

I Tim 3:1

II Tim 1:7

I Tim 4:8