CHURCH IN CHRIST
BIBLE STUDY



The first Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy

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1 Timothy *an* introduction: P1

The last of Paul's letters, which, along with 2 Timothy and Titus, are called the Pastoral Epistles, they contain solid pastoral advice passed on from the Apostle Paul to his much younger student in the Lord. At the time of Paul writing this letter, Timothy was a young pastor in the Ephesus Church. Timothy had gained respect from those around him from an early age (see Acts 16:1-4).

We read in the second letter to Timothy that the Apostle Paul had some dealings with his mother and grandmother 2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that it now lives in you as well.

Paul had over the years developed a good understanding of this young man's attitude and faith towards Jesus Christ. Acts 15:36–41 tells us that both men spent quite a lot of time together; Timothy accompanied the Apostle during the second missionary trip.

Paul left Timothy to go and minister to the people in Macedonia. It was about a year later that he heard reports of Timothy's work at Ephesus, which prompted him to write what we are about to study in 1 Timothy. A few years later, believed to be around AD 67-68, Paul found himself back in prison, from where he would write 2 Timothy. Sadly, the great Apostle would never be released, after the writing of this letter, Paul was executed in Rome.

First Timothy presents the most explicit and complete instructions for church leadership in the entire Bible. This includes sections on appropriate conduct in worship gatherings, the qualifications of elders and deacons, and the proper order of church discipline. Paul advised Timothy on these practical matters in a way that would have helped the young pastor emphasise the purity that should characterise Christian leaders and the gatherings they oversee.

Timothy's youth no doubt served him well; however, Paul knew that such a task would not be easy for the young man.

Therefore, on two occasions Paul encourages Timothy as the Holy Spirit equally encourages us today to "fight the good fight" (see 1Tim 1:18, 6:12).

Key Themes

1/ The Gospel produces holiness in the lives of believers. There is no rightful separation between belief and behaviour. Thus, those who profess faith but show no progress in godliness should question their spiritual health and wellness (1:5; 2:8–15; 3:1–16; 4:6–16; 5:4–6, 8; 6:3–5, 11–14, 18–19).
2/ Worldwide evangelism is essential. It is rooted in God's own evangelistic desire (1:15; 2:1–7; 3:16; 4:10).
3/ One key evidence of receiving the Gospel is correct behaviour in corporate church worship, in matters such as prayer, unity, modesty, and submission etc. (2:1–15).
4/ Church leaders should be people who live according to the Gospel (3:1–13; 4:6–16).
5/ Appropriate honour is a key element in how Christians should relate to one another in the church (5:1–6:2).
6/ Everything God created is good. It is to be appreciated, but not worshipped (4:4–5; 6:17–19).
7/ It is important to protect the purity of the Gospel (1:3–7, 18–20; 4:6–16; 6:2b–3, 12, 20–21).

Outline

1/ Greeting (1:1–2)
2/ Confronting false teachings (1:3–20)
3/ Descriptions of Gospel-shaped living (2:1–3:13)
4/ Purpose of writing: behaviour in the Church (3:14–16)
5/ Identifying the false teaching (4:1–5)
6/ How Timothy should be shaped by the Gospel (4:6–16)
7/ How specific groups in the church should be shaped by the Gospel (5:1–6:2)
8/ Confronting false teaching again (6:2–21)

You will note that there are certain names of men, woman, churches or objects etc., that do not have capital letters, this is because I will show no respect for that which goes against The Lords Word.
What Jesus Christ suffered at the cross demands the greatest response from all believers.

Enjoy!

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.

Paul and Timothy developed a father and son relationship.

1:1 Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, It may seem strange for Paul to introduce himself in such a way, considering Timothy was like a son to him. I am sure Timothy knew Paul's name and that he was an Apostle.

1:1...by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ: The reason he introduced himself as he did comes down to the fact the Father and Son have commanded him to write! This is not from the Ten Commandments but a direct command to the Apostle Paul from the Father and Son. The first part of this verse serves a four-fold purpose:

1/ It is a timely reminder to Timothy that even though Paul is like a father, he indeed holds an important and very real position. Hence, Paul is writing by the power of the Holy Spirit, which has been proved over the many years they have known each other.

2/ Paul is not writing just to say "hi." This is an official declaration presented by God the Holy Spirit through Paul, in which Timothy can trust and accept. Paul lives, acts, and writes according to the commandment of the Father and Son.

3/ Equally, if anyone should challenge Timothy's position or stance regarding leadership, he has a letter coming from one of the highest possible human sources. (In terms of leadership, Timothy was a young man).

4/ This would be encouraging to Timothy due to the powerful school of false teachings that had risen in the Church area where he was a Pastor.

1:1...of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ: I have a few more things to say regarding these words. Throughout Scripture, we see a beautifully consistent pattern in the way the Trinity works. The Father lovingly willed, purposed, and initiated salvation before the foundation of the world. The Son joyfully carried out that eternal purpose by taking on flesh, living in perfect obedience, and offering Himself as the sacrifice for sin. The Holy Spirit then applies the finished work of Christ to our hearts, bringing new birth, faith, sanctification, and ongoing transformation.

Yet even within these distinct roles, all three Persons were fully involved with one another's work. The Father did not merely plan, the Son did not act alone, and does not apply a salvation He had no part in! They all worked together perfectly, each participating in the work of the others, perfectly united in feelings, will, love, and purpose.

Paul uses the word's God our Saviour as 'nero,' who today is known as one of Rome's most infamous rulers due to his cruelty and debauchery, gained power in AD 54 at the age of just 16 and died 14 years later at 30. He tried to force the title "saviour of the world" upon himself. If one did not call him 'the saviour,' that person would be arrested and quite probable put to death. One could think that Paul was reminding Timothy that 'nero' is not a Saviour; that title belongs to God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a truth that today needs to be constantly stated, as the hearts of most humans may not claim nero to be the saviour of the world, but they can easily claim to be their own saviour through pride.

1:1...our hope, Christians have hope for the future because Christ gained Salvation for us on the cross in the past (see Romans 5:1-2), sanctifies them through His Spirit in the present (see Galatians 5:16–25), and will lead them to glory in the future (see 1:27 plus 1 John 3:2, 3). 'Our hope does not lie on science, or the man we put on the moon, but in the Man we put on the Cross.' People that believe they are worthy of greatness, or claim by their own efforts or good deeds that they can overcome all things, therefore saving themselves from God's wrath have sadly fooled themselves! But what Jesus did on the cross humbles human pride by showing, "no flesh shall boast before God" (see 1 Corinthians 1:29). We need to proclaim clearly the message of truth, that people do not just need a little help, but rather, they, just as we once were, are lost, and that just as we, they need Jesus Christ as Saviour. The Gospel message is not a 'ho-hum' call on Jesus when you feel like it, or when things get hard, or once a Sunday is more than enough. Rather, the Gospel message is clear all outside of Christ's rule are lost 24/7, perishing under God's Judgment! Man cannot save himself. God does not, and has not saved any due to them being worthy, because none but Christ was found to be worthy. But in, and by His grace, God saves unworthy sinners who take refuge in Jesus and His shed blood through the work He did at the cross. So trust in Him!

1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

This letter was personally written to Timothy with the idea of being passed on to the wider church. Timothy is called a true son in the faith: I glean two meanings from this:

1/ The closeness of Paul and Timothy. They held a very close relationship, and the Apostle certainly recognised Timothy's faith as genuine. Although Paul had no natural children, in the spiritual realm, he had many. 1 Corinthians 4:15 tells us For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the Gospel. This doesn't mean they walked around calling him 'father' or 'holy father' as other religious groups took the habit up of wrongfully doing.

2/ This phrase points to something far greater than what a human relationship can provide. Even though Paul and Timothy had a close relationship, Paul could see that Timothy had a true faith in God the Father that was providing a far higher level of enlightenment regarding who Jesus is and what He did, the very things that make Christ the Saviour. The words the faith always centre on the place where freedom from sin was and still is granted: the Cross! This is not 'a faith'... but 'the faith.'

1:2 grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul uses the words grace and peace in all his Epistles, but here he adds mercy, forming a threefold blessing. These believers already understood salvation; Paul is not re-teaching the foundations. Instead, he is reminding Timothy of the ongoing gifts God desires His children to enjoy. Grace speaks of God's continual favour toward us, mercy of His tender compassion in our weaknesses, and peace of the Divine calm that steadies the heart in every circumstance. These are not introductory truths but sustaining realities, blessings the Father wants His people to walk in daily. Paul's greeting is therefore not instructional but pastoral, lifting Timothy's spirit by reminding him that God's grace, mercy, and peace are with him as he serves Christ.

1:2… from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. No greater names could be offered as a seal of total approval and safety. Father and Son have both stamped this Epistle with Power (which is true of all the Bible). For those who obey, they shall receive the blessed teaching and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

Paul wrote this after his third trip to Ephesus.

1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, The word urged means to 'recommend very strongly,' and in this case, it is safe to say Paul's recommendation came from a much higher source. The Lord had a very important work for Timothy to do, just as He has for you and me. Paul urged Timothy for many different reasons. Here are just a few:

1/ Those in Ephesus needed to hear the truth (1 Timothy 1:3-7).

2/ Because you serve a great God (see 1 Timothy 1:17).

3/ Because you are in a battle over lives which one must not surrender (see 1 Timothy 1:18).

4/ Don't give up because it is a hard place to minister in (see 1 Timothy 1:8-11).

5/ We all sin and may feel unworthy, but Jesus has made us worthy (see 1 Timothy 1:12-16).

1:3… remain in Ephesus that you may charge some. Timothy was given by the Lord a task to do, which makes remaining in Ephesus an absolute must. Yes, he was young, and he may have felt unworthy as he was a student under the leadership of the Apostle Paul. However, he needed to stand his ground against much older religious believers whilst the Apostle was not present. Many would oppose his teachings, but Timothy had 'the faith' he believed the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle, had given him this task, which means God was and is with him, as God is with us!

1:3… that they teach no other doctrine. Paul had without a doubt taught the Gospel message to the Ephesian Christians, which he had received from Jesus Christ Himself. Galatians 1:11-12 states, "I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the Gospel I preached is not of human origin. For I (Paul) neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ." Timothy was to continue teaching the truth. He was to do everything within his faith's ability to see that the Ephesians lived correctly and unwaveringly in that which the Spirit gave to them through Paul. As it was in their day, so it is today. There is a spirit of error that heavily influences the modern Christian Church. We live in a day where Pilate's question to Jesus echoes through the church halls: "what is truth?" (see John 18:38). Sadly, it is answered in so many churches with open-ended responses such as, "Whatever it means to you." "Once you receive Jesus, you can do as you like." "God loves you just as you are," and so on. Timothy was trusted to carry the truth of faith, just as we are. Let us, therefore, desire the Lord's input even more so!

P4

1 Timothy 1:4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in Faith.

This should encourage us.

1:4… nor give heed Just as Timothy was trusted, so are we by God not to give heed. This means we are not 'to listen to or follow' anything that is contrary to the Gospel message we have been learning.

1:4… to fables Simply put, many will tell you fables (untruths, lies), and these fables, if believed, can take a person's soul. Titus 1:14 tells us, Not give heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men that turn from the truth.

1:4… and endless genealogies. This speaks of the Hebrew genealogical records, it was necessary for the Jewish religious community to keep them updated to have a level of order regarding the distinction of their tribes.

Of course, over the centuries, these records had become very numerous, complicated, and extended. They might, without much exaggeration, be called 'endless.' The Jewish religious community attached great importance to them and insisted on them being carefully preserved. However, Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, had come and gone. As we all know, He fulfilled the Old Commandments, which removed from the believer the power of the law. This meant, and still means, that the Jewish order was no longer of any true value. There was and is no need for a man to be the high priest, as we have One in Christ. The law is no longer kept by trying to uphold it through one's own strength, willpower, and self-effort. Rather, it is obeyed by being in Christ and walking by faith in the Holy Spirit.

1:4… which cause disputes rather than godly edification. Faith provides godly edification! There is not one person who, after being in any Church for a time shall not find themselves, or see others in some type of disruptive dispute, which damages both the Church and the believers involved. We see Paul pointing out two complete opposites: disputes separate one from godly edification, which removes faith replacing it with man's reason! If one lives by faith, then such is in Christ, which means they will have Godly enlightenment (edified). 'If' one matures, then foolish disputes and ungodly conversations become a past event, no longer is one interested in such nonsense. With that in mind, the Church '<u>must be patient and lenient with young believers</u>', guiding and teaching them towards a Christ-like lifestyle.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.

The word ‘commandment’ in Greek is 'paraggelia' which means 'charge.' The use of the word here is not speaking of the commandments given to Moses. Last week, we read (see 1 Timothy 1:3) Paul urging Timothy to remain in Ephesus so that he would charge some to teach only the doctrine of truth.

1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart. Timothy has been given charge by God over the Ephesus Church. The commandment he was placed in authority over was, and still is, to 'teach only the truth of Christ, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son!' False teachings must be opposed (see 1 Timothy 1:3-4). A true follower of Christ shall, through the truth, develop a clean heart, avoiding foolish obsessions that arise through dreary mindsets and opinions like a plague. Rather, they will be motivated by God’s selfless, sacrificial, and sincere love, opening the way to become Christ-like!

1:5... from a good conscience. A good conscience is, in truth, a godly conscience. Paul knew Timothy sinned, and he knew he himself sinned as he writes in verse 15... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. So a good conscience cannot mean one that has never failed, never stumbled, or never fallen to weakness. Instead, it describes a conscience that is responsive to God through believing the truth.

A godly conscience does not hide, pretend, or justify sinful actions. It recognises Godly conviction and turns as fast as it possibly can to Jesus. A bad conscience is not the conscience that sins, but the conscience that refuses the light.

Self-examination is the doorway into this godly conscience. It is the honest realisation of who we are, who Jesus is, and what He has done for us. This honesty opens the heart for the Holy Spirit to work freely. When we stop pretending and step into the truth, the Spirit challenges us, prompts us, tests us, corrects us, strengthens us, and keeps our inner life tender, teachable, and close to God.

A godly conscience understands that the reward for our sin, the judgment we deserved, is what Christ took at Calvary. That truth keeps the conscience humble, grateful, and anchored in grace.

1:5... and from sincere faith. This literally means an unhypocritical faith. Such is closely tied to the good conscience. Both ideas point to a believer who walks honestly before God, not pretending, not hiding, not performing, but living in the truth of who they are in Christ. A sincere faith is '**not**' a perfect faith, but a tested one that always points the believer back to Christ Jesus.

A good conscience and sincere faith are not merely related; they are deeply connected. They strengthen one another like two parts of the same inner life, working together to produce the love Paul describes. A good conscience is the mark of a believer who is walking closely with God... trusting God... and that closeness allows the Spirit to continually develop and strengthen their faith, which Paul calls 'the faith.'

1 Timothy 1:6 From which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk.

And here we are warned!

1:6 from which some, This is speaking about people who have received the truth. These are people the Church knows, and I would imagine trust. We must not regard anyone more highly than another. We should be awake to the Spirit’s leading, aiding one another in truth, which comes through and by His love. Therefore, we catch wrong ideologies before they take hold. Pride and the desire to rule quite often drive this issue.

1:6...having strayed, If the teacher, pastor, elder, layman, pew-sitter, or whoever it may be, starts to proclaim that which does not line up with the truth, then seek the Lord for guidance and His correction method! In this case, the words having strayed states they have already moved away from the truth.

1:6... have turned aside to idle talk. Their speech is that of the world, caught up in vain and lifeless words, concerned with worldly matters and events. What they say can indeed sound dangerously correct. As an example, I have heard preachers teach about Israel, and so often their words do not come from a faith perspective but from a worldly logic of human understanding. Why would I say that? Because Israel’s future is set in spiritual concrete; anyone can read it! They are going to accept, for a time, the antichrist as their saviour, and nobody can stop this from being the case. But the Lord shall bring His perfect and unfailing correction, just as the word tells us in the Book of Revelation! Israel, as any nation, must live by the Lord's words, "a new commandment I give you: love one another as I have loved you." And Israel shall, at the time appointed by the Lord! But until then, we the Church are commanded to pray for the eternal souls of all that

are caught up in this conflict, that they may find the truth of Jesus Christ. Be they Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female, Jesus Christ died for them, and yes, many shall reject His act of saving grace, and He knew that! But that did not stop Him from going to the cross!

1 Timothy 1:7 Desiring to be teachers of the law, they understand neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.
This speaks of the law of Moses. Many Pharisees saw truth in the Christian message and joined the Church; however, they did not completely give up their beliefs from Judaism. They tried to marry these beliefs to the Christian faith, resulting in Judaism becoming a major problem! This heresy and spiritual cancer persists within the church today, demanding the keeping of the law incorrectly and the observation of certain ceremonial rites.

1:7... Desiring to be teachers of the law, These men were trying to force the Law of Moses into the New Covenant, like trying to push a square peg into a round hole. They claimed, as many still do today, that one must keep the Law to attain salvation. But this is impossible. If salvation depends on law-keeping, then no one can ever be saved, for the Law condemns rather than saves.
Salvation is received first as the free gift of God through faith in Christ. Only after salvation does the Holy Spirit begin to teach the believer, not how to keep the Law of Moses, but how to walk in the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, which has made us free from the law of sin and death (see Romans 8:1–2).
The Law and Salvation cannot coexist within the same person on the basis of Godly Righteousness.
Why? Because: the Law demands the penalty of death, salvation over turns that demand. The Law says "Obey me perfectly and live" salvation says "Believe in me and live." The Law can only expose and remind one of sin, salvation removes and forgets sin. The Law condemns whilst Salvation justifies. These two systems are unattainable for anyone except Christ.
Only Christ could hold both together He is the only Person in whom the Law and Salvation meet in perfect harmony.
Paul makes it unmistakably clear Galatians 2:21 If righteousness comes by the Law, Christ died in vain. And also in Galatians 5:4 You who attempt to be justified by the Law have fallen from grace. And once again Galatians 3:12 The Law is not of faith . The Law and Salvation cannot live together in any person except Christ.

1:7... they understand neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. The words they speak come from a spirit of confusion, which they affirm by performing outward actions and attempting to keep all types of religious rites and ceremonies. They are trying to mould Christ into their faith!

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully.
The law of Moses came from God, so it is obviously good!

1:8 But we know that the law is good The law shows the level of righteousness required by God, and I believe the law reveals the bare minimum required. Hmm, think about that! Christ far exceeded such! I believe there are two points here.
Point one... The law was given to show mankind:

1/ They could not keep it.
2/ Man's heart is sinful.
3/ The law demanded that man, not an animal pay the sin debt, and the sacrifice had to be perfect other wise it would be rejected.

Point two...The law was given to Moses for:

1/ One Man! Jesus Christ!
2/ He and only He could fulfil the moral, ritual, and civil requirements of the law.

1:8... if one uses it lawfully. Jesus Christ demanded, by His life of perfect law-keeping, that the power of God would be seen on earth as it is in heaven! The law is very much alive today in the world. No one can escape its moral requirements, and this includes believers. However, it serves as a measuring stick for those who do not know the Lord. Their conscience will be pricked by their sinful actions.
As far as the Church goes, the law 'should not' affect it in any way, as it is applied by faith in a lawful person! The law was perfectly kept by the Lord, and we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places! Ephesians 2:6 says, "and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Repentance is a picture of the law working within a believer. If we use the law correctly through faith in Christ and what He did at the cross, such enables the law of the Spirit of life to work within the believer!

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing 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 man-slayers.

We should know and understand this topic!

1:9 Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person. The word the is not in the original text, which indicates that Paul was speaking in this verse about all laws! It should read, That law is not made...'

God's Moral Law, government laws, Church laws, community laws, school laws, home laws, etc., are made for specific purposes:

1/ To force unrighteous persons to behave correctly or pay the penalty.

2/ To safeguard law-keepers' lives and property!

Laws are meant to work for law-keepers by exposing and punishing law-breakers. Every 'healthy' human being has a working conscience, which provides an inner understanding of right, wrong, good, evil, fair, or unfair (often shaped by cultural, political, and economic environments). It is important that we understand this so as not to judge other persons incorrectly! Why do I mention the conscience? Because every healthy human being has one, which allows a certain level of law-keeping to be done correctly. The Church has a massive advantage: The mighty Holy Spirit! We are currently, and will later be Judged according to how we have allowed Him to work in our lives, just as an unsaved person is judged by their conscience! No excuses!

1:9...but for the lawless and insubordinate. Obviously, this does not speak about believers, as they have Christ living through them! Correct? Paul is telling the Church that the law is for the lawless and insubordinate people! These two words address people who have no honour or respect toward authority, be it God's or man's. Hence, boundaries have been put into place to halt anarchy.

1:9...for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for man-slayers. And Paul continues to show he is not talking about believers as the Church cannot be named among those horrid sins.

1 Timothy 1:10 For fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

The list of man's sins could fill page upon page. But the Holy Spirit has, through the Apostle, revealed enough to give us an idea of what He is saying. All sin, even that which we may call 'a small sin,' is contrary to sound doctrine! Anything that opposes the holy and righteous Nature of God is sin! Paul has charged Timothy and the wider church (us) that we are to live in the purpose of the commandment, which promotes a pure heart, coming from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith (see verse 5) in Christ and what He has done for us! Timothy is being told (as we are) to be careful of these people, but also remember what you were before you were saved!

1 Timothy 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

The moral law of God can be seen in every country in the world.

1:11 According to the glorious gospel, all the above sins named are contrary to sound doctrine! But it is the glorious gospel that removes such evil and vile thoughts, words, and actions. The glorious gospel is the glorious truth.

1:11...of the blessed God. And this, of course, speaks of He who is, the way, the truth, and the life.

1:11...which was committed to my trust. Paul was shown the truth regarding the power which comes through the Sacrifice of the Son of God. He was to take this to the other Apostles and then into the world.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

Paul was Appointed by Christ, not by a man!

1:12...And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me. Paul offers praise to the Lord's holy name. He does not call Him Jesus Christ here but Christ Jesus, meaning Anointed Saviour. He then calls Him Lord. The term Lord takes on a higher place regarding Jesus; it has become a way of declaring Him as God! He also includes the readers by saying our Lord rather than my Lord, our God, our Saviour! Amen.

1:12... because He counted me faithful, putting me into The Ministry. God had read Paul's heart, just as He has searched ours! And what a ministry! All the Epistles over 2000 years later are still pulling, by the power of the Holy Spirit, millions into heaven.

P8

1 Timothy 1:13 Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an injurious man; but I obtained Mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Paul confesses he once cursed The Name of The Lord! This proves we are to not judge the world in their sin as we also stood there... but pray them out from it.

1:13 Although I was formerly a blasphemer. The word although speaks volumes. It speaks of the greatness of God's seen through His mercy and grace. Such righteousness transforms lives. It transformed the hard-hearted Paul.

1:13...a persecutor, and an injurious man. Paul sums up what he had learned as a young Pharisee leader. From blasphemy to persecutor, Paul hunted believers and punished them brutishly, believing it was God's will and desire. Injurious in the Greek is 'one whose insolence and contempt of others breaks forth in wanton outrageous acts.' Scripture tells us that Paul brought a 'slaughter' against Christ's believers (Acts 9:1).

1:13...but I obtained Mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. Paul had a genuine faith in God. He believed his actions pleased God, but he was completely off course regarding the truth. This shows me how great the Lord's love was and is towards anyone who has a heart capable of repentance, which only the Spirit knows as He sees and reads the human heart. Regardless of the crimes committed under a cloud of ignorant unbelief, no matter how we or other believers may view their actions, the Lord shall take such a soul to a place of righteous understanding where their sins are washed away, just as He did for you and me, who were hell-bound due to our wicked desires.

1 Timothy 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Grace provides Salvation, faith places it, and love applies it.

1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant. He includes the entire church by the words our Lord. Grace cannot be separated from mercy, nor mercy from grace! The Greek meaning of the word grace used here is 'superabounded over all.' There was nothing left to hold the Apostle down. This grace not only freed him but has opened the door for service unto the Father! Paul, as any other believer, could not receive such grace and then just carry on as they were in life! Nay, as Paul, we should all desire greatly to serve the Almighty with all we have. We shall read about this soon.

1:14...with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. It is grace that allows faith and love in Christ Jesus to exist! His faith, His love, which we get by being in Him. No one who is reading this has come to the Lord in and by their own will! John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Paul introduces this statement with a solemn formula he uses only a few times in the Pastoral Epistles.

1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, It means: "What I am about to say is absolutely trustworthy, universally true, and must be embraced by every believer." This is not opinion, nor personal reflection, it is a Divine truth that demands full acceptance.

1:15…that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners Here Paul summarises the very heart of the gospel. Christ did not come merely to teach, inspire, or reform society. He came with a mission: to save sinners, to rescue you and I and any other that will listen from eternal damnation.

1:15…of whom I am chief. Paul identifies himself as the foremost sinner, not because he was morally worse than every other person, but because of his former ignorant unbelief regarding the Saviour. He persecuted the church, resisted the truth, and opposed Christ Himself. As Jesus said in John 16:9 "The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin, because they believe not on Me." According to Jesus, the greatest sin is unbelief in Him and His Sacrifice. Thus we were all once guilty.

1 Timothy 1:16 However, for this reason, I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all long-suffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

We are all, or at least should be, examples of God's loving grace.

1:16 However, for this reason, I obtained mercy, The reason mercy was shown was Paul's ignorant unbelief, but the emphasis here is on God's great mercy, not Paul. God's mercy could work in Paul due to the fact that Paul's heart was not hardened against the Creator. Yes, Paul 'hated' those he believed were polluting God's truth, but he did not hate God!

1:16... that in me first Jesus Christ might show all long-suffering. Paul was not seen as a thief, liar, drunkard, or one of an immoral spirit while he lived as a Pharisee. Rather, the religious community commended him. However, anyone who lives by the law, driven by man's religious belief, shall one day find self-righteousness ruling them rather than Christ.

1:16…that in me first This phrase carries two important truths:

1/ This does not mean Paul was the first to turn to Christ the first person saved. Rather, it means that Jesus displayed His power in Paul in undeniable way. Christ changed Paul's entire belief system from the inside out.

2/ Others would see the dramatic change in Paul and believe. The Spirit worked from the inside out, reshaping Paul's heart, mind, desires, and direction. His life became a testimony of truth.

1:16…Jesus Christ might show all long-suffering Paul understood the long-suffering of the Lord toward him. For years he greatly persecuted the church, yet Christ saved him and entrusted him in ministry. This transformation did not happen overnight it took many years of long-suffering on the Lords part, to get Paul to a mature 'workable' place in Paul's life.

1:16... as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. The power of this transformation was so radical, so complete, that Paul himself became a living demonstration of the gospel's power to the world.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Even halfway through penning a letter, Paul's thoughts turn to praise. This is beyond our ability to understand... As the Spirit opens my mind to this an excitement runs wild within my heart.

1:17 King He is not merely a King among kings. He is the King, the One whose rule is absolute, unchallenged, and without boundary. Earthly kings rule over land. Angelic beings rule over realms. But He rules over the eternal itself. Time does not limit Him. Ages do not confine Him. Eternity does not surround Him, He surrounds eternity. His kingship is not inherited, elected, or bestowed. It is essential to who He is. He reigns because He is the King.

1:17...Eternal He rules over the eternal because He Himself goes beyond it. Eternity is not His boundary, it is what He spoke into creation. He is unsearchable, unmeasurable, and without beginning or end. He is eternal not simply in duration, but in nature. His being is not stretched across time it defines it. His reign reaches into realms and spheres we cannot imagine, dimensions we have no language for.

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1:17...Immortal However, He that was immortal died. Immortality deliberately wrapped itself in mortality for you and I. The Eternal stepped into time our time zone. But death could not conquer Him. He took back that which He was and shall always be... Immortal. He rose the triumphant Lord. He rules not in...but over life... He is the Immortal King, the One who entered death and destroyed it.

1:17...Invisible...yet seen. He rules from a realm beyond sight, yet nothing escapes His gaze. His presence fills everything; nothing has a place outside of Him.

Jesus said to Thomas, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." In Christ, the Invisible God became visible. The unknowable became knowable. The unseen stepped into flesh and revealed Himself to all.

We experience glimpses of Him in the everyday beauties of creation, but above all these, faith carries us beyond sight. Faith does not merely observe; faith knows. Faith perceives the God who cannot be seen with the eye but is unmistakable to the heart. Invisible, yet seen in Christ, and seen by faith, and history agrees.

1:17...God who alone is wise This is not merely saying that God has wisdom. It is saying that He is the source, the fountain, the origin, and the definition of wisdom itself, again such cannot be explained from a humanistic level. His wisdom cannot be improved on, upgraded as a computer or ever corrected because He has never been mistaken. He lacks nothing, knows all things, and sees all ends from all beginnings. He does not learn, grow, or receive, wisdom as He is wisdom.

Every wise thing in creation is a borrowed spark from His eternal mind. Every insight, every revelation, every moment of clarity in the human heart is a faint borrowing of His knowledge.

This is why Paul erupts into praise. Paul is overwhelmed by the God as he writes these words because he sees and believes the Lord is so complete, so flawless, so beyond human grasp that all he can do is worship.

1:17...Honour and glory He rules in splendour, deserving all reverence and all praise. His rule is not temporary. His kingdom is not a moment in time thing. His glory is will never fade. His reign is

1:17...forever and ever. Amen. Paul is not doing more than praising God's eternal attributes, he is declaring that these eternal realities have been given to us through the Son on the cross.

Eternal...and through the cross, eternal life is given to us.

immortal... and through His sacrifice on the cross, immortality is given to us.

Invisible...yet made visible in Christ for the purpose of what He would accomplish on the cross.

God alone is wise... the One who, before creation, ordained all things to reach their fulfilment in Christ's work on the cross.

His wisdom is given to us through the Spirit...to the Jews it is a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness but to those who are being saved (the cross) it is the wisdom of God

Honour and Glory... and through the work of Jesus on the cross, we are brought into His glory as sons and daughters. Forever. Amen.

This is why the Amen matters as it is not Paul ending a sentence or the letter, it is his cry of joyful agreeance. All has been is revealed, given, shared, and made ours. The cross is where everything was opened up to be taken, seen and agreed upon, where the glory of God was poured out as a gift for you and I...

Through the courage and perfection of God's Blessed Son Jesus Christ Amen?!!!

1 Timothy 1:18 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.

Paul ordered Timothy to live according to that which was spoken over him. The words which he had heard came from the Holy Spirit and needed to be taken very seriously.

1:18...son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you. Paul had a fathers heart toward Timothy thus desired he would walk according to the Holy Spirit's leading. Timothy had words of encouragement and future promises given to him by the Spirit of God through those men and women about him, these words were not idle, man produced flip-flops... They came from the Spirit's mouth.

1:18... that by them you may wage the good warfare. By what? The prophecies! God's word never fails. Yes, Timothy was going to be tested, just as we are tested! This is why we must keep our faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us at the cross and to continue to encourage one another in such a way.

1:18... the good warfare. The good warfare Paul speaks of is not a battle against demons, people, or religious opponents. It is the spiritual fight of turning continually toward God, resisting the devil by doing so, and joyfully applying, by faith the gifts and calling the Lord has already given. This warfare is fought through faithfulness, obedience, and dependence on Christ.

We must hold firmly to the words the Holy Spirit has spoken over our lives, especially those confirmed through trustworthy believers. These words are not followed blindly; they are tested through prayer, patience, and Scripture. When confirmed, they become reminders of God's calling and direction.

The good warfare is waged by remaining in all that Jesus Christ has done for us through His Sacrifice proved by Resurrection. When our confidence rests in His finished work, we are strengthened to stand, endure, and walk in what He has called us to. In this posture of faith, He will in no way let us down. Remember we are seated in Christ, He has fought the real fight... we just need to believe!

1 Timothy 1:19 Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.

This is the secret to waging good warfare. Not striving, not standing to fight demons, not battling peoples opinions... but faith. Faith in what? Faith in who? Faith in the victory won at Calvary, and in the One who won it. A good conscience is not produced by moral perfection, it is produced by placing our faith in the right Person and action, being Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for us on the cross.

When faith is locked in His person, sacrifice and resurrection, then the conscience is cleansed, strengthened, and made responsive to God. This is why Paul ties faith and good conscience together:

faith in Christ produces a conscience at rest.

1:19...which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck. Some have rejected this truth, they have not rejected religion, but rejected the faith which secures the message of truth, Christ's sufferings that salvation and sanctification can only flow from what He did on the cross.

When the cross is set aside, when Christ's work is replaced with human effort, when faith is shifted from His blessed victory to our performance, the result is always the same: shipwreck. It should always be "not my will but Yours be done". This is not stated to make you stumble or struggle but to divert a possible shipwreck brought about by a total collapse of spiritual direction.

But it must be said, being shipwrecked does not mean eternal hell, there is a life raft... Christ Himself. But to any that are moving away from the truth of Christ and Him crucified be warned...The wreck may be severe, and the damage very real, rejecting the power of the cross places a person on a horrid road, a path of confusion, bondage, and possible spiritual ruin and hell. Do not abandon the ship... remain anchored in the faith of Christ. The good warfare is won by faith in Christ's finished work.

1 Timothy 1:20 Of whom are hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Paul names two men Hymenaeus and Alexander who had rejected the faith and shipwrecked their conscience. Their error was not a small doctrinal slip; it was a wilful departure from the message of Christ's sufferings and resurrection.

1:20... I delivered them to satan Paul's action was not an act of a vengeful man or a sentence to hell. It was a disciplinary measure, a removal from the protection and fellowship of the church, allowing them to experience the consequences of their rebellion. The goal was not destruction but restoration:

1:20…that they may learn not to blaspheme. This is discipline with hope that Judgment may open the door to God's greater mercy. No one rejects the faith in one dramatic moment, it begins with small compromises, neglected truth, pride, and a conscience slowly crushed and silenced. Hymenaeus and Alexander didn't fall in a day, they drifted.

This is the reason we are strong on keeping Jesus and Him crucified, rejecting the cross always leads to spiritual ruin. Their blasphemy was not more than likely not random speech, but the open act of rejecting the message of Christ's sacrifice. Whenever the cross is replaced with human effort, human wisdom, or human pride a shipwreck is unavoidable.

Paul's action may seem severe, but it was redemptive. Better to be shaken awake now than to be cast into the lake of fire. Equally, and very importantly, Paul names them publicly because their influence was open to public debate. False teaching is never private, it spreads, damages and destroys. By naming them, Paul protects the flock and exposes the danger. And yet, he still hopes for their return.

1:20…that they may learn" reveals Paul's heart, he is not writing them off but praying the discipline will awaken them to the act of repentance.

Indeed, such is a thought-provoking passage that highlights faith, conscience, and the consequences of rejecting the message of Christ. Will they learn the lesson? Next week we shall see!

God bless you all...Amen and amen

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.

We start with the word "Therefore" which, of course, connects to last week's study where we read that hymenaeus and Alexander had been handed over to satan in the hope that they 'may' repent. One remained hard hearted, we see in 2 Timothy 2:17 that hymenaeus did not. Therefore, let's continue to pray for all peoples.

2:1... I exhort first of all: Paul encourages Timothy to teach the Church to pray for all peoples every where. Prayer helps us to look after who in in the Church... and those that will enter into it world wide.

2:1... that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made: Four slightly different types of prayers:

1/ Supplications: In Greek, translates as 'request, an olive branch, held in the hand of the requester.'

2/ Prayers: Simply translates as 'prayer unto God.'

3/ Intercessions: Means 'a petition given to God.'

4/ Giving of thanks: A prayer of faith regarding 'Who Jesus is and what He has done.'

Notice the order: firstly, (a) supplications, (b) prayer unto God, (c) intercessions, (d) faith with thanksgiving!

2:1... be made for all men: Worldwide, we are not to just pray for our church, family, and friends but for all humanity, even those who mistreat us. Matthew 5:44-45 Jesus Speaking, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

We must not judge or criticise others, regardless of their actions. Gossip has no place in the church. Let us have faith in God's Power to change the lives of even those we consider to be the most wicked.

1 Timothy 2:2 For kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

At the time of Paul's writing, nero was the Roman Emperor who would before the end of his cruel reign, put to death both the Apostles Peter and Paul. (nero murdered family members, political rivals, and many Christians, historical evidence supports hundreds rather than thousands).

2:2 For kings and all who are in authority. This does not mean praying that rulers will do our will, pass our preferred laws, or adjust life to our convenience and want. Paul is not calling the church into political activism, rather he is calling the church into spiritual intercession. The politics of this world belong to the children of darkness. The world system is not run by the righteousness of Christ, it is not guided by the Spirit (that day is yet to come).

Our calling is higher, we have been called to become involved in the politics of Heaven by preaching, teaching, speaking whilst living the truth, such is our true influence and calling.

Paul prayed for the very man who would eventually order his execution. He prayed for nero's salvation, not nero's policies. This is the heart of the passage, pray for their salvation, not their policy. However, there are a few saved men and women in the governments of this world, and we should pray with thanksgiving that they promote truth and righteousness. But the majority within the world system are not serving God, they are serving man, serving self, or serving darkness.

If we pray for earthly outcomes instead of eternal ones, we miss Paul's entire point here. The church loses its power when it becomes political but it enforces its power when it's prayerful. Paul is not telling Timothy to influence Rome, he is telling Timothy to intercede for Rome, there is a massive difference.

2:2...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty: The reward for our prayers. But remember, Peter, Paul, James (son of Zebedee) and Jesus brother James were executed by those in authority. The quiet, peaceable life comes from living in Christ, presenting a godly and honest lifestyle. The Apostles lived in such a way, yet they were put to death. I believe it came down to the type of peace they lived in, the type of quiet that engulfed them, which came from God. I feel this speaks of their inner spirit receiving a Godly calm whilst the world around them was in turmoil, which allowed them to speak honestly about how great God is.

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

The lost are lost... They are not deliberately offending God, not intentionally plotting evil, not consciously choosing suffering and hell over peace and heaven! They are, just as we once were spiritually blind,

spiritually dead, spiritually deceived. Paul is speaking of the Father which allows us to see the Father's heart. The Father sees the lost, desires their salvation, witnessed by the act of sending own Son to save them. The Father now asks the church to pray for what the Son died to accomplish This is not a small request. This is the Father inviting the church to participate in His own mission such is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. Amen?

1 Timothy 2:4 Who desires all men to be Saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
This stands in complete contrast to doctrines that restrict salvation to a predetermined few. The Father's invitation is universal, and the cross is sufficient for all. Amen and amen!

2:4 Who desires all men to be saved: The knowledge of the truth leads to Salvation, and it is through Jesus, the Son of God, that every sin committed by humanity is atoned for.

2:4... come to God wants all people to arrive at this understanding, to see clearly that Christ's sacrifice is the only way to life.

2:4… knowledge of the truth This speaks of a precise and correct knowledge that saves from error. Godly knowledge produces peace and spiritual growth, which in turn brings outward change. One cannot emphasise enough the importance of understanding the truth about Jesus' sacrificial death, which has covered every sin. Correct knowledge which can only come through faith is guided by the Holy Spirit, which can only lead to peace and growth. Jesus said in John 7:17 that if a person truly desires God's will, the Spirit will reveal whether the teaching they hear is from God or from a false teacher.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men.
A Mediator is one who stands between God and humanity to bring the two together. Jesus does this through His sacrificial death, paying the price for sin and reconciling us to God. Recognising Jesus as the One who saves and reconciles is essential for salvation. This is exactly what the thief on the cross did when he said, "Lord, remember me…" He called on the Mediator, he came to Jesus as his King and Saviour, trusting Him to bring him into God's kingdom.

1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
Jesus offered Himself as the ransom to pay for the sins of 'all mankind,' which means everyone has the ability to have their sins washed away, but they must accept that He alone is the Saviour, and that salvation can only be achieved through what Jesus did on the cross.

2:6… to be testified in due time. Some commentaries have differing views on what this means; but most point to this: That in the proper time of times, Christ shall be made known throughout all the world in that He gave Himself as a ransom for all mankind, and no one will be able to offer an excuse regarding their disbelief. All can receive, all can believe, all have heard, one way or another…it means All!

1 Timothy 2:7 For 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.
Yes, it is true that anyone who goes into ministry will be placed there due to the laying on of hands by those in charge of the church, which, in turn, is done through and by the Holy Spirit, who is God! But Paul did not receive his Ministry by the Holy Spirit through a man but from Christ Jesus Himself. Acts 9:3-6 describes how, as he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Paul went to Arabia after being Saved and spent three years there before returning for a brief time to Jerusalem, where he met with Peter and James, and then went to Damascus. (There were no apostles in Arabia; the truth was yet to be preached there.) He remained there it is believed around 9 to 10 years.

2:7...for which I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle. Galatians 1:11-12 tells us, 'But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.' And Galatians 1:16-18 continues, 'I conferred not with flesh and blood: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were Apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.'

2:7…I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying. Any student of the Bible shall eventually find that the Apostle faced heavy opposition regarding what he preached, so he makes it clear in this verse he was

called by Christ Himself to be an Apostle, preacher, and teacher.

2:7...a teacher of the Gentiles in Faith and Truth. Paul was an Apostle; this high calling includes all other ministries. In this verse, he states he is both a preacher and a teacher. He emphasises that his role is to teach the faith and truth of Christ Jesus, full stop, as faith driven by the truth only points towards Jesus Christ and Him crucified and resurrected. Paul's mission extended to the Gentiles, emphasising the faith and truth shown personally to him by Christ Jesus. Paul's unwavering commitment to preach the gospel and teach the truth should be an inspiration for all who read this study.

1 Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Paul now returns to the subject of supplications, prayers, and intercessions, he addresses the men first, some of which were angry, argumentative, doubting or even spiritually passive. So Paul says:

2:8... lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. four things here:

1/ This is not talking about every prayer needing the hands to be physically lifted but rather the spirit of a man surrendering unto God. Hands that no longer have the weight of sin's power!

2/ Again, we look at the spirit of man; our spirit must be free from wrath, which is a heightened type of anger that certainly distracts us from what we need to be doing. It brings only regrets followed by ongoing conflicts, which, of course, promotes guilt and destruction internally and outwardly.

3/ Most commentaries agree the word doubting is better translated as 'disputing.' These angry and negative feelings have no place in a believer's life. Men who want to lift up holy hands must deal with their unrighteous anger, which creates foolish debates causing doubt within others and oneself.

4/ The greatest point of importance...men, you were cleansed through the blood of Christ from your sinful acts. The spiritual leadership role of men, extends to their families, churches, and communities which relies on their integrity, so to pray in faith everywhere cannot be overemphasised. Men's lives must become absent from the foolish wrath and doubts that ruled them, allowing them to humbly surrender to God which will promote a spirit that is free from the world's woes.

1 Timothy 2:9 In 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.

The words in like manner refers to the last verse! Women are to pray to the Lord just as the men do, lifting holy hands, with sincerity, without wrath and doubting. What Jesus accomplished at the cross removed every barrier between male and female; the ground is level at Calvary. Under the old covenant, the temple courts were divided into three parts, male and female Gentiles were separated from Jewish women who were separated from Jewish men, but the work of Christ has removed such divisions. Now all men and women alike may enter the Holy of Holies. The Father's throne is open to '**all**' His children.

Tragically, many still fail to recognise this equality in Christ, treating women as spiritually inferior. This is not the gospel of truth. Correctly lived Christianity restores the dignity, value, and calling of both men and women. Paul then instructs the women to adorn themselves modestly, so that their outward appearance reflects the holiness of their prayers.

2:9... that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel. Paul is speaking about clothing, but the deeper issue is the heart behind the clothing. How a woman dresses for worship reveals how she thinks about God, reverence, and holiness. Although this instruction is directed to women, men also ought to consider the modesty and appropriateness of what they wear in church. Paul uses the phrase adorn themselves, showing he is not opposed to beauty or ornamentation, but he insists it must be of the right kind. A woman who appears in church dressed modestly is clearly not seeking attention, but honouring God with a humble and worshipful heart.

2:9... with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing. Their clothing (as a man's) should align with the principles of worship. This verse specifically mentions avoiding certain adornments: Braided Hair: Extravagant hairstyles that draw undue attention. In Paul's day, women spent a lot of time doing their hair, often ornamented with spangles or with silver wire or tissue interwoven; female believers are not to imitate those of the world in their careful attention to the ornaments of the head. This does not mean braiding hair is forbidden, but rather the care and attention regarding the manner of doing it, and the ornaments usually worn in it, which characterised worldly females.

2:9... or costly clothing. This speaks of focusing on material display rather than spiritual devotion. The emphasis is not merely on external appearance but on the heart attitude behind it. How one presents themselves outwardly often reflects the inward condition. Paul is not forbidding believers from owning or

wearing quality clothing; he is warning against the desire to be noticed, admired, or elevated because of it. In our day, this principle applies equally to men and women... believers should not come to worship dressed in a way that draws attention to the body or distracts from the holiness of God. The issue is not the clothing itself, but the motive behind it.

1 Timothy 2:10 But, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.
Such comes from within a heart of faith. The Lord is their adornment. Hallelujah ladies, think about that, somebody get excited. Such a woman is walking in the Spirit learning of the King of kings. Worldly or religious adornments (such as elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or costly clothing) pale in comparison to the inner spiritual clothing of Christ-likeness. Paul emphasises that women who profess godliness should exhibit certain qualities, and these qualities are born through the Spirit into the believer.

2:10... with good works. A godly woman cannot help but produce good works. These works are not forced, artificial, or religious performances, they are the beauty of God shining through her life. She is clothed in His garments of righteousness, and the fruit of that righteousness is seen in the way she lives, serves, and loves. Her good works become the true adornment of her life, such is far more beautiful than gold, pearls, or costly clothing because they flow from a heart transformed by the gospel of truth.

1 Timothy 2:11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.
Verses 11-15 have sparked various interpretations and discussions. Sadly, some have presented aggressive and soul-destroying opinions over its meaning.

2:11 Let a woman This was revolutionary act by Paul. Women were not permitted to study the Law in Judaism, (most could not read or write) and this was not by God's command, but by one of man's foolish traditions. Paul is opening up the door carefully that culture had closed.

2:11... learn What are woman to learn? The gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? So they can be changed inwardly to grow strong in Christ and share the truth with anyone the Lord places before them be it male or female.

2:11... in silence with all submission. The word silence does not mean stopping a woman's voice, the Greek word for silence is 'hēsychia' and it means 'quietness, peacefulness, a teachable posture'
It describes attentive learning, not enforced muteness. Submission does not imply inferiority rather it reflects an attitude of respect toward God's word, something required of every believer, male and female. Paul's aim was not to silence the women but to establish order, unity, and peace in the gathered church.

1 Timothy 2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.
We shall carry on with a sensitive but firm spirit! Timothy was not to relinquish his role as the head pastor to anyone. Some schools of thought on this verse are:

1) Women are to remain with their lips closed in church.
2) Women hold a subservient role, they are useful but in an inferior capacity compared to men.

As a pastor, I reject such nonsense. These are erroneous teaching which are inconsistent with Scripture and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

A} Women prayed and prophesied in the early church.
B} Prophecy is a Spirit-given utterance, and God gave it to women.
C} Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos together (Acts 18:26).
D} Phoebe served as a deacon (Romans 16:1).

So what is Paul forbidding? He is forbidding a woman from assuming independent, domineering, or disorderly authority. The Lord has an order we are to abide by, and within that, women are not to exercise or assume a stance of independent authority over the man, and men are not to think women are subservient to them, for all are the same in Christ, all shall answer to God on Judgment Day, both male and female. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the understanding of all these matters.

1 Timothy 2:13: For Adam was formed first, then Eve.
Paul now grounds his teaching in creation, not culture, he is **'not'** appealing to first-century customs, but to God's original design. Scripture tells us Eve was Adams helper!

2:13: For Adam was formed first, Genesis tells us that woman was made from the rib of man, she came forth from him. Why? To become his companion and helper, not his servant or inferior. The Hebrew word 'ezer' for helper is the same word used of God Himself. It speaks of strength, support, and partnership.

2:13... then Eve. "Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh." Eve became Adam's wife, his equal in worth, dignity, and Divine love. God's affection for them was the same, but in everything the Lord does, there is an order. Man was created first, then woman, not to establish superiority, but to establish structure. Paul is simply reminding Timothy of this creation order, an order bound in love by the correct partnership of understanding, and unity... not male domination.

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
Eve believed the serpent's twisted version of what God had said. She didn't step away from Adam physically, but she stepped away from God's truth by letting the serpent tell her what God was like instead of trusting what God had already said. Eve sinned because she was tricked; Adam sinned by going directly against what the Lord had said. He knew exactly what he was doing.
A person cannot be deceived by something they never heard or saw. Paul says Adam was not deceived. For Adam '**not**' to be deceived, he must have heard the serpent's words and rejected them. If Adam had **not heard the serpent or Eve words**, then deception wouldn't even be possible. But Paul says Adam was not deceived, which means he did hear what was said. He heard the serpent's lie, understood it, rejected it, and still chose to sin. Eve was deceived; Adam disobeyed.

2:14... fell into transgression. Eve fell meaning she slipped into something she didn't intend, this is not a word used for rebellion, however the outcome was sin. Transgression simply means crossing a line God has drawn, It's the act of stepping over a boundary God set.

A} sin (hamartia) means missing the mark
B} iniquity (anomia) means twistedness
C} transgression (parabasis) means crossing a line

Eve crossed God's boundary, she believed the serpent's lie, and acted on it, and as with all sin, there is a price to pay.

1 Timothy 2:15: Nevertheless she will be Saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
Paul is not saying women are saved eternally (go to heaven) by having children. Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Paul is making two points here at the same time:

1} The word she speaks of Eve. Through her, the human race would continue. If she had no child birth, both male and female would be extinct. So this part of the verse is about the preservation of humanity, not eternal salvation. God allowed Eve... even after her failure, to continue in her purpose so that life would go on and, eventually, the Saviour would come through a woman.

2} Spiritual salvation if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. The word if swings the verse from the 'physical to the spiritual.' If moves the text from from she (Eve) to they, Paul is now speaking of all women, not just Eve. And the key words are if they.
The next part of the verse outlines the qualities required of every believer faith, love, and holiness, with self-control, such are demanded from both female and male followers of Christ. Childbearing is not conditional, but faith is, "without faith it is impossible to please God." But faith is... and that must be in the blood of atonement in both the Old and New Testaments... which speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ's Sacrifice that alone opens the door for all of mankind to walk in love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
Paul encourages the role of a bishop. Apostles, teachers, and evangelists were regarded as the church power structures, so the Apostle makes it clear that this is indeed a good work and worthy of pursuing. The work and title of a bishop have been completely changed from what they stood for in Paul's day. Bishop comes from the Greek word 'episcopos' and means 'manager of a shop, the chief clerk of an office, or director of a company.' Within the New Testament, bishop is translated as overseer and elder; they hold the same status. Simply, the term bishop denotes those who are ministers of the gospel. Paul is telling Timothy to look out for those who desire to work in such a position for it is a good and honourable work; the good Lord blesses such workers of truth.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach.
If one is walking with the Lord, then such a person shall have a heart that is being continually cleaned!

3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, All, believers regardless of how mature we may be in the Lord have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the Lord; however, the past has been swallowed up and no longer exists. It is therefore expected that a person taking up or working in the role of bishop would have left childish behaviour behind and that his moral character would be guided by his spirit rather than the flesh, taught and raised by the Holy Spirit.

3:2... the husband of one wife, This speaks, I believe, of the saved man, one who has had all past sins removed from his life; hence, he may have been married 100 times in his unsaved past, but that holds no bearing on the new born-again man. Equally, during his ministry, if his wife should die, I believe he is free to remarry! Equally it does not mean that a bishop has to be married; if that were so, then both Jesus and Paul could not be spiritual leaders in our churches!

3:2... temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach. That of a calm mind, a reliable and trustworthy man, one governed by Christ. This is a person who is able to think with a true, Christlike understanding, dealing with both the serious and minor issues of life in a clear and constructive way. He will not be guided by alcohol and his behaviour shall reflect a sober and hospitable position, from which all can learn.

1 Timothy 3:3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy of filthy lucre, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
This has, and still does, cause many to argue over its deeper meaning. And here it is! Can a believer drink alcohol? The word used here for wine in the Greek is (paroinos); we find it used twice in the New Testament, in this verse and Titus 1:7. This Greek word means 'sits by it' what takes place by the power of wine, as in merrymaking, parties, and the like. It draws a picture of one who is in the habit of drinking it, one who enjoys loud company. So, can a believer drink alcohol? What I am about to write is my personal opinion. All believers should be hearing from the Holy Spirit! Correct? So it is up to each believer to do as they do, but as for me, I feel we should consider what we do (like it or not) regarding the effects our lives have on others around us. For the love of Jesus Christ and the souls of the Saved and the unsaved alike, we should be ready to deny ourselves, to undergo minor hardships like maybe not having that drink, for the spiritual improvement of our fellow man. We are all employed unto good works, meaning we are being changed inwardly by the Holy Spirit to reflect Christ-likeness to the church and the world.

3:3... but gentle, not quarrelsome, He must be gentle, considerate, fair minded towards others. Avoiding foolish arguments. He should be a peaceful man who will walk away from a quarrel. The Greek word, literally means "Not disposed to fight."

3:3... not covetous; A lover of money, greedy for worldly riches, seeking his own things, and not the things of Christ. Paul addresses this more specifically in 1 Timothy 6: 6–10. There, he points out that greed leads to all kinds of other sins, including an abandonment of the faith.

1 Timothy 3:4 One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.
We see the reality of living IN THE truth. Such a person shall have a good home setting; their lives promote a holy and righteous witness no matter where they are, be they in church, at home, or out and about! Notice this is not a place for negotiation. A father whose children openly show signs of unchecked rebellion due to

the lack of correct fatherly discipline would disqualify such a man from becoming an elder. If a father lets his own children run rampant, how can he claim to be ready to guide others in the church? Fathers, regardless of their church standing or service, must direct their children away from evil's door; they must show and command them in the way of the Lord. Note: Just a thought to add: (Fathers and mothers cannot change the depth of issues in their child's heart, but they must direct their actions as best they can, allowing the Lord to do the rest).

1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);
The church is a family. If a man's wife and children have no respect towards him, then the man's house will not function correctly, remember respect is earned! Would he truly be able to gain the respect of those in the church family? This is not about perfection, it's about one's living pattern, character, and credibility. leader ship must be seen in the home!

1 Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
The word novice just means a **new member** of the faith. Regardless of their age, they must have a good, healthy dose of correct doctrinal understanding behind them. The church should never allow someone young in the Spirit to have authority.
Commentators differ on what the condemnation of the devil means. Some believe it refers to eternal judgment, others to severe discipline which falls short of that, and others see it as being 'turned over to satan' for correction, like in 1 Corinthians 5:5. However, Paul does not say the bishop receives the condemnation **of** the devil being eternal punishment. Rather he says the bishop may fall into the condemnation '**as**' the devil. In other words, he falls into the same trap: pride leading to downfall. This points to severe discipline, not eternal damnation.

1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
Paul warns that pride leads to a fall, just as it did for the devil. Then he warns that a fallen reputation becomes a trap of the devil. Verse 6 shows the devil's downfall; verse 7 shows the devil's trap. Together they show a progression: pride leads to a fall, the fall leads to reproach, and reproach becomes a snare.
3:7... a good testimony among those who are outside, This is one of the rare times the Holy Spirit speaks of the unredeemed. Church leaders (In fact all believers) should not be seen as busybodies or know-it-alls. If we were to go back over the above negative list highlighted by the Holy Spirit, we should be living absolutely opposite to them.
3:7... snare of the devil Just as animals can be lured into a trap and then caught by an unseen danger, so is the danger for church leaders who do not walk in the Spirit of truth correctly. Such a fall damages the reputation of the whole church and could leave the one whose reputation is being crushed in a very dangerous place.

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise, deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money.
This speaks of people who have reached a level of maturity and are in a place of authority to aid others up to their level of spiritual understanding.
3:8... Likewise, deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, The word Likewise states deacons are to live correctly as bishops. The word deacon comes from the Greek word 'Diakonos' and means 'servant.' Chapter 6:2 of Acts gives us a better picture of this: 'Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables." It would appear that this is from where this ministry started. Both male and female leaders were born from this place of servant-hood. They would function within the secular affairs of the church, offering the bread and wine for the Lord's table, attending to the collections, making sure all received, etc. They are not to be people pleasers, using coarse language or foolish jesters to puff up their own esteem before others.
3:8... not given to much wine, We have spoken about the wine and greed issue, but it is majorly important as the Holy Spirit has repeated it. Let no one be drunk! Let no one lead another into drinking! The best course of action is not to drink alcohol!
3:8... not greedy for money. There are obvious reasons why the church must have money, and the Lord has given a system in which we must work. Tithing is the given way, and those who collect them

(deacons) must be honest, must not become tempted to do as Judas, who stole from them whenever he felt like it! Their reputation, as any believers inside or outside the church must be squeaky clean.

1 Timothy 3:9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.
Paul received the revelation regarding Jesus Christ from the resurrected Messiah Himself! Jesus revealed such a glorious mystery to the Apostle, and Paul is telling Timothy just as he had lived and obeyed, so must the deacons hold to this foundational truth.

3:9... of the faith with a pure conscience. We spoke about a good conscience in chapter 1:19 this verse speaks about a pure conscience. A good conscience is an honest conscience, it refuses to hide or pretend. A pure conscience is a clean conscience, free from corruption and hypocrisy. A good conscience leads toward a pure conscience; it is faith working within a believer, changing them daily and producing holiness, which belongs to a pure conscience. One is the right attitude; the other is the result.

1 Timothy 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.
The testing Paul speaks of is the same spiritual testing all believers face. The test is whether we allow all things to be done through Christ rather than by our own strength. The Spirit works to put to death anything within us that resists the truth. We only 'pass' the test when we say, "Not my will but Thine be done." Over time, the fruit of the Spirit becomes visible, and this fruit reveals whether a person is ready for service.

3:10... then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless." The words then let show that service is not granted until the testing has produced visible fruit. These men and women have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work, His death and resurrection. They know everything needed for salvation and transformation was accomplished at the Cross and proven by the Resurrection. They walk according to the Spirit's leading. They are found blameless not because they are sinless, but because they understand their need for forgiveness and inward change. Their lives show sincerity, repentance, and integrity, the marks of those whom God has prepared for service.

1 Timothy 3:11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.
The word likewise means 'in the same manner, the same seriousness, similar qualifications.' But it does not automatically mean in the 'same role.' It shows that the women connected to the deacons must meet the same moral and spiritual standards. Their behaviour must reflect the same reverence, self-control, and faithfulness required of the men. Equally, a man married to a deaconess, such as Phoebe in Romans 16:1 would be expected to rise to that same level of godly character.

1 Timothy 3:12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
This verse can be used to argue male domination, but Paul is simply describing the normal household structure of his day, where men were the legal heads of families. If we keep verse 11 in place, we see that Paul is actually elevating women by giving them the same moral and spiritual standards as the men. He is not reinforcing male superiority rather he is gently dismantling it within a society that assumed it. Phoebe in Romans 16:1 shows clearly that women did serve as deaconesses. Paul is working within the culture, but he is pointing the church toward God's oneness over all believers.
As I wrote regarding bishops verse 2, a man may have been married many times in his unsaved past, but that has no bearing on the new, born-again man. All his sins have been removed as if he had never sinned. And if his wife dies during his ministry, he is free to remarry. Paul's concern is not a man's past, but his present faithfulness, integrity, and stability in Christ.

1 Timothy 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
One must serve well... so as not to miss the reward of knowing the Saviours transforming touch.

3:13 those who have served well as deacons The words those who tells us not all who serve do so with the same faithfulness or heart. Paul is speaking of those who carry out their ministry with sincerity, humility, and perseverance. Their tasks may seem small and even at times unnoticed, but in God's eyes they are precious. Nothing done in love or obedience is ever forgotten by the Lord. Their labour is not lowly; it is foundational. The Lord remembers their toil, and they receive and continue to reap great spiritual rewards.

3:13... obtain for themselves a good standing This good standing is not about status or rank in the church. It is the spiritual strength, credibility, and maturity that grows in a person who has served faithfully. Their life becomes a living testimony for all to see. Their character gains the weight of trust and their voice

carries the spiritual authority of Christ because it has been shaped by obedience and humility.

3:13... and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. This boldness is not arrogance, it is the confidence that comes from personal experience. Through their servant-hood they have come to know Christ in a more deeply way. Their faith becomes settled, steady, joyful in faith whilst also being courageous. They understand who Jesus is, and they act on that understanding. Their service builds up the church, strengthens the faith of others, and deepens their own boldness in Christ.

1 Timothy 3:14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;
The words 'these things' cover the entirety of the letter thus far. Paul, as we all should, wants to see the gospel of truth progressing onward.

1 Timothy 3:15 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.
Paul is telling Timothy why he has written everything in this letter, but he may be delayed, so he writes to ensure Timothy knows exactly how believers are to behave in God's household.

3:15... the house of God This is not a building, it is the people of God gathered in Christ.
Paul wants Timothy to understand how God's family is to function, worship, and live together.

3:15... which is the church of the living God The church belongs to the living God, not idols, not traditions, not culture. These words reminds Timothy that the church is sacred, alive, and under God's authority.

3:15... the pillar and ground of the truth The church is the place where God's truth is upheld, protected, and displayed. A pillar holds truth high for all to see and the foundation (ground) keeps truth steady and unshaken. Paul's point is simple, the behaviour of God's people must match the truth they proclaim.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.
Jesus our Almighty God!

3:16 And without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness: That which was once hidden has been seen by man! There was and is no argument; not only do humans get more than what we deserve, but we are also able to receive it even when we wanted nothing to do with God.

3:16... God was manifested in the flesh, Christ the Almighty God was born as a Man, born of the flesh, born to overcome, born so all the world could look upon Him.

3:16... justified in the Spirit, This is what the Lord of glory had to do! He had to overcome His flesh! He was manifested in the flesh but was vindicated and approved by the justification of His Spirit!

3:16... seen by angels, And this was with a great desire of the angels to understand all that the loving God was doing. The angels of light looked upon every aspect of His life, from His birth, existence, death, and resurrection.

3:16... preached among the Gentiles, The word Gentiles used would have been better translated as nations as He was preached among the nations, which indeed, includes the Jewish nation.

3:16... believed on in the world, This speaks about the fulfilment of prophecy, Jesus was believed by Gentiles and Jews alike. The word believed of course refers to faith, and this continues on into these days!

3:16... received up in glory, Seated at the right hand of God the Father due to His perfection and Holiness.

May we remain thoughtful of all that Jesus Christ went through to gain that position of glory! Amen?

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.
Let this be very clear, this is not the Apostle claiming this but the Spirit. This must be understood in our hearts?

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says We have got to understand the importance of these words... As I have just written, this is none other than God Himself, he makes sure Paul writes Now the Spirit expressly says, there can be no doubt the Holy Spirit makes this statement. Paul writes, "**Now** the Spirit!" This is our time frame! Now

4:1... that in latter times Let this truth be overly clear, this is happening as we study these verses. The Greek word for 'latter' is 'husteron,' which translates as 'afterward, at the last of all.' We are in the last of all days! This is serious, yet many have become worn by hearing such words and half heartily take them in!

4:1... some will depart from the Faith, Notice they will not depart from faith, but from the Faith! From the true gospel of Christ's finished work. They will replace the cross with religious programs and seek messages that suit their desires. They will seek out churches that proclaim the message they want to hear!

4:1... giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. Who are they giving heed to? Firstly man; these words of deceit come from the mouths of men, but the spirit within such a person is dark and evil, whose father is the devil. They are very generous and inviting words, mixed and tossed with many part-truths. The word 'seducing' comes from the Greek word 'planos,' which means 'wandering, roving, misleading, leading into error.' Today is the time to stand strong in 'the faith' remaining true. We are to encourage one another in keeping the bonds of Christ's love strong in this fellowship. The term doctrines of demons is not hard to understand, it speaks of spiritual wickedness? satan is the master of manipulation, make no mistake, we need each other more so today than ever before. The devil is going to try and remove us from correct fellowship. We are very aware of his manoeuvrings, which therefore demands we remain in the Faith and encourage one another in and with it?

1 Timothy 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.
This means they are more than aware of their sinning.

4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, telling others how they must live a holy life without even trying to do so themselves. As we read above, these men and women have fallen to seducing spirits speaking doctrines of demons, albeit through their own sinful lusts. They did not except the message of truth.

4:2... having their own conscience seared with a hot iron. A seared conscience tells us these individuals once had a living, sensitive conscience. They once knew the truth, once felt conviction, and once walked in the Faith. But through repeated rejection of truth and continual compromise, their conscience has become burned, hardened, and unresponsive. A conscience cannot be seared unless it was once alive.
This one of the strongest warnings in Scripture. The word seared (kautēriazō) means 'to burn until the nerves are dead.' Paul is describing a conscience that no longer feels conviction, no longer responds to truth, and no longer senses the difference between right and wrong. It is spiritual nerve-death. Such people have rejected the truth so often that their conscience has become scarred, hardened, and unresponsive. They are branded, marked, by the enemy. This is why their teachings are so dangerous. A seared conscience cannot lead anyone into the truth. This also is a warning do not tire from hearing and believing we are in the end times!

1 Timothy 4:3 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.
This goes well beyond the above-mentioned errors.

4:3 forbidding to marry, These errors did not appear out of nowhere. Two major influences were already creeping into the early church:

A) Gnostic ideas, who view the physical world as evil, and

B) Ascetic traditions that believed holiness came through strict self-denial.

Both movements led people to forbid marriage and impose unnecessary restrictions on food. Paul exposes these teachings as man-made religion, not the gospel of truth.
Regardless as of where the forbidding to marry came from it is an open attack on the holiness of marriage. It undermines God's design for the family and rejects what He declared good. The attack on marriage also touches something deeper. Marriage is a picture of Christ and His church, He gave His life so we could

become His bride. No earthly ring compares to the covenant He sealed with His own blood. He will never break His vow of love and commitment. So when false teachers forbid marriage, they are not only rejecting God's gift but also distorting the very symbol God chose to reflect Christ's love for His people.
They reject His proposal!

4:3... and commanding to abstain from foods This refers to false teachers who imposed strict religious rules about what believers could and could not eat. These teachings were influenced by early Gnostic ideas and ascetic practices, both of which promoted strict rules about food and claimed holiness came through denying the body. Paul has taught elsewhere that one believer may eat certain foods without concern while another cannot, and both can honour the Lord. But these teachers went beyond personal conviction, they made abstaining from certain foods a requirement for holiness.

4:3... which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. God created food to be received with thanksgiving. Believers, who know the truth of the gospel, understand that holiness does not come from avoiding certain foods but from trusting in Christ. Therefore, God's gifts are to be received with gratitude, not rejected through man-made rules.

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;
Paul is calling us to slow down and look carefully at what God has said. Every creature God made is good.

4:4 For every creature of God is good, He is speaking about animals, the creatures God made for food. Every creature God made is good. We should not call 'unholy' what God Himself has declared good. For the Lord said to Peter, "Do not call unclean what I have cleansed."
Paul is bringing forth the truth here. What God has created is not the problem, man-made restrictions are. But notice the small word of. Paul writes every creature of God. This matters. Not everything in the world is of God. Paul's point is: False teachers were rejecting what God had made good. Believers are to receive God's gifts with gratitude, not suspicion.

4:4... and nothing is to be refused There is a condition regarding these words as we are about to see. We are not to refuse that which the Lord gives us! Paul is not saying that everything in the world is good. He is speaking specifically about every creature God has given for food. The false teachers were refusing what God had declared good.

4:4... if it is received with thanksgiving; Here is the condition. Notice the word **if**...it is received with thanksgiving: All that we have comes through what Jesus Christ did for us. Food is not a pathway to holiness, nor is it something to fear. It is a reminder of God's kindness. When we receive what He provides with thanksgiving, we honour the Giver.
This is why Paul insists that believers must not let man-made rules rob them of the freedom Christ has given us. God's creation is good, and thanksgiving is the right response to His provision.

1 Timothy 4:5 for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.
Paul continues to explain how the creatures are set apart as clean, such is by two things:

4:5... The Word of God Paul is explaining why believers may freely receive food. He is pointing to God's New Covenant declaration that food is clean. (Acts 10:15) God Himself declared to Peter that the old food laws no longer apply. This is the Word of God that sanctifies, His spoken declaration that Christ has fulfilled the Law.

4:5... and prayer When believers receive God's gifts with thanksgiving, they acknowledge Him as the Giver. Prayer does not make the food holy, God has already done that through Christ. Rather prayer is the believer's response of gratitude, recognising God's kindness. This is why Paul insists that food is not to be refused. What God has declared good, and what believers receive with thankful hearts, is sanctified, set apart for our blessing

1 Timothy 4:6 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.
That which all who serve the King should desire!

4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, Solid instruction regarding the Lord's truth is the only plan of action we need. Teachers are to remain anchored, living within the Holy Spirit's doctrine of life, so all in the congregation can see and hear by their life and words!

4:6... You will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, As I wrote above, this is the desire of desires, to be good, for this is pleasing to the Father. A good teacher will not try to make the word fit into the system of

the world. Instead, the system of the world shall be exposed as foolishness and then melted and moulded to fit into the word.

4:6... nourished in the words of faith Means a continued eating of the word, engaged with both study and, of course, just having a relaxing read. Nourished, of course, means well-fed! In what? Words of faith, and all such comes from Jesus Christ and what he did at the cross and proved by the Resurrection.

4:6... the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. This is the perfect plan of God, the good doctrine can only speak of the doctrine of truth, Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified and Resurrected.

1 Timothy 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.
Paul is not saying that everything these false teachers said was openly anti-Christ or blatantly blasphemous. Much of it would have sounded very religious, wise, and spiritual. That is how deception works. satan rarely destroys truth with a direct attack. He twists it, just enough to pull the untrained away from the simplicity of Christ. This is exactly what happened with the command to abstain from certain foods. A slight distortion with religious sounding rules. Paul's command is simple, reject.

4:7... and exercise yourself toward godliness. Instead of giving attention to empty talk, believers are to train themselves in godliness. This means being spiritually alert, shaping our lives around Christ, and allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our thoughts and desires. Godliness grows as we seek Him through His Word and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:8 For 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.
Here Paul makes it clear: bodily exercise aids for a while (and one should exercise and maintain a good level of health), but the body shall fade away as time goes by. However, the inner spirit which chases godliness continues to grow stronger and stronger until the entry of heaven. This is a promise which cannot be broken, for it comes from the living God. Seek Him and ye shall find Him, desire in truth His life, and ye shall live forever in His Holiness.

1 Timothy 4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.
In short, believe it, live within it, 100% accept it. What am I on about? The Word of God. Seek Him, live in Him, trust Him. Do not listen to anyone who wants to tell you anything other than Jesus Christ and what He has done. You know who He is; you know what He has done. Remain in that place... So simple. God has promised, and so it shall be

1 Timothy 4:10 For to this end we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe.
The living God is also a loving God and the Saviour of all who believe. Both Paul and Timothy, through their hard labour often received harsh push-backs from the wider religious groups. Over the years, they were seen to be true believers in what they have boldly declared of Christ. They have been able to stand by faith in days driven by trials, horror, and temptations due to knowing the Spirit of truth, Jesus is alive, He is the living God and He was and is with them in power, amen and amen to that. When Paul wrote these words, he was dealing, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with many Hebrew Christians who still held, as he once did, a passionate zeal toward the Messiah's work of Salvation being limited to '**a**' chosen race. These words were intended to show that Christ's work was going to stretch over a greater and grander platform than what Israel could ever fill. Mark 16:16 says, "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Jesus is The Saviour of all men, meaning His truth has become known throughout the world.

4:10... especially of those who believe. Christ is the Saviour of all in the sense that there is no other source of salvation for anyone. But He is especially the Saviour of those who believe, because they are the ones who actually receive the salvation He offers. The provision is universal open to all but the experience belongs only to those that believer. Paul is emphasising that salvation (which comes if you belief) is found in Christ alone, and only those who continue to believe in the truth enjoy the fullness of what He has provided.

1 Timothy 4:11These things command and teach.
The word command makes this quite clear! This is a spiritual authority given to certain believers for the uplifting of the Saints. The command is that of godliness; teachers are to accept nothing short of God's

Perfection in the lives of those under their pastoral role. Timothy is an example to us as to how we are to treat other believers. We are to live our lives in such a way that we can command and teach others without hypocrisy, living for Christ in a holy and righteous way even when suffering and harm may be the outcome.

1 Timothy 4:12 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.
Paul is not telling Timothy to demand respect, to be seen as the man at the top, rather he is telling him to live in such a way that no one can despise his youth. Age does not determine spiritual maturity. If a believer walks rightly with the Lord, then wisdom, understanding, and godliness do not depend on years but on faithfulness. Paul gives Timothy six areas where his life must speak louder than his age:

1/ Word how he speaks and what he teaches.
2/ Conduct how he behaves before all people and at home.
3/ Love how he treats others, this is 'Agape' driven therefore by the Holy Spirit.
4/ Spirit the attitude and inner life he carries, he is ruled by the Holy Spirit.
5/ Faith his trust in God, in the Word, in Christ and what He has done.
6/ Purity his moral integrity, moral standing and value.

These level of these qualities required does not come from our natural ability. A simple way to express it is "Walk ye in the Holy Spirit" That is exactly what Paul is calling Timothy to do.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
The old, or rather the original, church followed the example of the Jewish synagogue in public readings of the Scriptures (remember there was no New Testament). Timothy, as we are also to do, had to offer exhortation regarding what Scripture really meant so that the doctrine of truth was heard and learned.

1 Timothy 4:14 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.
The Grace of The Lord was upon Timothy.

4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you. The word gift comes from the Greek word 'charisma' with the root being 'charis' which means 'a gift of grace, a free gift.' We all, I believe, have such gifts from God and must not reject or neglect them, as that is sinful!

4:14... which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
Timothy understood what was given him through the laying on of hands. Paul is encouraging him to put such to work. There may be some in this study group who are not sure about what gift or gifts they have! In most cases, you will find it coming from a place of surrender or a good attitude. You may be a giver of time, food, money, aiding the less fortunate, or a person of prayer, prophecy, etc. We shall pray after this lesson.

1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.
The word meditate in Greek comes from the word 'meletao' and means 'to care for, to attend to carefully, practice.' It holds the idea of an athlete who is training for a race. Again, Paul addresses this with the need for one's total devotion. Train hard in the Word, devote oneself to the Master's plan, etc., that your progress may be evident to all. And here it is! How do you shape up to the King of kings in your own home? What real spiritual progress is being made? Is the desire of the flesh winning or the Spirit? Is it evident to all that you are working to live unto God? Is what they see of you in a Sunday service a picture of what and how you live your life over the rest of the week?

1 Timothy 4:16 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.
Is this not a strong warning?

4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them. Be honest! Do not allow yourself to be fooled. Take heed of how you live and act away from other believers. Apply the doctrine of truth to your life! Paul is telling Timothy to press into the truth. We can only be changed by the power of the Holy Spirit through what Jesus Christ did at the cross. I'm sure Paul and Timothy prayed prayers such as this: "Father, help me; do not leave me like this. Take hold of my life and have no mercy against any sinful or wrong desire within me that does not want to do Your will. Father, through the power of the mighty Holy

Spirit, let the doctrine of truth that speaks only of Christ Jesus and what He has done for us... grasp my spirit and heart. Help me, change me, Lord, as I keep failing in my own weak attempts. Let me not waste any more time blaming demons or others for my own weakened state, but rather, Father, in the power of Christ Jesus; victory allow me to see it is me, my weakness, my wrong desire, my lack of understanding that pulls me under sin's power. Lord Jesus, You paid the price, You gave Your life for me, that I can and shall overcome. I trust You to deliver me and my family. I trust all You did at Calvary proven by Your glorious Resurrection has more than enough power to put to death within me every wrong desire.

In Your Holy name Jesus, I pray. Amen"

4:16... for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

People, let us stand on what we have prayed, let us understand who really needs the Lord's help! Let us not stop praying such prayers, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. AMEN!?

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.

Be honest about who you really are...How you live away from the church...

Take heed

That's a warning

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

1 Timothy 5:1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers.
We move onto how we should treat others, be it in or outside of the church.

5:1 Do not rebuke an older man. This is not saying "do not correct an older man"; this phrase better translates in the Greek as "do not strike, do not sharply reprove." As Scripture tells us in Leviticus 19:32: You shall rise before the gray-headed and honour the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord.

5:1... but exhort him as a father. Note, not as the Father but as "a" father! The Roman Catholic church has this dreadfully and sinfully wrong. Therefore, be gentle and loving in your approach to him, but where firmness is needed, do so with the correct spirit of wisdom unto honour.

5:1... younger men as brothers. Remember, we are speaking of how to rebuke family members! As with "a" father, where correction is required, bring such always carefully and wisely with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit towards your younger brothers/ this includes older brothers also!

1 Timothy 5:2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.
Here we see the same message being given regarding how we deal with women

5:2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters. There is no difference here as to how a church leader should treat females, young or old. It is to be noted that Paul adds,

5:2... with all purity Every interaction must be marked by honour, respect, and clean motives. Paul is calling Timothy to absolute integrity, ensuring that nothing in his conduct toward women could be misunderstood or misused. Purity protects both the minister and the women he serves.

1 Timothy 5:3 Honour widows who are really widows.
Paul begins to address the church's responsibility toward widows. A real widow is a woman whose husband has died and who has no children or family to support her. Such a woman is truly alone, and the church must honour her by providing care and support. Paul will explain this more fully in the verses that follow.

1 Timothy 5:4 But 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.
Correct Christian living. This is not saying that these women are not true widows, but rather they are to be cared for by the members of their household. Should this even need to be mentioned? Sadly, yes, as today's generation shows little, if any, respect towards their elders, even in many church communities.

5:4... let them first learn. As in all things, one must learn the benefits of true spiritual living, what received true love brings, and what only true love can accomplish.

5:4... to show piety at home and to repay their parents. The church must teach such to all peoples. The love of Christ must not be just taught but rather engaged in as the only way of life. In this case, we are told that the children and grandchildren are to embrace the responsibilities of correct caring. The love I am speaking of needs to be excepted by the believer and allowed to work in one's life.

5:4... for this is good and acceptable before God. And here is the greatest reason: Pleasing the Lord. This should always be number one in the lives of those that claim they know and love Him! For such a person is in fact living in Christ! Hence, the care they show to the widows (and other family members) is filled and driven by the power of God the Holy Spirit. Such will teach and change them into better people, bringing His Salvation deep into their hearts.

1 Timothy 5:5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.
This speaks of a lady of God who no longer has a living husband nor does she have any children.

5:5... and left alone. All worldly desires and hopes have gone, she is in this world but not of it!

5:5... trusts in God The widows spoken of in verse 4 have children and grandchildren to aid them, but these widows have no one. They have placed unwaveringly all their hopes and desires into the truth of Jesus Christ and all that He has done.

5:5... and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. Amazing faith. As I write, I cannot help but to view how my faith and spiritual activity stacks up. Such a person is of the greatest value to the

church worldwide. She is able to do this not due to what has happened to her in the past or by a driven self-will, but rather by Gods Power

1 Timothy 5:6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.
Paul is speaking about a widow within the church who has turned from devotion to self-indulgence. She is not trusting God or depending on Him, but seeking comfort in worldly pleasures. Though she belongs to the church community, her life is not marked by prayer or faith. She attends church but does not listen, rather she is there to be seen, heard and appreciated. This raises important questions for us: What does it mean to trust the Lord? Where do we turn for security? Do we rely on God's provision, or do we cling to our comforts?

5:6... is dead while she lives. Paul describes her spiritual condition. She is physically alive, but spiritually unresponsive. Her heart is not turned toward God, and her life does not reflect devotion to Christ. This is why she is not considered a real widow in the sense of verse 5. It invites us to consider: How cab we help those that appear spiritually active in church yet in truth lifeless? What does true spiritual vitality look like?

1 Timothy 5:7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.
Here it is! The answers to our questions.

5:7 And these things command, I would suggest that Paul is gathering everything he has written so far, the conduct of men and women, the qualifications of leaders, the warnings about false teaching, and the instructions about widows. Timothy is not to present these as suggestions but as commands. He must call the believers to trust God, to live out the gospel, and to awaken from spiritual dullness. These truths form the foundation of a healthy church.

5:7... that they may be blameless. The goal is a church that walks uprightly. Blameless does not mean perfect, but faithful and responsible. When the church obeys these instructions, caring for widows wisely, living in purity, trusting God, and honouring Christ's order, it brings no reproach to the name of the Lord. I wrote above here is the answer to our questions... Prayer coupled with honest preaching, trusting God to challenge everyone within the doors of the church... after that...

1 Timothy 5:8 But 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.
Interesting words used here! This is the outcome of one who has refused the above commanded teachings.

5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, this speaks of one's relatives. Those who are not able to look out for themselves within the family should never have a fear of being cast out into the street! Be they saved or unsaved, family is family; look after them!

5:8... and especially for those of his household, this speaks of direct family members. Be it a child, father, mother, brother, or sister, I have had at rare times the ability to help some, as they have helped me, be it with words, prayers, beds, or whatever. There will always be a need by those about us, so let us not forsake the giving of a helping hand. Agape love is always ready to reach out, and we are the vessels He has chosen to use. This should not be a big ask or a heavy burden; this is speaking about your family of birth.

5:8... he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Paul is describing behaviour that contradicts the gospel. Even unbelievers understand the natural duty to care for their own families. When a believer refuses to do what even the world recognises as right, their conduct brings shame on the faith they claim to hold. In this sense, they are behaving worse than an unbeliever. Their actions deny what the faith demands. They possess the doctrine of salvation, mercy, and grace, but they refuse to practice it, and this is a serious failure before God.

1 Timothy 5:9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man.
Paul gives Timothy practical guidelines for enrolling widows who would receive ongoing support from the church.

5:9... into the number refers to a formal list of widows who met specific criteria and were recognised for their devotion and service. To be enrolled, a widow must be at least sixty years old, known for marital faithfulness, and have a reputation for good works. She must have cared for children, shown hospitality, served others, assisted the saints, and devoted herself to every good work. These requirements are not harsh; they reflect the early church's limited resources and the need to support those who were truly alone.

5:9... and not unless she has been the wife of one man. The condition for this inclusion is that she should not have been remarried multiple times after being Saved by the Lord (meaning divorced). This requirement emphasises the stability of faithfulness within a believer's marriage. However, this verse does not forbid women who have been widowed more than once from receiving help, nor does it prevent her from remarrying. Instead, it simply emphasises the marital history of the widow before receiving the full assistance of one registered.

1 Timothy 5:10 Well 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.

Seems what is being asked of a widow is equally given to all other believers!

5:10 Well reported for good works: Good works come from a heart that knows Christ! Yes, many do the things we are about to look at, but they do not do them with the same spiritual power. I believe this covers far more than what is listed here; this speaks about someone who is being changed from within. They do not gossip, cause division, etc.

5:10... if she has brought up children, this I believe applies to her own children (if she had any) but also needy care for children outside of her home! Mark 10:16 tells us, "Then Jesus took the children in His arms and placed His hands on their heads and blessed them." Widows, as Jesus and all believers, are to love the little ones!

5:10... if she has lodged strangers, this is not talking about taking in an unknown somebody off the street (although on a rare occasion the Lord does bring such along), but lodged strangers is speaking about those who have walked a day or more to get to their city: workers of the gospel, preachers, teachers, evangelists, prophets, and so on. (We must do the same today regarding fellow workers of the gospel). I think it right to suggest that during Paul's day, the Holy Spirit was moving preachers, teachers, etc., around the nations that did not have the hotel vacancy sign lights on! Accommodation, food, and bathing were a far different story in those days than what we have in most countries today.

5:10... if she has washed the saints' feet, this, of course, means looking after them: water, food, bedding, warmth, and good Christian conversation. But it also means the washing of feet as this was embedded within their custom!

5:10... if she has relieved the afflicted, again, all believers should be doing this! This can be seen in all the above four actions. A good host will bring comfort to their lodgers.

5:10... if she has diligently followed every good work. A good work! Does a good work save a believer? No, good works come from a heart that has the Holy Spirit working within them due to their faith which is bound in Jesus Christ due to what He has did on the cross. The good works spoken of here are an outward sign of the Lord's power actively operating within the believer.

1 Timothy 5:11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry.

History tells me that due to nero's rule as the Roman emperor from AD 54-68, inhuman treatment would once again invade the known world. More often than not, this cruelty would be directed towards the church, meaning many faith-believing women would be widowed, as also those outside of the church.

5:11 But refuse the younger widows; as I wrote above, this does not remove the aid of the church from these younger widows! I'm thinking it is quite possible that during the times of hardship brought on by nero, many women came into the church in a widowed state, as there was no welfare state in those days and the church was seen as a place where such help could be found. So refusal was given regarding handouts, but aid was given as they earned their keep! They were tested, and here is the reason for such a test:

5:11... for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, Paul is not accusing younger widows of reckless or immoral behaviour. The Greek word 'katastrēniaō' means wanton here refers to 'the natural desire to remarry, strong sensual desire, the pull of natural affection' Paul recognises that once the initial grief has passed, younger widows will feel the pull of affection and companionship again. This desire is not sinful, but it conflicts with the lifelong devotion expected of widows enrolled for ongoing church support.

5:11... they desire to marry, There is nothing wrong with remarriage. Scripture affirms it, and Paul will encourage it in verse 14. His point is simply that younger widows should not be placed into a role that assumes permanent widowhood. Their natural desire for marriage makes them unsuited for the commitments required of the enrolled widows.

1 Timothy 5:12 "having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.
Paul is not speaking of eternal condemnation, but of the judgment that comes from breaking a vow. The first faith I believe speaks of the pledge they made, being a lifelong service as a widow allowing them to be enrolled on the church's official list. Paul knows that younger widows, once their grief has passed, will naturally desire to marry again. If they have already vowed themselves to lifelong widowhood and service, this desire would lead them to abandon their pledge and fall under judgment for breaking it. Paul is therefore putting a safeguard in place before the problem arises.
Breaking such a vow can bring deep emotional turmoil... depression, resentment, confusion, even anger toward God. A widow who later desires marriage may feel she has failed Christ or betrayed her promise. Paul is protecting the younger widows from making a vow that would later wound their hearts.

1 Timothy 5:13"And 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."
Paul adds another concern about enrolling younger widows. If they are supported without being truly suited to the role, they may drift into idleness. Instead of being occupied with genuine service, they wander from house to house, talking too much and meddling in matters that do not concern them. Their words begin to harm rather than help. This shows how important spiritual maturity and right placement are in service. When the heart is not anchored in Christ, even good structures can become a snare, and idle time can turn into gossip and interference.

1 Timothy 5:14 "Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully."
Paul now gives the positive alternative. Younger widows should not be bound by vows of lifelong service. Instead, they are free to marry, raise children, and manage the home. This is not a restriction but a protection. These women have suffered deeply, and the church has rightly supported them. But once the grief lifts, many may feel grateful to the church and eager to pledge themselves to its service. Paul says "no" not because service is wrong, but because their season of life makes such a vow unwise.

5:14… manage the house This is not a call to be a housemaid. It speaks of governing the household financially, socially, and spiritually. It is a position of strength and responsibility.

5:14… give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. This refers to critics outside the church. If younger widows were placed into a role that does not suit them, they could drift into idleness, wandering, gossip, and meddling (see verse13). Such behaviour would bring reproach on the church, which should reflect the beauty of Christ. Paul, through the Spirit, says this must be avoided. The church must follow God's wisdom so that no unnecessary criticism arises.

1 Timothy 5:15 "For some have already turned aside after satan."
Paul is not speaking theoretically or putting out a possibility, he is pointing to real cases he has already seen. As stated above, Paul writes from experience, urging us to listen, understand and obey.

5:15 "For some have already turned these have stepped off the righteous path and drifted into dangerous and harmful life styles where temptation has shaped and drives their desires.

5:15... after satan means: they are following the pattern he delights in giving him room to accuse and rule. This not only places them into a very volatile position it also damages the church's witness. Paul is saying "This has already happened. Don't let it happen again."
This calls the church to wisdom. We must ensure that the responsibilities we give others match their maturity and season of life. We must watch over one another with discernment and accountability. And we must guard our own hearts, encouraging one another to remain faithful to Christ and not give the adversary any foothold. Amen?

1 Timothy 5:16 "If 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."
Paul repeats his central message: believers must care for the widows in their own families. This is not optional. It is an expression of faith in Christ's sacrifice and a testimony to the world. Whether the widow is a believer or not, the responsibility of the household remains. In many cultures this is costly and dangerous, yet it is the love of Christ made visible.

5:16… and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows. The church must not be weighed down with responsibilities that rightly belong to the family. Its resources must

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be reserved for those who are truly alone—those without children, relatives, or support. No believing widow should be left hungry, cold, or abandoned. Such neglect brings shame upon the family and dishonours the name of Christ. Paul calls us to love, order, and responsibility, so that the church may shine with the beauty of Christ.

Blessed be the name of Jesus Christ, the blessed Faithful One,

Amen.

Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine.
This verse has been misused in many churches, sometimes to elevate leaders beyond what Scripture allows, sometimes to demand money, and often to create break-away beliefs.

5:17 Let the elders who rule well The word elder refers to the pastors of the local church, those whom God has placed to shepherd, guide, and oversee His people. The word rule means to lead with care, to stand before the flock as a servant-leader. This is not authority gained through human voting or political influence, but a calling from God. Those who lead well, with humility and faithfulness, are to be honoured.

5:17… be counted worthy of double honour These people who do the Lords work day in and day out are to be counted that is, recognised and noted, for their faithful efforts and the word honour used here carries two ideas:

1/ Respect. A recognition of faithful labour, godly character, and spiritual care.

2/ Material support. Yes, financial provision is included in the word. Paul will confirm this in verse 18 the labourer is worthy of his wages. However it must be said even though they should most certainly be recognised double honour does not raise them up into a celebrity type status.

5:17… especially those who labour in the word and doctrine. Paul gives special recognition to those who devote themselves to preaching and teaching. Their labour is often unseen, long hours of study, prayer, and preparation so that the church may be fed with truth.

1 Timothy 5:18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “the labourer is worthy of his wages.”
Money? Yes, absolutely, but much, much more I believe.

5:18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Taken from Deuteronomy 25:4, Paul uses this verse to remind the people about how much they rely on the ox. They most certainly allow it to eat as it works so they can attain the benefits from keeping the animal. We should be able to work out what that means! If not here is a clue.

5:18...and, “the labourer is worthy of his wages.” Yup, money most certainly is being spoken of here. Jesus said in Luke 10:7 "Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house." Jesus does not mention money directly but enforces a payment of types! So we look after the ox, we pay the labourer as he is worthy! How do we translate this into today’s understanding? Everything must be gauged by, and within a correct context, and all things must be seen from both the physical and spiritual realms.
This is but my own opinion here, and it may differ from yours.
First the spiritual: I believe this to be the greatest reward or payment an elder or pastor can get: to see the church growing inwardly, by the strength and power of the Holy Spirit through the words of truth, this does not mean in numbers but each persons inner growth.
And the physical: Let there be no doubt, if the church elder/pastor had to work a normal day/night job, his work in the presence of the Lord regarding study would most certainly suffer, meaning all within the church would suffer. Let it be made clear also, such a man will also be using much time in prayer and worship, all such accompany the learning of the truth. I can personally tell you every page of this study book has taken up to anywhere between 1 to 4 hours to get to this printed stage.

1 Timothy 5:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.
Leaders within 'Gods Church' are appointed by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Their role is significant, and their actions carry weight, but they are not beyond corrective measures. However, the church sometimes falls into a trap of being quick to 'criticise' or 'pull down' leaders when they say or do something contrary to their own personal preferences or desires. Instead of rushing into a place of judgment, one should seek the Lord’s guidance and understanding as this is crucial, as leaders face trials and temptations just as you and I do. So discernment is essential, amen? Accusing teachers, elders, or pastors without proper discernment can be more than harmful.
Negative talk (known as backstabbing) behind a leader’s back can create unnecessary strife and division, pulling believers away from the truth, which can be fatal regarding one's eternal destiny. Confrontation, when needed, should be done in a spirit of love, humility, and above all prayer, and that means waiting

on the Lord. It's essential to address concerns directly and biblically. And as we are about to see... it must be done through two or three witnesses.

5:19...except from two or three witnesses. When a charge of sinful actions arises against an elder or pastor, the leadership team must take it seriously. However, hasty acceptance based on one person's voice is both unwise and unbiblical. The principle of requiring two or more witnesses ensures fairness and prevents rash judgment. The goal is not to avoid judgment altogether but to ensure that it is just and accurate. The Lord sees and hears everything. His wisdom surpasses human understanding, and He will deal rightly with disobedience. Equally, the distinction between wrong doctrine and wilful sin is essential. We all get Doctrine mixed up at times, and we are all sinners, but wilful sin is of a different status level. Leaders must be held accountable for their actions, especially if they persist in deliberate wrongdoing.

We must maintain a correct but delicate balance between accountability and grace within our Church. May we pray and seek God's wisdom, approaching leadership matters with discernment and the love demanded and needed. May we treat each other as the title fits, older men as fathers, older women as mothers, and may they treat younger believers as their children, and those in the same age group as brothers and sisters. Yes, we are a family!

However, just as a full stop to this subject: I write this as a church leader and pray to the Lord Jesus that I am right, as this is how I most certainly would act. If any church leader were to commit a physical assault or engage in any criminal action against any person, necessitating police intervention, appropriate action must be taken. In fact, that goes for any person within or outside the Church, the law is the law! On this subject, I hope the matter is clear!

1 Timothy 5:20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Remember we read 1 Timothy 5:1 do not rebuke an older man? All things are to be done under the Spirit's direction. The method in which one should speak, even unto correction to an older person, should be as to how 'a good person' would aid or help their father or mother then they are erring!

5:20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, This is speaking about the correct church processes at work (we shall speak more on these processes in the next two verses). However, where two or more have brought forth an accusation regarding an elder or pastor, and he has been proved to be guilty, then such a case shall be placed before the whole church, and as I have stated, if the level of wrongful action demands police intervention, then so be it!

5:20... that the rest also may fear. All the believers shall know beyond a doubt that inappropriate actions that affect others lives in a derogative or negative fashion shall be dealt with, and that God's Justice will be served on earth! This shall cause all that hear such things to stand by the righteousness of the Lord, meaning they will not do as others have done! Amen?!

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

I write this with our little fellowship in mind, and I include myself in this charge. These words keep me accountable before God, Christ, and the elect angels. They remind me that every decision, every correction, and every act of leadership must be done without prejudice or partiality, for heaven itself is watching. This must be taken very, very seriously, this reflects the very serious nature of being a church leader. We all serve an eternal God and must please Him first, in everything we do.

5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul reminds Timothy that the Holy Spirit Himself is speaking through this command. Church leaders will face difficult situations, and sometimes correction must be given even to those we love. If we obey the Spirit early, we may prevent a crisis later. And we must never forget that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit see every action, every word, and every thought.

5:21... and the elect angels. Paul adds the elect angels as witnesses. While many believers fear the powers of darkness, they forget that God's holy angels surround His people continually. We do not know how many heavenly eyes observe our conduct, but we should live as if the whole world... seen and unseen... is watching. This calls us to walk in the Spirit, depending on His help every moment.

5:21... that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Church discipline and church decisions must be carried out without prejudice or favouritism. Only the Holy Spirit can enable such fairness. You means Timothy is personally responsible... and so are you and I. If we fail to act according to what we know is right in the Father's eyes, the Father, the Son, and the elect angels stand as witnesses. This is a sobering truth.

Leaders will make decisions that either help or hinder the Lord's work. And this applies not only to pastors and elders, but to every believer, especially when in the public eye. All discipline must be guided by truth, without partiality, and always with the goal of restoration. Church discipline is never meant to push people toward hell, but to draw them back toward heaven. Amen?

1 Timothy 5:22 "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure."
Paul is still speaking about church discipline and leadership decisions.
This verse has been understood in a few different ways, and it is good for us as a fellowship to see the main interpretations that faithful teachers have offered.
Three common views on Do not lay hands on anyone hastily are:

1/ Laying hands on the sick for healing.

This does not fit the context of elders, accusations, and discipline, so we can set this one aside.

2/ Laying hands on a repentant believer to restore them.

This fits the warning about sharing in sins, because restoring someone too quickly can cause harm.

3/ Laying hands on someone to ordain them for ministry.

This fits the flow of the chapter, which has been dealing with elders, accusations, and leadership, this is the one I lean towards.
However both views 2 and 3 fit the context, and both carry the same warning:
Do not rush. Do not act emotionally. Do not appoint or restore someone without discernment.

5:22... nor share in other people's sins Caution and discernment are demanded against hasty actions. If a leader approves someone too quickly, he may become responsible for the consequences of that person's future sins. Hasty decisions can harm the church and dishonour Christ. Whether ordaining a minister or restoring a fallen believer, the process must be deliberate and guided by the Holy Spirit.

5:22... keep yourself pure Above all, the leader must guard his own heart. Purity in judgment, motives, and conduct protects both the church and the leader. Every decision must be made in holiness and dependence on the Lord. This verse keeps us accountable before God, Christ, and the elect angels.

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.
This verse has been used incorrectly over the ages, so we need to be careful as to how we view it.

5:23 No longer drink only water Paul gives Timothy practical advice for his health. Water in many regions was unsafe, and Timothy's frequent illnesses were likely made worse by drinking it alone.

5:23…but use a little wine This refers to actual wine, some try to replace it with a type of juice. In the ancient world, wine had medicinal properties that helped purify water and aid digestion. But the emphasis is on little the word little that is a small, measured amount for health, not indulgence.

5:23…for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. Timothy suffered ongoing physical problems. Paul does not rebuke him or question his faith; he simply offers a practical remedy. This shows that even a great man of God can experience illness.

1 Timothy 5:24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to Judgment, but those of some men follow later.
Leaders must be slow, careful, and prayerful. Some issues are obvious; others only appear later. Discernment requires patience, and purity of judgment protects both the church and the leader.

5:24 Some men's sins are clearly evident: Paul reminds Timothy that some people's sins are obvious. Their behaviour reveals their character long before any decision needs to be made. Slow down the process of the laying on of hands, this is why leaders must not rush into appointing or restoring someone.

5:24... preceding them to Judgment: Their actions expose them. Their conduct "goes before them," making the truth plain. Such cases require no guesswork; their lives speak for themselves.

5:24... but those of some men follow later: Other people's sins are hidden for a time. Their outward appearance may seem good, but their true character only becomes clear with patience. This is why Timothy must not act hastily. Time and testing reveal what is real.

1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.
Paul is still speaking about the discernment in leadership. Just as some **sins are obvious** and others only appear later so it can be with **good works,** some are obvious and others only become visible with time.

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This is Paul's point: Some believers' faithfulness is immediately clear, while others grow quietly, slowly, steadily and their fruit appears later. True righteousness cannot stay hidden, time reveals what God is doing in a person's life. This protects the church from hasty judgments, both negative and positive.

Somebody yell for joy. As I have just ever so lightly touched on, sin is being beaten within believers who walk according to the Holy Spirit, who stay with the truth. It shall be clear first to the believer that the Lord is working in one's life, and it shall also be seen by members of the church, some immediately whilst others latter on in time. These good works speaks of the surrender of the believer unto Christ which allows the Holy Spirit to work His glory into ones life. It is through such a believer that the work of the Spirit shall be seen doing wonderful thing in and through the believer. The fruit is of the Spirit, the power is of the same...
I am going to finish with a prayer "not just us" but for anyone that should read this study.

"Father, I am holding onto beliefs that are plainly wrong and sinful. I understand this to be true and yet find myself acting out in such a way, day after day. Trying to earn that which You have given me! My weakness hounds me. In truth, at times I simply enjoy holding onto such weakness, I enjoy the glory of overcoming in my own strength. But I ask You, Lord, to do whatever is needed to lift me from this place of foolish living. I'm going to trust You to help me fight the good fight of faith, to drive me further into Jesus and what He has done on the cross. To build my relationship with the Saviour, to declare Your victory over and in my life... Today, and all the tomorrows, I pray Thy will be done within me regardless of my weaknesses. Amen."

Such is a prayer I have prayed in the past, and I am sure I shall pray again. All the Lord desires is our honesty and willingness to do things by the Holy Spirit (He will teach you of Jesus and what Jesus did). I speak know about all types of sin, I know some pray for deliverance but carry on sinning the same old sin. Okay, that's true, but that does not mean that sin cannot be beaten. It just means you are more worried about the sin than your relationship with Jesus! Yes, the sin must go; yes, you must fight the good fight. But that is done not the way many think. You overcome by getting closer and closer to the Lord. As He is Holy, and that is what He is making us... Holy! Sin shall fade and victory will be recognised! Sin shall fall off from all that seek Him... Just keep pressing into Him; don't give up. Amen!?

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and His Doctrine may not be blasphemed.

The phrase as many bondservants means "let as many 'slaves'." It seems harsh to think there were slaves, but there were, and today there is no difference, except of course in the way we cover over such a horrid truth. It is thought that one-third of the Roman population was made up of both male and female slaves. It is equally thought that we have about 49 to 50 million people living in forced slavery today, of which one quarter is believed to be children. Of course, that 49-50 million is just the edge of the truth, which is a horrid thought. Millions of people each year, more so women and children, fall victim to human trafficking. Did Paul just accept slavery? No! He preached against it through his words of faith. When he was in the Roman prison, he took the position of being a prisoner of Christ, not of those who had placed him in chains! From this, many of his so-called captives became believers and were freed from the eternal curse of slavery they were under!

6:1... as are under the yoke This refers to believing slaves who were still under the authority of earthly masters. The wording under the yoke strongly suggests that these masters were not believers, and that these Christian slaves could have been living in harsh or unfair conditions, treated with little honour, little dignity, and sometimes with fear for their lives. Yet even in such circumstances, Paul asks that their character promotes that of the Saviour.

I would imagine it is very possible that some masters would have noticed the good attitudes and strong work ethic of these 'believing slaves', and in some cases this may have led to favour, trust, or better treatment. But even when nothing outwardly changed, the truth is... nor did God... He was with them. His power was at work within them, sustaining them just as He does for His people today.

6:1... count their own masters worthy of all honour Without the Holy Spirit, these slaves would imagine gaining their freedom by any means possible, and it would not be by showing their masters honour! Christianity was and is the only way slavery can and will be abolished, for it is by faith that one is truly set free! The evil of slavery comes from satan, and since everything begins in the spirit realm, the truth is that anyone who does not know Jesus Christ as their Lord is, in fact, a slave! Sadly, after all the original Apostles and believers had passed on, the church lost its way. Thus, man's religion took hold, leading to what is called the 'Dark Ages,' and folks, I am not sure we have ever really recovered from that dark past.

6:1... so that the name of God and His Doctrine may not be blasphemed I touched on this above. Paul is saying that those caught up as slaves or servants are to honour their masters even if they are mistreated. By doing so, the name of God and His teachings remain untarnished. However, they cannot achieve this through their own strength; the empowerment to honour others, especially in difficult circumstances, comes through faith through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

When believers demonstrate love and honour, it astounds non-believers, leading them to inquire about the source of such behaviour. This points powerfully to Christ's Salvation being within reach. Once received, the 'harshness' part of slavery must end. Being able to accept their earthly condition while knowing without doubt their eternal position in Christ is a gift from God. All who call in truth on His name receive this Gift.

1 Timothy 6:2 And 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.

This is pretty out there! But we need to keep in context how the Roman Empire was run.

6:2 And those who have believing masters This is speaking to slaves who were believers and had masters that shared their faith! Who was saved first, the master or the slave? Either way, the witness of one or the other most certainly revealed the truth of the Lord's salvation plan.

Please read Paul's letter to Philemon regarding Onesimus, who was a slave. He had run away but heard and believed the gospel message from Paul. Onesimus was sent back to his master Philemon as a saved and free man in the Lord.

6:2... let them not despise them because they are brethren Slaves who have been blessed to serve 'believing masters' should not assume that they can do as they please or think, "Why should I, a free man in Christ, serve this man?" Hmm...the same reason why we must serve each other in the church without grumblings etc.

6:2..but rather serve them Believing masters indeed profited by their faithful service. But folks the one who gains the most is the one that serves without spite, grumblings, envy etc., ss God sees all things.

6:2... because those who are benefited are believers and beloved As they blessed their believing masters, they themselves reaped a reward in the Lord, for they have the same Holy Spirit. I am ever so sure they spoke one to another regarding the Lord's goodness and one would think they would have prayed together, of that I am sure, as the Holy Spirit teaches all believers about Jesus, and as one comes to understand and live in such love, one can only bless the other, be it master or slave, for they are one in Christ!

6:2... teach and exhort these things This refers to all the instructions given in the preceding verses. However, Paul is pointing to the importance of treating believing masters with respect and serving them well, even if they are fellow believers. The goal is to maintain a positive witness and avoid disrespect. The words "teach and exhort these things" also offer a better understanding of the beginning of the next section, as Paul returns to the theme of how Timothy is to handle false teachers and their messages. We are about to have a look at everything the Holy Spirit has put to Timothy through the Apostle Paul.

Ch 1 states: stay where God placed you (1:3). Stop myths, fables, endless genealogies (1:3–4). Keep the church focused on truth, not distractions (1:4). The law exposes sin, not righteousness (1:8–11). Stay humble in ministry (1:12–16). Hold faith and a good conscience (1:18–19). Take warning from Hymenaeus and Alexander (1:20).

Ch 2 tells us order in worship and prayer: Intercession, supplication, thanksgiving (2:1–2). The church should live quietly and godly (2:2). Keep the gospel central (2:3–7). Purity in worship (2:8). True adornment is godliness (2:9–10). Uphold creation order with gentleness (2:11–15).

Ch 3 Establishes Godly leadership: Blameless, sober, faithful, gentle, able to teach (3:1–7). Reverent, tested, faithful, self-controlled (3:8–13). The church 'is the pillar' and ground of truth (3:14–15). Christ is the centre of all things good(3:16).

Ch 4 Commands, guard doctrine and train yourself: Teach the church to discern (4:1–5). Nourish yourself on truth (4:6). Avoid spiritual nonsense (4:7). Spiritual discipline matters (4:7–8). Jesus is the Saviour of all who believe (4:10). Speak with the authority God has given you (4:11). In word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, purity let your life be seen (4:12). Public Scripture reading and teaching (4:13). Stir up what God placed in you (4:14). Immerse yourself in spiritual work (4:15). Watch your life and teaching closely (4:16).

Ch 5 goes on to say honour, correct, and care for the Church. Treat older men as fathers, younger men as brothers (5:1). Treat older women as mothers, younger women as sisters (5:2). Honour widows who are truly widows (5:3–10). Teach families to care for their own (5:4, 8, 16). Refuse support to younger widows but encourage them to marry and serve (5:11–15). Let elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honour (5:17–18). Protect leaders from slander (5:19). Rebuke sinning elders publicly so others may fear (5:20). Do nothing with partiality (5:21). Do not lay hands on anyone hastily be slow in appointing or restoring (5:22). Guard your own heart (5:22). Take care of your physical health (5:23). Be patient, sins and good works reveal themselves in time, discernment requires waiting (5:24–25).

Ch 6 demands honour God in work and witness: Teach slaves under the yoke to honour their masters so God’s name is not blasphemed (6:1). Believing slaves are not to despise believing masters rather serve them even more because they are brothers (6:2).

These are the things that Timothy has be told thus far to 6:2... teach and exhort these things and these things we are also to teach and exhort. And in all these things, one truth rises above them all: none of this can be lived out in human strength. Every command, every instruction, every act of honour, purity, discernment, courage, humility, and faithfulness points us back to the Spirit of Christ. It is He who enables the church to stand. It is He who empowers the believer to obey. It is He who forms godliness, produces fruit, exposes sin, strengthens the weak, and keeps us in the truth. Paul’s entire letter brings us to this point, we need the Spirit of Christ to achieve such mastery. Without Him we cannot do these things, but with Him all things are possible.

1 Timothy 6:3 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

People attempting to direct believers away from the truth!

6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise means teaching something that is obviously contrary to what is right. This tells us to be watchful for anyone, therefore we must be firmly grounded in the teachings of

Christ and discerning of any contrary messages. This task is given to us all!

6:3... and does not consent to wholesome words, these people are not walking in the truth; they are not preaching or teaching sound doctrine. In fact, their words hold no life. Paul, was speaking about Jesus' words such as "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," or "If any man will follow Me, let him take up his cross daily, and follow Me;" "Love your enemies, pray for them which despitefully use you." False teachers, who were openly standing against Timothy would most certainly not consent to these wholesome words even though they are the words of Jesus!

6:3... even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, His words started life, and his word keeps it going! As we know: Lord in Greek is 'kurios' which has various meanings. Here, it refers to 'Yahweh or Jehovah, God Almighty.' Jesus' translates into 'Jehoshua' meaning 'Saviour, Jehovah Saves, the Lord is Salvation.' Christ means 'Anointed One, Chosen One, Messiah.' So, his name can be used in this verse like this: "Yahweh, Lord God almighty, Lord God our Saviour, Anointed One, speaks words of life. Trust him!"

6:3... and to the doctrine which accords with godliness. If we stay within His doctrine we cannot go wrong. Folks, we need each other; we need Holy Spirit empowered fellowship. Let us all live unto God with our faith planted in Christ Jesus and what He has done, encouraging each other to grow even more so holy as he is Holy, requesting that he does not leave us as we are, but daily asking that he changes us into His Image. Folks, if we do this, we shall do well!

1 Timothy 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, and evil suspicions.

Pride is powerful.

6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, Such a person's arrogance shines forth, only bettered by their lack of understanding of the gospel message of eternal life.

6:4... but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, Such produces only foolish debates that bring about negative consequences within the church! What is it that such a person desires? In most cases personal recognition, power and money! Their persuasive speech and use of fine words can mislead those who are less knowledgeable in the faith. This underlines the importance of both church fellowship and Holy Spirit-given discernment.

6:4... from which come envy, strife, reviling, and evil suspicions. Once such people have the church in such a position, they start to take control. Envy leads to strife and reviling, which causes evil suspicions to take hold of a once peace-loving believer. Desired effect: evil controls! Outcome: Death of the church. Death of the individuals.

1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

Truth was once theirs, but they removed themselves from it.

6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds Their constant friction, their corrupt thinking, and their abandonment of truth reveal hearts that were no longer willing to submit to Christ. They use godless words as a means of gain, and their ministry produced nothing but tension, suspicion, and in the end spiritual death.

These false teachers once spoke the truth but gave themselves slowly over to corruption. All error has a starting point, being a slight deviation from the truth. All error needs to be caught at an early stage. For this to be achieved, we must remain in true fellowship, holding one another accountable regarding Jesus Christ and what he has done. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:10 …that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. And he enforces that truth in 1 Corinthians 1:17–18…lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power… the message of the cross… is the power of God. The cross is the place where the Lord gave Himself, overcoming every obstacle that bound mankind, when we drift from that truth, everything else collapses.

6:5... and destitute of the truth, they have moved away from teaching God's message of power, bring who Jesus Christ is and what he has done! The word destitute in the Greek means 'to defraud, rob, despoil, to allow one's self to be defrauded' in other words, they put the truth away from themselves! Such men have fallen greatly and teach others by the same words of death.

6:5... who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. The gain being spoken of here is power and money! They have started teaching 'a' gospel message which makes them such, along with a short-lived level of fame! The greed gospel! God absolutely rewards our giving, but our giving must be done correctly, not for self-gain!

6:5...From such withdraw yourself. The Greek word here used here is 'aphistēmi' which means

'step away. remove yourself, distance yourself, separate oneself, avoid involvement' this is not a leave of take suggestion, it is a 'protective' command. The Apostle is saying “Do not engage with them or follow them, least they influence you and drain your spirit. Paul is not being hateful he is speaking about spiritual survival. I understand many believers will thinking... "If I withdraw from them how will they hear the truth, this seems a little unloving, I don't want to push them further away"! Look at the word's in pink! The Holy Spirit working through Paul got him to write this, He knows what is best, and He loves those teachers of error. Sometimes stepping back is the very act that invites true salvation, when the church removes it's support and rejects the false teachings such a person finds themselves without an audience. No more accolades of praise their influence has been reduced to nothingness. This is the time and place where the Holy Spirit can convict the heart. What feels like ungodly rejection from the church may actually bring about repentance unto eternal life. Yes, Paul’s command seems strong but our withdrawal protects the wider church, and it 'may' rescue the one who has rejected the Lord. Let's be obedient to the Lords word, He knows what He is doing.

1 Timothy 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
The desire to have obedience unto His will

6:6 Now godliness This speaks of being true to God, walking in reverence, obedience, and love toward Him. It is the desire to have a heart aligned with His will. Amen! This is not an outward religious act but an inward devotion desiring the life of Christ to be formed within us by the Holy Spirit.

6:6... with contentment Whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, we must trust the Lord. The Greek word for contentment is 'autarkeia' which means 'a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed, a sufficiency that comes from within, a settled peace that does not depend on circumstances' This cannot come from our own human power it is provided by the Holy Spirit: 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." Somebody at least smile!

6:6... is great gain. The great gain speaks of God, our Father. He is our portion, sufficiency and reward. Whatever the future holds for us He will supply the need, be it spiritual, physical, practical, emotional. He will give it at the right time, in the right way (such may not be what one has asked for). This is in fact the true wealth of the believer, Christ recognised in us, He is the hope of all glory.

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
Time goes so fast, and man fills it with everything but God! Humans are eternal beings, destined to exist forever, either in the greatness of heaven or the sufferings of hell. Godliness with contentment is described above as 'a great gain'. This means spiritual growth and inner peace are far more valuable than earthly possessions. This world (in my opinion) gives us nothing but pain! What man suffers on earth is not a direct punishment for specific bad actions or sins, as that comes after we die! The truth is everyone suffers when they are not focused upon Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

6:7... and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Paul is speaking only of earthly possessions here. We enter this world with nothing, and we leave with nothing. No wealth, no man given status, no earthly gain can follow us into eternity. But does this mean we carry nothing out of this life? In the sense of material possession this is true, but in the spiritual sense we carry a godly gain, the work of Christ formed in us as we walk with Him as we live on earth. This gain comes when we die to the desires of this world and live unto the Eternal Spirit. It is produced as we surrender our wants, confess our weakness, and ask the Lord to remove anything that keeps us tied to earthly things. He replaces it with godly contentment, godly desire, and godly strength, this is an eternal state we receive on earth 'if' we surrender to Him our wants... "I am weak, but You are strong, Lord. Give me a heart that desires to follow You, amen"

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
The Lord has promised in Luke 12:22-34 more than food and clothing, for He tells us how God has clothed the lilies. He tells us to seek God's Kingdom and all these things shall be added unto us! The word clothing here speaks of that which covers our bodies, but also a place of shelter! Again, this falls back on those words: 'Godly gain is of great reward.' This is not speaking against financial wealth, but rather points toward a believer trusting and relying on God. We have studied that we are to clothe ourselves correctly, and we are to seek the Lord, not the things of this world. What I am about to write does not apply to all believers, but many, if they had more than they needed, could be tempted into a misguided lifestyle.

1 Timothy 6:9 But 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.

It comes down to that one word, desire. We shall either desire the things of God or the things of this world, eternal heavenly blessings, or eternal sufferings.

6:9 But those who desire to be rich what this is saying is that one may never actually be rich, but the desire to be rich shall keep them from seeking the Lord as they should!

6:9... fall into temptation and a snare. The word fall speaks of a tipping off of someone who once stood on the truth. Amos 3:5 “Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it?” The bait is critical to the success of the trap; in this case, the desire to be rich is the bait! The bait (desire) is always a lie, a false advertisement, a coy 'come and get it' such promises pleasure but delivers only disaster.

6:9... and into many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. The word drown is better interpreted as 'plunge.' One shall be plunged into all types of sin. Destruction refers to one's life being destroyed even when it may look like the complete opposite is happening! Perdition speaks of the ruining of the eternal soul!

1 Timothy 6:10 For 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.

Something most people on earth do not have a lot of... Money!

6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. This speaks of an unhealthy desire to have something one has not got, or more of what one has: greed! Money itself is not evil, as it can be used for good as well as for evil, but it is the lusting after money and the intense desire to gain more money to increase one's worldly wealth that is being spoken about here.

Equally, money is 'a root' for evil, it is not the single source of evil; the word all used here has caused some to receive this slightly wrong, here are two examples of the word all being used in a non-literal way Matthew 3:5 states 'all Judea’ went to be baptised,' and Colossians 1:6 says the 'whole world' was seeing the gospel... Clearly, 'all Judea' was not baptised and the 'whole world' did not see the gospel..!

We all need money to survive, and the Lord knows that, so let's not distort God’s word by turning money into an evil power, but rather let us look into our hearts before God, asking Him where is my deeper desire? Is it towards You or something else such as money.

6:10... for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness. This is saying they have strayed, walked away from the truth! Why? They wanted the comforts money can provide above a godly living. Do they still preach a jesus? Do they still attain to 'a' gospel message? Do they still proclaim the spirit? In most cases, yes. But the jesus, gospel, and spirit they speak and live in are far removed from the Jesus, Gospel, and Spirit of the truth that we know. Rather than dying to the wants and needs of this world, they have cultivated their greediness.

6:10... and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Their sorrows will increase as they walk after another god! All they have shall in no way aid them to a place of spiritual peace and satisfaction. For such, we must pray but not follow!

May the Peace of God up lift your spirit. Amen.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Last week we ended up speaking about 'the love of money.'

6:11 But you, O man of God, Paul declares Timothy a man of God, one whose heart is after the Lord's wants and desires! The words But you separate him from those that seek after self-gain and false riches, and that present a lifting of the soul "You, O man of God" can only encourage one to seek the Lord.

6:11... flee these things Such as? The love of money, in fact, the love of anything that overtakes the love of God, as we are about to see. As we flee such things we should at the same time pursue the good!

6:11... and pursue This is far removed from what the world and some of the church seek after. We are told to pursue such! That means seek such out, pray, ask, desire, receive, cherish, then start again, pray, ask, desire, receive, cherish etc...

6:11... Righteousness: spoken of here is not of man but of God, such comes from the Holy Spirit. None of the above list can be gained outside of Christ Jesus' sacrifice, and all the above demands that the seeker lays down his or her life for Christ! Hence, an inner change is demanded and guaranteed through obedience.

6:11... Godliness: as with all this list, comes through what Jesus has done at the cross offering us the ability to have the faith to gain such a blessing. This tells me that He is working in my life as I note the changes within my own character! The desire to do what He wants rather than my own will.

6:11... Faith: This is a Gift that comes from the Lord. We all receive such and must seek His righteousness to develop godliness, which in turn increases our faith!

6:11... Love: The formula continues to develop faith given by His righteousness promotes the development of godliness which can only produce love within us for Him and others.

6:11... Patience: is a steadfast endurance that comes from righteous, God given faith powered by His love!

6:11... Gentleness: What can one say? Patience, which is powered by His love through faith, proves His Godliness in us by our lives becoming more Righteous, seen through and by gentleness of Spirit which is witnessed as we pursue the six offered spiritual blessings.

1 Timothy 6:12 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.

This tells me Christianity is not an easy road to walk.

6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, In Greek, the words Fight the good fight is 'agonizou ton kalon agona' which means 'agonise the good agony'! It runs along the line of a top athlete preparing for a competition or contending with adversaries, as in a fight.

6:12... of faith This word faith is preceded by the definite article in Greek, which translates it to 'the faith' which gives us...fight the good fight of 'THE' faith'. This speaks of the body of Doctrine, which points to the foundation of faith, which is Jesus Christ and what He has did on the cross.

6:12... lay hold on Eternal Life, This means to 'seize upon, to take possession of.' Paul is telling Timothy and us to live in the eternal life we already have. We are to take hold of all that was gained by Jesus Christ at the cross! Here is just a short list of things we can do or have been freed from due to Jesus Christ:

a) We can come before the Father with confidence.
b) Death can no longer hold us.
c) We are no longer tripped up by the law.
d) satan's lies have been uncovered.
e) Judgment of sin has been paid.
f) We already have eternal Life within us.
g) We have the entry ticket to walk through heavens gates.

The list can go on and on from what Jesus has freed us from. Folks, we are to live as we are in the spirit

6:12.. to which you were also called Speaks of our calling in the Lord! So what is our calling? Such is easy to answer...Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. If we have been crucified then we are dead! Hence it is no longer I who live, but yet we live as Christ lives in me...

6:12...and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. An ongoing action of holy living which reveals the power of God at work within the believer for all the world to see.

1 Timothy 6:13 I give you charge in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate.
This is a no-nonsense statement.

6:13 I give you charge This is an order. Some Bibles use the word 'urge' instead of charge, which I feel removes the level of importance being laid down here.

6:13... in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate. Paul tells Timothy that this has been placed before the Father and Son. The Father through the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit gives life to all things, meaning God is over all and in charge of all. He allows one to live and another to die! The Father and Son are both seated side by side.

6:13... who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate This tells us how Jesus stood before His accusers, knowing what they were going to do. We, therefore, should behave as the Lord did. This shows us what sort of witness is expected from us. We have the Holy Spirit to call on, who shall not let us down in such an hour of need, guaranteed!

1 Timothy 6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing.
The gospel message, the good news

6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, The commandment spoken of here, of course, was and is the correct teaching of Jesus Christ and what He has done. Such must be taught and produced in all its fullness. For this to be done, we must not just be seen in Church as people of God but also in the private areas of our lives. There must be an ongoing change turning us towards His Holy and righteous standard of living. This is an inward truth demanding we die to self and live unto Christ.

6:14... blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing. Paul rightly expected Jesus to return at any moment; he was ready for such a happening, be it day or night, in or out of season. The impending return of Jesus for His believers is closer today than yesterday. I believe this was Paul's mentality, and it should be ours.

1 Timothy 6:15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
Paul most certainly would be placing himself at great risk by writing these words.

6:15 which He will manifest in His own time. This speaks about His supreme position. The Lord, when He so desires, shall bring all things into place. No one knows that time, but all are warned that they must be ready. Being ready does not mean being perfect by ones own standard of faith, but rather that faith is perfected within the believer, being the Holy Spirit. We all fall short of God's perfection but are saved through the grace of God by faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, this allows the Holy Spirit the latitude to work within us!

6:15... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Simply means that there shall be no doubt about who it is that has appeared. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is King. Jesus is not just the Potentate but the blessed and only Potentate. Potentate comes from the Greek word 'dunastes' meaning 'Mighty One.'

6:15... the King of kings and Lord of lords People, the name Jesus means 'Jehovah is Salvation.' The title Christ in Hebrew means Messiah, 'The Anointed One of God.' When we or the Bible refer to Jesus as Lord, it means by the Hebrew meaning we are calling Him 'I Am that I Am, Jehovah.' This means He is the only and absolute supreme ruler and Master, certainly befitting the name King of all kings. When calling upon the name of the 'Lord Jesus Christ', we should understand the meaning of 'each one' of His Names!

1 Timothy 6:16 Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen.
Praise is the power of heaven.

6:16 Who alone has immortality Yes, the Lord's angels indeed are immortal, which is also true of man's spirit. But the Lord God alone stands above all as He gave to all that which they have. He derives all He is from His own essence, His own power.

6:16... dwelling in unapproachable Light The Eternal God dwells in an atmosphere of light too glorious for any created beings (not only men) to approach. Think about that, even the Cherubim have to cover their faces as at times the Lord's glory is too powerful.

6:16... whom no man has seen or can see The Old Testament teaches the same mysterious truth, 'For there shall no man see Me and live.' Many have indeed seen the Lord Jesus Christ, so I would imagine this is speaking of the Holy Father.

6:16... to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen. All shall, in their own time and way, praise Him; all shall bow the knee at that time. We have the blessed opportunity of being able to do such at this very moment.

1 Timothy 6:17 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.

Note, Paul is not saying one cannot be rich, but rather not to be haughty with that which God has given. The Lord richly provides us with everything to enjoy, not just money. God's attitude towards wealth is written in Ecclesiastes 5:19, "Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God." This is the consistent message of the Bible: wealth is not bad and can be a gift from God. However, it is to be used for God's honour rather than to make a person proud. Paul is pointing out not to forget that it is a gift from God, and that such people are to seek the Lord as to His desire regarding such wealth.

1 Timothy 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

Rich believers can bring much harm upon themselves by luxurious lifestyles and self-indulgence, while some may even commit fraudulent acts and oppress others as they try to increase or keep their wealth. Paul has warned Timothy about such traps in previous verses. The rich believer has the power to do much good or evil.

6:18... ready to give, willing to share As they should, since much has been given to them to do good with what they have. This, I believe, is an act we must all perform. Jesus pointed out the poor widow that gave all that she had, a few coins. We are all accountable for what we have; we will all be rewarded while we walk on this earth if we remember that what we have is a gift from God!

1 Timothy 6:19 Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

This is in accordance with the teachings of Christ; there are blessed consequences attached to the obeying of His command to give. The word 'rich' is really a broad term, as many would not apply the term in its strict sense to themselves. However, we all make more in a week than many in this world do in a year, so that places us all at least in the category of being 'comparatively rich.' So how generous and kind are we with our wealth, folks? God alone can Judge such. With these perishable, fleeting riches, we are laying up a foundation of everlasting habitation on the other side of the veil. This is not a matter of one's Salvation but rather that which we shall receive by the hand of Christ for our obedience.

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.

It is our responsibility to stay close to the Lord, to guard our faith.

6:20 O Timothy! Paul is not addressing the church here but his friend and pupil, the loved heir of his God-inspired practices and teachings of the Gospel.

6:20... Guard what was committed to your trust Paul instructs Timothy to be faithful in how he represents the Doctrine and teaching of Jesus Christ and all that He has done. This is, of course, centred around the teaching of Jesus' courage and perfection right through to the resurrection.

6:20... avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions Useless, profitless discussions. Believers fall into theological or political debates which often cause controversy about what is right or wrong in this world. Paul presents a level of disdain towards such time-wasting.

6:20... of what is falsely called knowledge All such rubbish moves one away from the truth. Knowledge is not determined by a 'show of hands or a crowd in agreeance.' Even though the majority of people believe something, that does not make it right or true. Many today do not believe in Noah's flood (2 Peter 3:4), it was so in Noah's day also, they didn't believe but they all drowned! Many today try to compromise the simplicity of scripture. They think world governments can solve or are to blame for the

condition of the world. They think screaming at satan will banish the powers of darkness. They think that fasting or long prayers will pull them through the hard times, etc. This verse stands as a stark warning to those who do not try to do everything through the power of God's word. They have not understood that they are, in fact, the needy one, the one that needs to be changed, the one that He has called to have a one-on-one relationship with... so lets guard what was committed into our trust!

1 Timothy 6:21 By professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.
The so-called 'knowledge' that false teachers and babblers creates for themselves, and also for their willing hearers is another salvation message which in the end brings death through a life of misery. Such has lost all hold on the great Doctrine of faith in a crucified Saviour.

6:21... Grace be with you. Amen. This is to Timothy and all his fellow believers; it is also for you and me. Let us believe in and on His wonderful grace, as grace is not only that which bought us into salvation, it is also the ongoing gift that keeps us steady in His life and His truth. In His grace, God gives us everything we need to remain true to Him. He does not simply call us to walk blindly He supplies the strength, the desire, the sight and the inner renewal to do so.

Let us be strong and stand in His truth. Many shall challenge you, but stand firm to the end.
Amen.

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