



*1 Timothy*  
Contend

Book 2

# Contend

## 1 Timothy

First Timothy is the first of two letters written by the apostle Paul to his young co-worker and close companion, Timothy. At the time this letter was written, Paul was probably in Macedonia, and Timothy was in charge of the work in Ephesus. Timothy was the son of a Greek Gentile father and a devout Jewish mother, named Eunice. Paul wrote 1 Timothy in order to advise his young co-worker, Timothy, concerning issues that were arising at the church in Ephesus.

This letter is a clear call for the church to live out the ethical implications of the gospel in tangible ways. Paul encourages and instructs Timothy as a young leader. He grounds the everyday behaviour of Christians in the gospel. False doctrine was coming into the church in Ephesus, and this was causing behavior which was not compatible with the gospel. Visible change needs to take place in those who believe in Christ. True gospel will always lead to godliness in the life of the believer.

When you receive a letter or an email, do you simply jump to the middle of the document and read that only? Quite unlikely. Remember, this is also a letter written from Paul to Timothy. While it is very important to read through the section of text you are studying each day, it is also important to read through the entire letter as well. If possible, read through the entire book of 1 Timothy in one sitting. Read it for the logic and the flow. Become familiar with it. This will give you a better starting ground to understand the text. Some questions to ask yourself as you read the entire letter:

- Why were these words written to Timothy at this time?
- What is Paul's attitude as he writes the letter?
- Are there any specific details mentioned (or explicit statements) which reveal why the letter is being written?

Then, as you read the specific passages that are indicated in the devotionals, ask yourself how the passage fits into the overall flow of the letter. The fact is that 1 Timothy is a personal letter and we can relate to it in a personal way--first by getting to know the early-church context and then by applying it to our own.

**May 18/19**      **1 Timothy 2:11-15**

Sermon Notes:

## **Day 1 - Submissiveness / Quietness - Read 1 Timothy 2:11.**

1 Timothy 2:11 is, on the face of it, a challenging verse for many in the cultural context of 21st-Century North America. In order to properly apply this particular teaching of Paul's in the present-day life of the church, it is essential to understand what the author means - and doesn't mean - by "quietly" and "with all submissiveness". The word translated in the ESV as "quietly" is *hesuchia*; the most literal translation of the Greek reads "let a woman learn in quietness". We saw the same word earlier in verse 2 of this chapter, where Paul urges that the church pray "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life" (*hesuchion bion*). The second half of verse 11 explains what is intended by learning "in quietness"; that is, learning in a way that respects the authoritative teaching and governing role assigned to the leaders of the church, rather than undermining it.

1. Does this verse mean that women can't speak in the church assembly? See 1 Corinthians 11:5, where Paul assumes that women are regularly praying and prophesying in front of the assembled church.

2. What does the word "submissiveness" conjure up in your mind? Does it have a negative or positive connotation? Do you think that the word "submissiveness" had the same connotation to Paul as it does to you?

3. How does our culture view the idea of submissiveness? Are we encouraged to think of ourselves as submitting to authority? Do you ever encounter the idea of submissiveness portrayed in a positive light in movies, television, advertisements, in self help books, etc.?

4. Are the bulk of your ideas and beliefs about submission and authority drawn from culture or from Biblical teaching? Be honest with yourself.

## **Day 2 - Spiritual Authority - Read 1 Timothy 2:12.**

The topic of verse 12 is authority and spiritual leadership in the church; and how it relates to God's ordering of human relationships in creation.

1. From whom does the Bible say that authority comes? Who is the ultimate source of authority in the universe? For instances where Paul applies the idea of submission to various groups (and to Christ himself) see: Romans 13:1, 5; 1 Corinthians 15:28; 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; Ephesians 5:21; Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18-22; Titus 2:9; Titus 3:1.

2. Why is Paul stressing the importance of learning quietly (that is, in a way that shows proper respect to the authoritative teaching of the church leadership)? What kind of problems might this church be experiencing?

3. Is Paul saying that Christian women must simply obey the directives of any man who might claim spiritual authority over them based on this text? What are some criteria that we as Christians (women and men) can use to help us decide whose authority we should submit to and whose we should not?

4. Does being in spiritual leadership in the church mean someone has greater worth in the kingdom of God? Does submission to spiritual leadership necessarily indicate a lower status in the church? Is the idea that our position in an organization determines our worth as humans a Biblical idea or is it cultural?

5. Do you truly endeavor to submit yourself to Scripture, giving it the ultimate authority over your behaviour and your decisions? What about submitting to the authority of the church?

6. Pray that Holy Spirit will continually empower you to discern wisely who to turn to for spiritual guidance and biblical instruction. Pray that God will help you to submit humbly to the spiritual authorities he has placed over you: first Scripture, then your teachers and elders.

**Day 3 - Created Order - Read 1 Timothy 2:13-14.**

1. What are the two reasons that Paul gives in verses 13 and 14 for saying that God has placed the primary responsibility for leading and teaching the church on men?

2. Read Genesis 2:15-17. To whom did the Lord God give the commandment concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? What happens after God gives this command? Read Genesis 2:18-25. In verse 20, who is made responsible for overseeing all life in the garden? Consider carefully the sequence of events in Genesis 2:15-25.

3. In view of the Genesis account of creation, is Paul basing his model for male leadership in the church on the fact that Eve sinned first, or the roles assigned to Adam and Eve before sin entered the world?

4. Read Genesis 3. Look at verse 6: where was Adam when Eve took the fruit and ate? In verses 8-11, who does God call to account for the presence of sin in the world? In other words, who does God hold primarily responsible in the Genesis account?

5. Reflect on the direct correlation between spiritual leadership in the church and responsibility before God. Pray for those in positions of leadership in the church (local and international) and for those with spiritual authority and influence in your own life (trusted friends, family members, mentors, accountability partners, etc.).

#### **Day 4 - Conclusion - Read 1 Timothy 2:15.**

When Paul says that the woman who had become a transgressor will be saved, he is making the point that although the sin of Eve had consequences, it has been dealt with and salvation from sin is available for all women (the same, of course, goes for the sin of Adam). The act of childbearing itself is not a source of salvation; salvation in Pauline theology is always by God's grace through faith. Paul is using the word "childbearing" not to refer to any single instance of childbirth, but as a metonym; one word alluding to those things which are unique to the God-given role of women in creation and, specifically, in the church.

1. Pray that God will enable you to "continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control" (verse 15) in the unique role which he has called you to play in his church. If you are not currently involved in the church, take this opportunity to pray and seek ways that you can do so!

2. Why do you think that the topic of proper submission to church authority and respect for church leadership arises in the context of Paul talking about corporate prayer? (Reread 1 Timothy 2:1-15)

3. Have you ever run into people whose attitude or approach to prayer was out of line with how Scripture instructs us to pray? Take a moment to think seriously about why you pray as you do and whether your prayer habits are in line with the teaching of Scripture concerning prayer.

4. Are you familiar with the Bible's instructions on prayer? See, for example, Isaiah 56, Matthew 6:5; 21:13, 26:41, Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12. Do you acknowledge the importance of submitting your prayer life to the commands of Scripture?

5. Do you make a conscious, consistent effort to participate in the spiritual life of the church, conforming your behaviour to the instructions of the New Testament writers?

6. Thank God that what sin destroys in relationships between fallen sinners, Christ restores. Pray for God's ongoing work of restoration in your relationships.

**May 25/26      1 Timothy 3:1-7**

Sermon Notes:



### **Day 1 - Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7.**

This passage is an instruction to Timothy regarding church leadership – specifically the qualifications for someone in the role of an elder (a word also used to describe this role is overseer). Strong church leadership is important for the life of the church.

1. What are some of the tasks and responsibilities of an elder/overseer as seen in the New Testament? (See 1 Peter 5:1-3, Acts 11:27-30, Acts 15, 1 Timothy 4:14, James 5:14.)
2. How do elders attain the role as seen in the New Testament? (See Titus 1:5, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:1.)
3. In Titus 1:5, it seems that elders are appointed by other church leaders, but Paul, in Acts 20:28, says that the elders were appointed by the Holy Spirit, while 1 Timothy 3:1 reveals that this role may be something that a person would set his heart on. How do we reconcile these passages?

### **Day 2 - Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7.**

The role of an elder/overseer is a significant (referred to in verse 1 as a “noble”) task. Due to the nature of this leadership position, high qualifications and commitments are required.

The first general statement regarding the qualifications of an elder is that the overseer was to be obedient in observable behaviour (3:2–3). Both Christians and non-Christians needed to see commitment in his lifestyle.

1. Why is it important that an elder be “above reproach”?
2. Verse 2 is primarily concerned with positive traits. How would you describe or define these traits?
3. Verse 3 is concerned with an absence of negative traits. Why do you think that these issues are of importance as qualifications for the role of an overseer?

4. Leaders are biblically called to lead by example, those who are under leadership are to follow in the same manner. Are there traits, positive or negative, from verses 2 and 3 evidenced in your life?

**Day 3 - Read 1 Timothy 3:4-6.**

Family Life

1. Why is an elder required to evidence solid leadership in his family? (See verse 6.)
  
2. Knowing that the church is also depicted as a family, how does an elder's family life translate to his role in the church?

Experience

3. Why is an elder not supposed to be a new believer?
  
4. If you are a relatively new believer, how do you respond to this stated danger of leadership roles? If you are an "older" believer, have you experienced spiritual pride?

**Day 4 - Read 1 Timothy 3:7.**

1. As a leader within the church, why is having a good reputation with outsiders important?
  
2. How does the devil "lay traps" for the elders? Think about leaders that you feel may have fallen into the devil's traps. How has this impacted the church?
  
3. Take this opportunity to pray for the leadership of the church. It is a great responsibility to carry out the role of an elder and there are many ways in which failure in this role can have significant effects upon the church.

**June 1/2      1 Timothy 3:8-13**

Sermon Notes:

### **Day 1 – Character Traits - Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13.**

The idea of a deacon in the time Paul was writing carried the concept of servanthood with it. Paul repeats four qualifications that are both applicable to deacons and women/their wives (depending on the translation you are reading). In light of Philippians 2:1-11, it is logical that the entire church body should desire to emulate these characteristics outlined as qualifications for deacons in an effort to reflect the glory of God in our lives today. Spend some time reflecting on the qualifications and ask the Spirit to show you how to more fully reflect Christ through being a servant.

1. Dignified: Pertaining to appropriate, befitting behavior and implying dignity and respect — ‘honorable, worthy of respect, of good character.’ Does this describe your interaction with those around you at work, home, or in the world?

2. Not double-tongued: Do we say one thing in one situation and the opposite in a different situation? Reflect on Ephesians 4:29 and Ezekiel 33:30-32.

3. Sober minded: This often is related to alcohol, as outlined in verse 8, but it has a deeper connotation of being clear minded from things that so easily entangle us. See Hebrews 12:1.

4. Greedy for dishonest gain – Scripture is very clear on how God views dishonesty (Proverbs 11:1) and greed (Proverbs 28:5).

### **Day 2 – Being of Pure Conscience - Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13.**

In verse 9 we read, “They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”

The “mystery of the faith” refers to the gospel message of Jesus Christ’s work on the cross. Paul is exhorting deacons to immerse themselves in the knowledge of the faith.

1. How often do you reflect on the message of the gospel?

2. Do you make it a point in your life to more clearly and fully understand the message of the cross?

Paul does not stop simply at knowing the gospel, but adds that it is important to hold it with a “clear conscience.” His meaning here is that we do not intermingle other ideas and beliefs into the message of the cross. What does our culture tell us about what goodness is, who God is, who we are and what our purpose is? Do we evaluate the answers to these questions in light of scripture, or do we judge scripture in light of our culture?

3. What cultural messages do you think have intermingled with the truth of the gospel?

4. How can we guard against adding or disregarding elements of the mystery of the gospel?

### **Day 3 – Managing Yourself - Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13.**

Not everyone has a wife or a family, so the words in verse 12 may not seem applicable to everyone, however it is important to understand that Paul is advocating for a well-managed life. That is, if you are married, then you are committed to one wife/husband, and if you have children, that they are managed well. The idea here is that our actions should be pointing to the good work the Father has done in our lives and glorify him (Matthew 5:16).

1. Spend some time reflecting on how your life is managed. What dictates how and where you spend your time?

2. Does the manner in which you live your life bring glory to God?

3. What areas can be managed better?



**June 8/9      1 Timothy 3:14-16**

Sermon Notes:

**Day 1 - The Daily Routine of Good Behaviour in the Household of God - Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16.**

1. Read Ephesians 2:4-10. Are we saved by any good works of our own? If not, then what saves us; and further, do we still need to worry about doing good deeds then (see especially verse 10)?

2. The word variously translated as behaviour or conduct carries the sense of a regular routine, or a daily “walking” (e.g. 2 Corinthians 1:12 talks about “walking” in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity). Paul in Ephesians 4:22 exhorts believers to put off their old selves, the way they used to “walk” and now here in 1 Timothy (3:15, 4:12) he speaks of a new way of walking, a new way to conduct life as a member of the household of God. Prayerfully reflect upon your own daily behaviour, and see whether it reflects God’s household or your former household which you are no longer a part of. If you need help in this assessment, consider Paul’s comparative lists of behaviour in 1 Timothy 6:4-5 vs. 6:11-12.

3. Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16. Why do we as Christians saved by faith need to strive for good behaviour in our daily walk?

4. Paul writes this letter to Timothy in order to help him (and, by extension, us) know how to walk about in the household of God. But the how of actually doing good behaviour (i.e., godliness or piety) seems to be one of the greatest of mysteries! Does 1 Timothy 4:14-16 provide any clues as to the answer to this mystery? How might we actually live according to the truth?

**Day 2 -The Church as the Pillar and Foundation of Truth - Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16**

1. What or who, according to verse 15, is the basis for the assertion that the church is the pillar and foundation (esv: buttress) of truth? What is the adjective used to describe this basis, and why is it significant?

2. Pillars and foundations bring to mind the imagery of a temple or even a vast palace or fortress. The foundation holds and anchors the building firmly in place against all storms, while the pillars help to spread the weight of the structure above evenly to the



foundation beneath, thus allowing for larger and taller buildings to be built than would otherwise be possible. In what way does this metaphor shed light on the church's purpose as a guardian and proclaimer of the truth of the Living God? How might this be practically accomplished here today, and what might your part in this be?

3. A foundation is usually unseen, whereas pillars tend to be externally visible and even beautifying to many classical buildings. In terms of truth, it seems that the foundation defends our faith from attacks, while the pillars bear witness or proclaim the truth to all who pass by. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5, and describe what happens to the building or household of faith (compare with Galatians 6:10) when the foundation and pillar of truth are discarded.

4. Read 1 Timothy 6:2c-4a. Can those who disagree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ (i.e., those who disregard truth), still be considered part of the church, the guardian of the truth? Do you find yourself disagreeing with the plain words of Scriptures to justify your actions or beliefs, rather than submitting to the Lordship of Christ and his church? What does this say about your standing with God? Fortunately, while we remain alive, there are always opportunities to repent and receive grace at the foot of the cross.

### **Day 3 - The Mystery of Piety - Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16.**

1. Paul has just referenced another "mystery" in 3:9, that of faith in the context of the deacons. There the deacons are to be tested and proven to be blameless before they are permitted to serve as leaders in the church. Here in 3:16, Paul expands a little more on the content of the "mystery," connecting it with godliness (better translated as piety). Why might Paul be referring to faith and piety as a great mystery?

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and 6:3-7. What is the connection between piety/godliness and sound doctrine (i.e., truth)?

3. The term mystery connotes a secret, and in the ancient “mystery” religions (i.e., the Gnostics) this term was used to describe secret knowledge of particular cultic acts (“piety”) that must be performed to convey a proper response or attitude to the gods (used especially to refer to initiation rites). In what way is Christianity similar to these religions of secrecy and mystery (see Matthew 11:25-27 and 13:10-17), and in what way is it different?

4. What is piety? What does this even mean, and how is it distinct from good behaviour or conduct as referred to in verse 15? Is it a closed mystery, or has it been revealed to us? Look closely--the answer is in verse 16.

#### **Day 4 - Christ the Revelation of Piety - Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16.**

1. In the esv there is a footnote attached to “He” (v. 16), indicating that the literal Greek should be translated instead as “Who.” This is key to understanding the mystery of piety (“who,” not “what”)! When you reflect upon the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, how does this “manifest” or reveal the mystery of piety? Consider 1 Peter 3:18 to discern the purpose of Jesus appearing and dying in the flesh, and being made alive and vindicated in spirit.

2. Even though Christ was and is the great mystery of the ages, he is now being proclaimed openly among the nations, even to the point that many all throughout the world are believing in him! What part does proclamation of the gospel play in our own personal piety towards God? Do you consider proclaiming the Good News which brings other people to God as a vital part of you having a right relationship to God? Do you feel confident enough in your faith in Christ Jesus (cf. 3:13) that you regularly share it?

3. What is the Good News? What is it that Paul refers to as being “seen, proclaimed, and believed,” (verse 16)? Don’t forget to proclaim this also to yourself daily, so that your walk of life may reflect the piety of God’s Son, who has done all already on our behalf, and has gone ahead of us into glory!

**June 15/16**    **1 Timothy 4:1-5**

Sermon Notes:

**Day 1 - The Problem - Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5.**

1. Paul references warnings from the Spirit in this passage. According to 2 Peter 2:19-21, how does the Spirit communicate warnings to God's people and where are these warnings to be found (verse 20)?

2. Below are some of the warnings that were recorded in scripture. What do they predict?

Mark 13:22-23

Matthew 24:9-14

3. These warnings seem pretty clear! Since this is the case, why do you think we are surprised when these issues crop up?

4. Who is "in danger of being deceived" in this passage? Christians or non-Christians? How do you know?

**Day 2 - The Source of the Deception - Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5.**

1. Paul notes that the "source" of deception is deceitful spirits and the teaching of demons, but indicates that this teaching is communicated through people. How does he describe these people?

2. Describe an insincere teacher. What would be his/her motivation?

3. What does it mean to have a “seared conscience”? Have you ever met someone that you would describe in this manner? How does this happen? See Ephesians 4:18-19.

4. Read 1 John 4:1-3. What is the litmus test for discerning between false and true spirits according to this passage?

**Day 3 - The Ideas Behind the Deception - Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5.**

1. What are the false teachers specifically forbidding in this passage?

2. Why do you think they would be forbidding these things?

3. In Colossians, Paul is dealing with similar teaching. How does he describe the motivation behind it in Colossians 2:16-23 (see especially verse 18 and verse 23)?

4. These false teachers are putting their hope for salvation in works. Where should our hope for salvation be found? (See 1 Timothy 4:10.)

#### **Day 4 - The Solution - Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5.**

1. In order to protect ourselves against false teaching, we need to know God's word. What do the following scriptures indicate?

Genesis 1:31

Genesis 2:18-25

Mark 7:14-23

2. If we "believe and know the truth" (verse 3), our lives will be marked with thanksgiving. Reflect on the following quote as we end this week of study.

All the seemingly "ordinary" things of life can... become extraordinary as they are consecrated by the Word of God and prayer. In the light of the Scriptures a Christian recognizes God's good hand behind the things provided, and offers thanksgiving to the Lord. In this way the ordinary things so easily taken for granted ... become sanctified as occasions for worship and praise.

Litfin, A. D. (1985). 1 Timothy. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (1 Ti 4:5). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

3. What "ordinary things so easily taken for granted" can you praise God for today?

**June 22/23**      **1 Timothy 4:6-10**

Sermon Notes:

**Day 1 - Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10.**

1. When Paul says “these things,” what things is he talking about? Summarize it in your own words.
2. Why do you think Paul says to Timothy, “If you put these things before the brothers...”? Is he giving Timothy a choice? If he does these things, then what?
3. If Timothy does not, what is then the reciprocal consequence?
4. Paul states that Timothy “will be a good servant” if he follows these instructions. Do you think of yourself as a servant of Jesus? What happens when a servant obeys? Does not obey?

**Day 2 - Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10.**

1. Who was involved in Timothy’s training? What tools were likely used?
2. When Paul describes Timothy’s life as one that has “followed” words of faith and good doctrine, he is really re-affirming Timothy’s own history of faith. Do you ever take the time to reflect on where God has taken you on your faith journey? Take the time to thank God for what he has done in your life, and use that history to guide and encourage you in the future.
3. When you are instructed to “have nothing to do with” something, what does that mean? Should you argue against it, think about it, perhaps talk about it sometimes? Are there ideas and/or discussions we should have nothing to do with? Name some of these that exist in your family, your workplace, and your church.
4. When Paul uses the word “silly,” is he referring to the issues listed in 1 Timothy 4:1-3? Would you say verses 1-3 list silly issues or serious issues?



**Day 3 - Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10.**

1. How is Timothy to train himself for godliness? It is mentioned twice (verses 7 and 8). Does Paul give any pointers? What do you do to train for godliness?

2. When it comes to training for godliness, do you think Timothy needs to do anything special because he is responsible for the spiritual welfare of others? How is his training different than that of others?

3. In verse 9, which “saying” is being referred to? State it in your own words.

4. Why might Paul have described the saying as “deserving of full acceptance”? What sort of situation was Timothy in? Does the rest of this book point to other ideas getting half-hearted acceptance? What sort of pressures was Timothy fighting against?

**Day 4 - Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10.**

1. Read verse 10: Which “end” is this?

2. Paul describes our tasks as ones for which we “toil and strive.” Is this what we expect? Do we think our lives for Christ will lead to rose petals and buttercups, or toiling? Servants (as we are called in verse 6) toil, do they not? How does the expectation of toiling as a servant change our worldview?

3. Who has set the hope spoken of in verse 10? You? Me? No, it says “we.” Are you toiling with others or are you a Lone Ranger? We’re in this together.

4. When Paul states God is “the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe,” what does he mean by that?

**June 29/30**      **1 Timothy 4:11-16**

Sermon Notes:

## **Day 1 - Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.**

As stated in the introduction of this booklet, this letter to Timothy is a call for the church to live out the ethical implications of the gospel in tangible ways. In this week's text, we continue to read Paul giving Timothy further instructions, especially speaking on certain truths for the congregation. The focus of this text, along with the one just previous (4:6-10), is on how Timothy, by his teaching and lifestyle, can help the church persevere in the face of the false teaching.

1. Verse 11 of this week's text says, "Command and teach these things." What "things" is Paul referring to?

2. In the context of this passage, Paul is exhorting Timothy to command and teach the things he is writing about to others. Even for us today, it is important to let our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ know when they are being led astray. Why is this important? Are we afraid to do that? Why or why not?

3. Paul urges Timothy not to let anyone despise him for his youth. Why would the Ephesian church possibly despise his youthfulness?

4. Why do some people look down on young leaders? What does Paul tell Timothy to do as a young man to keep from being despised?

## **Day 2 - Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.**

1. How do we set an example to others? Look at verse 12.

2. Look at some other texts in Paul's letters where he talks about setting an example, or following an example:

1 Corinthians 11:1

Philippians 3:17

Philippians 4:9

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6

"The single greatest tool of leadership is the power of an exemplary life." (John MacArthur)

3. There are 5 areas that Paul exhorts Timothy to be exemplary in: speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. Read each text below and write a statement regarding the importance of being an example in each of the mentioned areas:

Speech - Matthew 12:33-37

Conduct - James 3:13, 1 Peter 1:14-16

Love - John 15:12-13

Faith - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Purity - 2 Timothy 2:22

4. In verse 13, why would Paul tell Timothy to be devoted to the public reading of Scripture?

Read Nehemiah 8:8 and Acts 13:15. Public reading of Scriptures was common in the synagogue. Accessibility to the Scriptures in Timothy's day was very limited. The cost to reproduce documents would have been too much for the average person.

5. What is the difference between exhortation and teaching? If you are unsure, please check a dictionary. Why are both important?

6. Each one of us likely has at least one Bible, if not a few. We have the Word of God available right in front of us. Do you take time to read it? Study it? Spend time pouring over God's word?

### **Day 3 - Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.**

In verse 14, we see Paul reminding Timothy to use the gift God has given him. This gift probably refers to something related to Timothy's calling to and gifting for ministry, though the exact gift is not specified. This verse is a personal message to Timothy regarding his spiritual gifts.

1. Do we still need this today? Do we need to look for "prophecies" to give us a particular calling? Why or why not? What about seeking recognition from the elders of the church before venturing into ministry? Is this important?

2. The same directive that was given to Timothy can be given to all Christians. Do you know your spiritual gifts? If so, how are they being used for Christ's kingdom?
3. What do you think "these things" (verse 15) are that Timothy was to practice and immerse himself in?
4. Is it important for others to see our spiritual progress? Why or why not? Is your progress evident to others?

**Day 4 - Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.**

1. In verse 16, Paul tells Timothy, "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching." What teaching is Paul referring to?
2. Both holy living and good theology are important. Why? How can you excel in both areas?
3. What happens when you "persist in these things"?

"Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers," (verse 16b). This is an amazing statement. Your example can be a means through which God uses to save his people. God can and will use you as an instrument for his purpose!

4. Think of someone who has affected you personally by their example as a faithful Christian. Why did this person impact you? How? Are you this way with others around you?

**Thanks to our contributors:**

Adele Derksen  
Kevin Peters  
Jayeson Wall  
Ryan Giesbrecht  
Kristal Toews  
James Kampen  
Dolly Oliech

32040 Downes Road   Abbotsford BC   V4X 1X5  
604-853-2931   northview.org   northview@northview.org



**Northview**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH