

1 Timothy 1:18 – 2:15

Day 1

Fight the Good Fight. Read Timothy 1:18-20

1. How did Paul encourage Timothy regarding the command he had given in 1:3,4? 1:18 (Cross-ref. 6:12)

- What would this enable Timothy to do? 1:18b (See 2 Tim. 4:7)

FYI: "give/commit/entrust" Strong's NT:3908 *paratithemi*, to place alongside, i.e. present...to deposit (as a trust or for protection)

2. What are essentials to this "good fight"? 1:19a (Cf. 1:5)

3. What else do you learn about the "good fight" from:

- Ephesians 6:10-13
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

4. What had happened to some who didn't hold on to those things? 1:19b *What picture does the analogy of being "shipwrecked" give you?*

FYI: *Rejected/put away* Strong's NT:683 *apothomeai*, to push off, figuratively, to reject. KJV - cast away, put away, thrust away (from).

5. What else do you learn about:

- Hymenaeus (2 Timothy 2:17,18)
- (possibly the same) Alexander (2 Timothy 4:14-15)

6. What impact would naming two of Timothy and Paul's opponents (1:20a), have on the people who heard or read this letter?

FYI: "Many commentators believe these men were elders in the church...Paul was essentially telling Timothy 'You and the church must take severe measures at certain times to fight for this gospel. Take them.' Whatever you do, hold on to the gospel. It is the only thing that unites the church, and it is the only thing that will sustain God's people in difficult days. Indeed, this is a gospel worth guarding and defending." - Platt et al. (20,21)

7. For what purpose were these people handed “over to Satan”? 1:20b (*If there was hope for Paul (1:13-15), how much hope was there for these people?*)
8. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5,13. When Paul counseling believers to hand someone over “to Satan,” how destructive was the man’s behavior? What was the hope of this discipline? 1 Corinthians 5:5b (Compare Matthew 18:15-17)

FYI: “[Paul] handed [them] over to Satan, strongly suggesting he has put Hymenaeus and Alexander out of the church, just as he had the young man in Corinth who refused to repent of his sexual affair with his step-mother...As a strong spiritual leader, Paul deals with unrepentant sin and open rebellion forcefully, not only to protect the integrity of the church, but to allow the consequences of sin to discipline wayward believers...He undoubtedly expects Timothy to follow suit.”
- Charles Swindoll (33)

9. From Hebrews 12:5-6,10-11, what are the reasons for and benefits of the Lord’s discipline?

Applying the Word: *Think of the reasons that parents discipline their children and how children feel and what can they mistakenly think about it. How do you feel when the Lord disciplines you?*

Day 2

Timothy’s Instructions: Prayer. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6

10. What positive instruction did Paul give first? 2:1 (See Ephesians 6:18; Luke 18:1)
11. For whom should we pray? 2:1b,2a
- Why should we pray for those in authority? 2:2b

FYI: Holiness/dignity/honesty NT:4587 *semnotes*, “decency, dignity, seriousness...It is the ability not only to perform well one’s duties as a citizen, but also to adhere to the highest principles and ideals of earth and heaven, and thus drawing respect and approval. See 1 Tim 2:2; 3:4; Titus 2:7” - The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT

“This could not have been an easy request in Ephesus, where city officials considered the church a threat to the local economy (Acts 19:23-27).”
- Charles Swindoll (38,39)

“This exhortation is fascinating when you consider that Paul was writing under the reign of Nero, a Roman emperor who violently persecuted Christians in the first century. At that time there would have been few, if any, Christian rulers in the world. Yet Paul was telling them to pray for these pagan leaders. Pray for the king you suffer under. Pray for the leader you don’t agree with. Pray for the ruler you don’t approve of. This is God’s will.” - Platt et al. (24)

12. Of what can we be assured when we pray? 2:3

13. What is God's desire for "all men"? 2:4 (See 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23)

FYI: "To say that God wants...all people to be saved, implies neither that all will be saved nor that God's will is somehow frustrated since all, indeed, are not saved. The concern is simply with the universal scope of the gospel over against some form of heretical exclusivism or narrowness. (Fee)" – Coleman and Peace (22)

"God's desire for all men to be saved is conditioned by His desire to have a genuine response from human beings. He won't fulfill His desire to save all men at the expense of making men robots that worship Him from simply being programmed to do so." – David Guzik

14. On what basis and authority are we able to pray directly to God? 2:5 (See John 14:6)

Digging Deeper

For verses about *one God*, see: Deuteronomy 6:4

1 Chronicles 16:25-26

Isaiah 44:8; 45:21,22; 46:9

- What does "one God" indicate about prayer?
- What does "one mediator" indicate? (See Romans 8:34)

FYI: "It is because there is one God and one mediator that all people must be included in the church's prayers and proclamation [2:1]...God's desire [2:4 'desires all men to be saved'] and Christ's death [2:5 'ransom for all'] concerns all people; therefore the church's duty concerns all people too, reaching out to them both in earnest prayer and in urgent witness. (John Stott)" – R. Kent Hughes (63)

Mediator Strong's NT:3316 *mesites*; a go-between, i.e. an internunciator, or (by implication) a reconciler (intercessor)

15. Underline the descriptions of Christ's role as our mediator.

- 1 John 2:1, And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
- Hebrews 7:24-26 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. NIV
- Ephesians 3:11,12 ...in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." NIV

16. What makes this access to God possible? 2:6 (See Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 3:12)

17. Underline the reasons for which Christ “gave Himself.”

- Galatians 1:4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Ephesians 5:20 walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 1 Timothy 2:6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.
- Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

18. For what “*purpose*” (“*for this*” NAS) was Paul appointed? 2:7

- List the three titles Paul used to describe his mission.

FYI: Preacher/herald NT:2783 *kerux*; a herald, i.e. of divine truth (especially of the gospel):

“The word ‘herald’ is not one that we use much today. It was used in ancient times to refer to someone who would make an important announcement, such as an announcer at an athletic event or a political messenger in a royal court. This is the picture of what we do as followers of Christ – we herald the gospel.” - Platt et al. (31)

Apostle Strong’s NT:652 *apostolos*; a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel

19. According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, what assignment has God given to all believers?

Applying the Word: How do you pray for “those in authority” with whom you don’t agree?

How would you respond to someone who said that “People can pray to any god. It doesn’t matter who or what you think God is.”

Day 3

Instructions for the Church. Read Timothy 2:7-10

20. What instruction did Paul give specifically to men? 2:8 Why is this so important to the gospel message? James 1:19,20

Digging Deeper

What are we to do with our anger and fears?
Psalm 55:22

Colossians 3:8

21. What does “*holy hands*” indicate? See Psalm 23:3,4; James 4:8

- What did God say about praying with *unclean* hands? Isaiah 1:15,16

FYI: Holy hands Strong’s NT:3741 *hosios* “Holy, righteous, unpolluted with wickedness, right as conformed to God and His laws”
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT (1063)

“Lifting up one’s hands in prayer is often mentioned in the Old Testament...It is a natural gesture, indicating earnest desire. The word ‘holy’ is...*hosios*, which means ‘devout, pious, pleasing to God’ (BAG).
Lock says of the expression ‘lifting up holy hands’ that it ‘combines the idea of moral purity...with that of consecration’.
We cannot pray effectively unless our lives are clean and committed.” - The Expositor’s Bible Commentary

22. What did Jesus say about worshipping God while at odds with a brother or sister? Matthew 5:23,24 (See also Romans 12:17-21)

- What did King David pray? Psalm 51:9,10

23. How did Paul advise women to dress in:

- 2:9a
- 2:9b-10 (See 1 Peter 3:3-5)

FYI: Modestly and discreetly/decent and appropriate “...‘with reverence,’ ‘with respect,’ or ‘with reserve.’ It encompasses more than merely covering up. The idea is to avoid any manner of dress that suggests sensual appeal or sexual availability.

‘Discreet’ renders the two-word Greek phrase meaning (lit.) ‘sensible order.’ ‘Sensible’ is a favorite term in the Pastoral Epistles, which means ‘moderate, prudent, modest, restrained, and disciplined.’” - Charles Swindoll (48.49)

“Paul is not categorically forbidding women to style their hair or wear jewelry or nice clothing. Rather, he was forbidding the imitation of the elaborate new hairstyles and extravagant dress of the Roman court as depicted on the Roman coins in circulation at the time...These styles connoted the excessive luxury and licentiousness of the Roman court. ‘Today it is the equivalent of warning Christians away from imitation of styles set by promiscuous pop singers or actresses.’ (Baugh) Paul’s over-riding concern was that the way Christians deported themselves would not detract from but enhance their gospel mission.”
- R. Kent Hughes (63)

“Part of the point of mentioning the ‘hairstyles, gold, pearls’ and the ‘expensive apparel’ is that these things were highlighting the distinction between the wealthy and the poor in the church...You want your worship and your life in every way to draw attention to [God]...Women in the church should not distract others but instead live to attract others to God...the general principle he is commending is ‘modest clothing...decency and good sense’.”

- Platt et al. (39.41)

24. What does addressing “*divisive*” men and “*distracting*” women suggest about the kind of situations in the church that may have prompted Paul’s concerns about these issues?

Applying the Word: *When has prayer played an important role in bringing peace into your life? What was it about your prayers that brought peace, and what form did the peace take?*

Day 4

Instructions to Women. Read Timothy 2:11-15

25. What instruction did Paul give women regarding church order? 1:11,12

FYI: *“Quietness* Some have said the reason for this is because in these ancient cultures (as well as some present-day cultures), men and women sat in separate sections. The thought is that women interrupted the church service by shouting questions and comments to their husbands during the service.”
– David Guzik

“Bear in mind, churches in the first century didn’t offer children’s Sunday school, women’s classes, adult teaching outside the worship service, or the host of other programs that churches provide today. Paul directed this to women attending the public gathering for worship and instruction. The responsibility for preaching fell to the male leaders... While Scripture calls for the submission of a wife to her husband (Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-2), submission here refers to the attitude of all believers to the instruction of church leaders. This does not teach that women in general should submit to men in general.”
- Charles Swindoll (50)

26. From the following, record what you learn about the ministry of women in the early church.

- Luke 8:1-3
- Acts 1:14
- Acts 15:14,15
- Romans 16:1-5
- Philippians 4:2,3

Digging Deeper

Read through the article *Women and Teaching* at the back of your homework. Mark any interesting observations or questions you would like to discuss.

27. What instruction are women in:

- Titus 2:3-5
- Colossians 3:16

FYI: “Paul is not saying that women should never teach, for he later said they should teach the younger women (Titus 2:4), and commended Lois and Eunice for teaching Timothy (II Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). He knew Priscilla, and evidently approved of her part in teaching Apollos (Acts 18:2,26).”
- The Defender’s Study Bible

Food for Thought: "There are problematic passages, none more so than Paul's instruction that women are not to teach or have authority over men, they were to be silent, and this was the practice of the churches.

My general answer is that the arc of scripture shows women leading and speaking and taking initiative in a male dominated world. Paul's and Peter's instructions need to be taken in the context of the whole arc. Paul had women who were partners in ministry who he trusted and wrote to in letters. They were important and singled out. We do not know the context but is it possible that women were casting off restraint. 'Have authority over' is an indication to some scholars that there was a spirit of 'usurping' authority.

I cannot answer all the difficulties but it is possible (and I am now speculating and I know my explanation will be unsatisfying) that the attitude of women finding new freedom in Christ was a surprise to men and women alike.

Travels in the footsteps of Paul have revealed to scholars that Paul's teachings on women were meant to enhance the dignity of women not detract from it. For example, Paul's teaching on head coverings to the church in Corinth would have been incredibly honoring to the female prostitutes (with their shaved heads which marked them as slaves of prostitution) from the Temple of Aphrodite who believed in Jesus and whom were purchased out of slavery. With their heads covered they were able to join in the church fellowship without the visible reminder of their past constantly being on display. Women asked to speak in private to their husbands reflected the reality in Greek culture that the only women who spoke in the public square were high end prostitutes called Hetaira and low end prostitutes who functioned as temple slaves. Paul was seeking a middle way for women who were seeking to follow Jesus.

It is possible that women were swinging the pendulum in a way that Paul warned them to be silent. But as we have seen throughout history, women apart from their relationship with fathers and husbands would have had virtually no protection or status. Thus the church was a radical change in their existence!

We know that for the family to be healthy or the church to be healthy we must have a spirit of cooperation not a spirit of competition or a spirit of domination. Obviously, Paul in Ephesians 5 takes a step in elevating men and women to heights of value and purpose previously unknown in history.

At Kensington we have always urged every one of us to be 'under authority'. Lead pastors place themselves under the leadership of the Directional Team and the Directional Team does the same with the Elders. The spirit of Kensington has always tried to reflect a spirit of humility where we are listening to each other, learning from each other, and taking loving correction from each other. I cannot remember a single week of Kensington's history where someone has not come to me to offer correction. And when I am walking with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I am listening with an open heart and mind to the correction offered. 'Powering up' is never God's answer for the Church"
- Steve Andrews "Kensington's View of Women in Leadership"

28. What reason did Paul give for women not taking authority over their husbands? 2:13,14

FYI: "Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy 2 have nothing to do with the value of men and women; rather, he was talking about the roles of men and women...Man was created with a role that complements woman, and woman was created with a role that complements man."
- Platt et al. (42)

"God...does not consider women inferior. He never treated women like second-class citizens. Jesus equipped and trained a small group of men to lead the church upon His ascension, but He also instructed many women disciples (eg. Matt. 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-56; 24:10). Furthermore, Paul recalled the significant contributions of women in his letters (Ro. 16:1,6; 1 Cor 16:19; Phil. 4:1-2; Philem. 2)."
- Charles Swindoll (49,50)

"The married couple was to function as an inseparable team, exercising dominion together over God's creation, with the man exhibiting godly servant leadership...When this...order is breached, the door is opened for Satan to sow discord (see Gen. 3:1-6)"
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (133)

29. After Adam was "created first" (1 Tim 2:13), what was Eve's relationship to Adam? Genesis 2:18 What happened after Eve was deceived" (1 Tim. 2:14)? Genesis 3:16

FYI: "Eve sinned because Satan deceived her. Adam sinned, not as a result of deception, but by freewill choice... When the Lord confronted the first humans concerning their sin, He addressed Adam as the leader. He held Adam accountable because Adam was the responsible head...The issue here is not ability, but responsibility. God tasked the man with leadership and He will hold men accountable for the performance of their duty. Adam let Eve down in the beginning by failing to lead and protect. Therefore, both men and women continue to suffer the judicial sentence of the man's disobedience. For men, work became toil (Gen. 3:17); for women, the joy of childbirth comes through distressing pain (Gen. 3:16)"
- Charles Swindoll (51)

30. A man is given headship over his wife (not other women). What kind of effort, love and sacrifice does this involve? Ephesians 5:25-30 *Why does a husband, as the head, need to lift up, honor, protect, sacrifice and love his wife for a marriage to work? What do husbands and wives need from each other? What is hard about each role?*

31. What attributes did Paul encourage in women? 2:15

FYI: 2:15 "This has been a notoriously difficult verse to translate. It probably refers (as the church fathers understood it) to the childbearing through woman of that seed who would overcome Satan (Gen. 3:15) and the effect of the fall, namely Christ. Christ is the only one through whom Paul ever says we are saved (Payne)." - Coleman and Peace (23)
Or

"Moffatt translate the phrase 'women will get safely through child-birth', giving them encouragement to have children without fear...It could be that child-bearing is emphasized here to counter the false teachers who advocated abstinence from marriage (1 Tim. 4:3)"
- Stuart Allen (E: 275)

Food for Thought: "Synagogues in the first century featured a *mechitza*, a partition separating the genders, and restricted women from participation in worship services except to observe. These restrictions, however, did not come from Scripture. You won't find them in the Old Testament. The Pharisees introduced them, along with a host of other legalistic traditions after the exile.

From this perspective, Christians in the first century gazed at Paul's portrait of women and saw the word 'liberty' in bold relief. No longer separated by a partition, women stood or sat with men in the congregation and received instruction along with them. We also find women participating in Christian work with unprecedented freedom throughout the New Testament. While Paul did affirm male leadership in the church...he also encouraged women to participate in every aspect of ministry, so long as men did not abdicate their responsibility to lead." - Charles Swindoll

Articles: "What roles can women fill in ministry?"
<https://www.gotquestions.org/women-in-ministry.html>

"Indispensable: Women who Plant Churches"
<https://carolyncustisjames.com/2016/07/19/indispensable-women-who-plant-churches/>



Applying the Word: *What do you think are some of the best ways that spouses can encourage each other spiritually? How can we honor our differences in roles while affirming our equal standing/value in God's eyes?*

What has your husband said you do that makes him feel respected and honored? What does he do that makes you feel loved?