



CWR/PTM

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

THESSALONIANS,
TIMOTHY, TITUS
& PHILEMON

Week 3

DAY 15

True or False?

1 Timothy 4:1-16

OPENING
up to the Word

How do you discipline yourself? (a) abstinence from pleasure, (b) no discipline is good discipline, (c) pay penalties for bad behavior.

DIGGING
into the Word

1. A conscience seared with a hot iron may no longer be flexible enough to respond to the gospel. What were these false ministers teaching as truth (4:1-3)? Are these same false teachings deceiving people today?
2. Some false teachers used an approach of legalism or asceticism. How does forbidding what God allows become a false teaching?
3. The opposite of heresy (false teaching) is orthodoxy (right teaching). What are Paul's rules for orthodoxy (vs. 4-11)?
4. In what specific areas of life does Timothy need to be an example to believers (v. 12)?
5. What is the duty of the ordained ministry (vs. 13-16)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. In the information age, how do you check the truthfulness of so much information? How do you identify myth from truth?
2. How physically fit are you? Fitness centers abound. The media promotes the ideal figure. Why is *spiritual* fitness given so little attention? Is it possible to remain spiritually fit apart from Christ?
3. Life is full of goals and hope for the future. What is your hope set on? Is it assured?
4. How devoted are you to Jesus, who personifies truth?

WINDOW
on the Word

*The Word of God (vs. 5, 6) can refer to many things, such as the Old Testament (Mk 7:9-13), the gospel (1Th 2:13) or God's will (2Pe 3:5, 7). Paul emphasized the need to establish **sound doctrine** (orthodoxy) upon the Word of God, which is ultimately Jesus himself.*

Take Care

DAY 16

1 Timothy 5:1-16

How close is your family? Does loving care and concern span one, two, three or four generations? Are older family members valued for their love, wisdom and giving of life?

1. A pastor oversees various groups in the structure of a church (5:1-2). What advice did Paul give Timothy, who was apparently still single? Why do you suppose purity would be mentioned (v. 2)?

2. Who has primary responsibility to care for needy family members, especially widows (vs. 3-8)?

3. What is the responsibility of widows? What should their focus be (vs. 5-6)?

4. How is “the faith” denied by neglecting one’s responsibilities (v. 8)?

5. What was Paul’s advice to *younger* widows (vs. 11-16)? Was this discrimination appropriate?

1. In our society, unlike the first century, taxes pay for some benefits for the needy. What benefits do your loved ones receive?

2. How do you care for, or supplement, needy people in your family? Financially? Emotionally? Spiritually?

3. If you are widowed, what is your focus on life? To help others? To encourage family? Do you let family know of your needs?

4. How do you help the church to care for the needy in and out of your specific church?

*In first-century culture in Judea, women were usually **married** by the time they were fifteen. Men typically married in their twenties. Many marriages were arranged by parents. Then, like now, older women who were widowed were unlikely to remarry. Families were responsible to care for their own widows.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

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LIVING

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Support Your Local Minister

1 Timothy 5:17-25

OPENING
up to the Word

Are you worth your weight in gold? Paul quotes the law, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." How hard do you work? Do you think you deserve a raise?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. How were Timothy and other Christ-followers encouraged to treat elders who ruled well (5:17-18)?
2. Ministers are often placed in "no-win" situations when helping people. What constraints does Paul place on congregations that wanted to take action against a minister (vs. 19-21)?
3. When a pastor was found guilty of habitually serious sins, what steps were to be taken?
4. Why might Timothy have been inclined to ordain individuals too soon (v. 22)?
5. Was Paul speaking to Timothy only about the sinful nature of human beings, or was he also inspiring him to good works (vs. 24-25)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. How do you honor those who serve in a Christian leadership capacity?
2. Why is it dangerous to jump to conclusions when someone complains against a minister?
3. Is it difficult for you to remain impartial when listening to various sides of an issue (see Pr 18:17)?
4. How do you perceive TV news? (a) impartial, (b) wholly partial, (c) politically biased, (d) commercial, (e) sensational, (f) entertainment.
5. How are sins and good works conspicuous? How will hidden deeds become open?

WINDOW
on the Word

Timothy had some **health problems** (v. 23). Ascetics may have been promoting a water-only diet as a form of self-discipline or self-denial. Paul recommends a more balanced approach. On the other hand, nowhere does Paul promote drinking alcohol to excess.

Greedy or Content?

DAY 18

1 Timothy 6:1-10

What's your attitude toward money? (a) anxious about debts, (b) a saver, slow and sure, (c) spend, spend, spend, (d) easy come, easy go, (e) God's blessing enables my giving.

1. In those days, slave owners who didn't know Christ often treated slaves only as property. Why did Christian slaves still have to act in a Christian manner (6:1)?
2. Some Christian slaves had Christian masters, to whom they had debts that were being paid by years of service. What attitude did these Christian slaves need to avoid (v. 2)?
3. How did Paul contrast the soundness in Jesus (v. 3) with the deceitfulness of false teachers (vs. 4-5; see notes on 1Ti 1)?
4. How does Paul define contentment versus greed (vs. 5-6)?

1. As employers or employees, what attitudes are inappropriate for Christians? In what ways can either an employee or an employer take unethical advantage of each other?
2. How do con men gain the confidence of those they con?
3. What shortcuts are temptations to those who want to be rich?
4. How do you understand godliness? Is it a definition for daily living, or only for times we specifically set aside to pray, worship and learn more of God?

*Money, whether in cash or barter, has long been a powerful factor in civilization. Paul, when he warned Christians about the **love of money** (v. 10), used the word *philarguria*, which means "avarice, greed, miserliness."*

OPENING
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Fighting the Good Fight

1 Timothy 6:11-21

OPENING
up to the Word

In what ways would you consider the battles that Christians face as good?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Paul used metaphors of an intense battle (6:11-12). Many wars have been fought over money. In contrast to those who pursue money, what does the Christ-follower pursue?

2. Compare 1:18-20 with 6:12-13. What is the good fight of a Christ-follower? How is loyalty confessed? Like Jesus before Pilate?

3. The divinity of Jesus is noted by Paul (vs. 15-16). List these attributes and compare them with 1:17; 2:5-6; and 3:16.

4. Why does Paul again warn the rich (vs. 17-19)? How can a good income bring joy rather than heartache?

LIVING
out the Word

1. What battles are you fighting? (a) family, (b) an eating disorder, (c) misuse of drugs or alcohol, (d) lustful thoughts, (e) anger, (f) anxiety, (g) poor health, (h) discontent.

2. How are you fighting your battles? Is Jesus providing your support? Is his righteousness your weapon in the battle against sin?

3. Are you caring for your family? Your church or ministry? The needy?

4. How full is your spiritual bank account? What assets can you list? Have you laid up treasure for the coming age?

God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes
Which God gave me to hold.

He said, "Put all your sorrow in the black,
And all your joys in the gold."

I heeded his words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I store.
But though the gold became heavier each day
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black;
I wanted to find out why.
And I saw, in the case of the box, a hole
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be."
He smiled a gentle smile at me.
"My child, they are all here with me."

I asked, "God, why give me the boxes,
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?"
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings;
the black is for you to let go."

Introduction to 2 Timothy

Paul's final epistle was written during the last days of his second Roman imprisonment, probably A.D. 64-67. This epistle reflects Paul's growing awareness that he would die before the return of Jesus Christ. In this letter Paul calls for Timothy to carry on with a Christ-centered ministry.

Paul praised Timothy's faithfulness, yet exhorted him to deeper courage through the Holy Spirit, showing an example of living faith, holding firmly to sound teaching. Timothy was instructed to show himself strong in grace, as a battle-strengthened soldier and fellow-sufferer with Christ. Paul warned of the perilous "last days," listing 30 characteristics common to evil times, calling for Timothy to stand firmly planted in the inspired word of God. Paul's farewell message called for Timothy to boldly preach the gospel, as the Christian race drew near the finish line for Paul.

Outline:

I. ENCOURAGEMENT AND FIDELITY, 1:1-18

- A. Thanksgiving for Timothy's Faith, 1:1-5
- B. Live in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, 1:6-12
- C. Hold Fast to the Faith, 1:13-18

II. BE A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST, 2:1-26

- A. Be Strong in the Grace of Christ, 2:1-2
- B. Be Strong as the Soldier of Christ, 2:3-7
- C. Be Strong as a Sufferer for Christ, 2:8-13
- D. Be Strong in the Word of Christ, 2:14-26

III. WARNING OF EVIL TIMES, 3:1-17

- A. Wickedness of the Last Days, 3:1-9
- B. Wickedness of False Teachers, 3:10-13
- C. Wickedness Overcome, 3:14-17

IV. DEFENSE AGAINST DEFEAT, 4:1-22

- A. Preach the Word!, 4:1-5
- B. Fight the Fight!, 4:6-8
- C. Special Requests, 4:9-18
- D. Farewell, 4:19-22

Joy in the Spirit

DAY 20

2 Timothy 1:1-18

An old spiritual song calls for joy. "Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will sing!" How is the Spirit moving you today? (a) to mourn, (b) to pray, (c) to sing, (d) to give.

1. Paul was fond of Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. What great attribute does he mention about the three of them? Was it inherited, taught or a gift from God?
2. Consider the Spirit (v. 7). How would these attributes enable Timothy to follow Paul's example as a "prisoner" of the Lord?
3. How does shame affect our spirit? What belief kept Paul from feeling ashamed for the suffering he endured?
4. How does the triune God work in Christians? Is our relationship with God based on our works or his grace?
5. Does God the Son and God the Holy Spirit keep Christians from the same mistakes as Phygellus and Hermogenes? How?

1. Who are your dear friends? Are they as close as family? Do you pray for their physical and spiritual well-being?
2. Four blessings of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in verse 7. Do you know someone who is looking for these blessings in all the wrong places? Can you point them in the right direction?
3. Consider the end of your physical life. What do you think will be said in your eulogy? Like Onesiphorus (v. 16) will you be spoken of as a servant who ministered to the needs of others?

*Paul shows that the **Holy Spirit** shoulders our fears and he empowers us (vs. 7-8), enables love in us and grants us the ability to live a sane, sound-minded life (vs. 7, 13).*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

DAY 21

Metaphors to Motivate Ministry

2 Timothy 2:1-13

OPENING
up to the Word

Are you now or have you ever been a good soldier? A strong and enduring marathon runner? A hardworking farmer?

DIGGING
into the Word

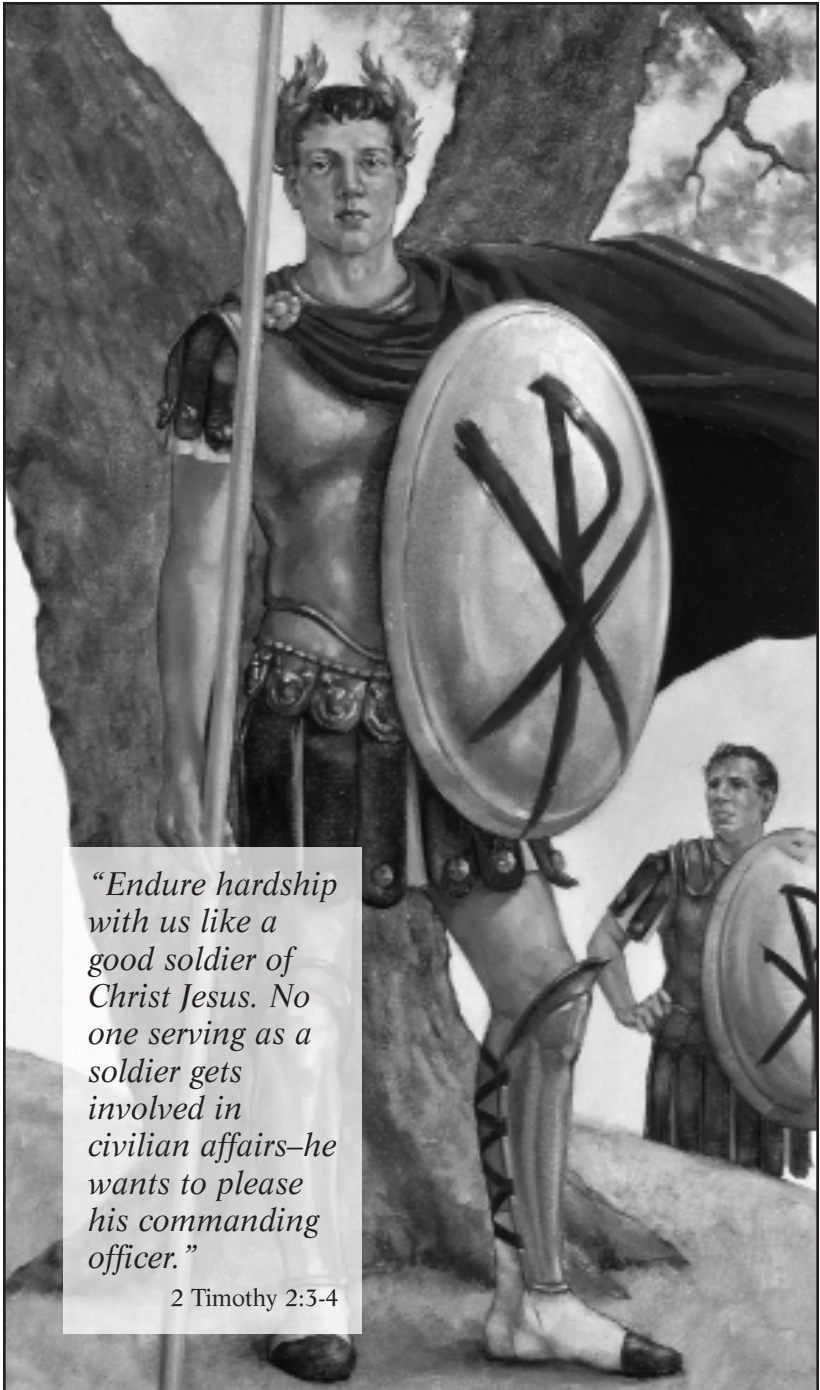
1. Where does a Christian's strength lie? Why was Paul concerned with Timothy's selection of ministers?
2. Paul turns to military metaphors (2:3-4). How would the persecution of Christians by Emperor Nero in A.D. 64 make these metaphors more meaningful?
3. Then Paul turns to athletic metaphors (v. 5). How would the Olympic games help Timothy to understand Christian self-discipline?
4. Paul's third metaphor is about farmers. How do you think this is relevant to spiritual matters?
5. Verses 11-13 may have been an early Christian baptismal hymn. Note the importance of commitment and faithfulness.

LIVING
out the Word

1. Of Paul's three metaphors about self-discipline, which best engages you? Soldier, athlete or farmer?
2. What rewards motivate you? (a) money, (b) crowns, (c) winning, (d) eating, (e) happiness, (f) salvation.

WINDOW
on the Word

Roman soldiers were the means of control for the Emperor. After Nero burned Rome in A.D. 64, apparently so he could get rid of the poor and needy, the uproar from Roman citizens quickly convinced him that a scapegoat was needed. This scapegoat was found in Christians. Soldiers were dispatched to capture and kill those in Rome who professed Jesus as Lord and God. Christians who endured such persecution found comfort in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.



“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.”

2 Timothy 2:3-4