

The First Letter to Timothy

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we look at the fourth section of **1 Timothy**, which is a very practical section, giving specific instructions with regard to three main groups of people – widows, elders and slaves. Even though Paul is dealing with issues in the specific cultural and historical context of first-century Ephesus, the general principles that can be gleaned from this section still apply today.

This section can be divided into five subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with them. Type out your answers or jot them down on a piece of paper and file your answers with your morning study.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

- How was Timothy to deal with older and younger men and women? (**5:1-2**).
- How does **5:1-2** relate to **4:16**?

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16

- Why did Paul give these instructions regarding widows? (**5:7**).
- What were the conditions set by Paul for a widow to be put on the church’s welfare list? (**5:3-10,16**).
- Who has denied the faith and is “worse than an unbeliever”? (**5:8**).
- Why did Paul tell Timothy not to put younger widows on the list? (**5:11-13**).
- What did Paul counsel younger widows to do and why? (**5:14**).

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-20

- Who were worthy of “double honor” (i.e. financial support)? (**5:17-18**).
- When should an accusation against an elder be entertained? (**5:19**).

Read 1 Timothy 5:21-25

- How did Paul charge Timothy to keep “these instructions”? (**5:21**).

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2

- What are the things Timothy should “teach and urge on them”? (**6:1-2**).

Memory Verse

The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

1 Timothy 5:24-25

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!