

The First Letter to Timothy

3

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 fifth and final section of **1 Timothy**, which contains within it the primary charge from Paul to Timothy. You will note that this charge, found in **6:11-14** is echoed right throughout the letter (see **1:18-19; 4:11-12,15-16**). In fact, notice the number of times Paul uses the expressions, "I charge you..." (**5:21; 6:13**), "I give (or write) you this instruction" (**1:18; 3:14**;), and "I urge..." (**1:3; 2:1**). Notice also how Paul continually tells Timothy to "command" or "urge" the believers at Ephesus to adhere to sound doctrine (**1:3; 4:11; 6:2; 6:17-18**).

This section can be divided into three 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 6:3-10

- How does Paul define "false doctrines"? (**6:3**).
- How does Paul describe those who teach "false doctrines"? (**6:4-5**).
- What happens to people who want to get rich? (**6:9-10**).
- What is the "root of all kinds of evil"? (**6:10**).

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16

- What does Paul command Timothy to flee from? (**6:11**) (see **6:9-10**).
- What is Timothy to pursue instead? (**6:11**).
- In the light of the whole of Paul's first letter to Timothy, what do you think is the "good fight" that Timothy is called to fight? (**6:12**).
- When was Timothy "called" to eternal life? (**6:12**).
- What command is Timothy instructed to keep "without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ"? (**6:14**) (see **6:11-13; 4:16**).

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-21

- What was Timothy to command those who are rich? (**6:17-18**).
- What was the purpose of this command? (**6:19**).
- How do Paul's final instructions relate to the rest of the letter? (**6:20-21**).

Memory Verse

But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:11-12

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!