

# 1 Timothy

*“..physical training is of some value,  
but godliness has value for all things,  
holding promise for both the present  
and the life to come.”*

*1Timothy 4:8 (NIV)*



Seven Studies in the New Testament Book of 1 Timothy

Kenmore Presbyterian Church

## An Introduction to these Bible Studies

Before we start, I have a confession - we will not look at every verse of this letter. We will cover *most* of it either at church or in Growth Group, but what is more important is that we work hard at applying the bits we do look at. I also have a request - please help each other draw-out the implications of the truths we find in 1 Timothy, rather than just finish every question in each Bible study.

And why are we looking at 1 Timothy together? Well, 1 Timothy is a great part of the Bible to kick-off a new year together. As you read you'll discover that Paul left Timothy in Ephesus so that he could straighten out issues of false doctrine and ungodliness in the church (1 Timothy 1:3-7). He writes to make sure Timothy, and others, know how Christians should live as God's church (1 Timothy 3:14-15). You'll notice the emphasis on truth and on godliness. Being truly godly will mean sharing God's desire to see people saved and growing to know the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

Looking at this letter together will help us think about church, and how we can work together to see people saved and growing in godliness. So, it's a good way to re-focus as we start 2009. Pray that we would grow in knowing the truth about God. Pray that this truth would change our hearts and minds, so we grow in godliness.

Here's the plan for our Bible studies:

<b>8-14 Feb</b>	Study 1 – Introductions
<b>15-21 Feb</b>	Study 2 – TRUTH and godliness
<b>22-28 Feb</b>	Study 3 – GENDER and godliness
<b>1-7 Mar</b>	Study 4 – LEADERS and godliness
<b>8-14 Mar</b>	Study 5 – TRAINING in godliness
<b>15-21 Mar</b>	Study 6 – CHURCH and godliness
<b>22-28 Mar</b>	Study 7 – CONTENTMENT and godliness
<b>29 Mar – 5 Apr</b>	Spare / Social

\* your Growth Group may fit this in earlier in the term?

# Study 1: Introductions

## Growth Group is more than a Bible Study

We call our mid-week groups 'Growth Groups' as a way of reminding ourselves that we aim to grow - both in maturity as followers of Jesus, and in numbers. Growth Groups are central to what makes our church *work*. We like to think in terms of **growing in Growth Group** and **servicing on Sunday**. Of course that is oversimplified, but it can help us stay focussed. While Bible Study is the core of our Growth Group meetings, we want to ensure that they are **more than just a Bible Study**. We aim to care for each other, pray together, find ways to serve one another, and encourage each other to share the truth about Jesus with friends and family. In other words, Growth Groups are about fellowship, service, sharing, praying, learning and challenging.

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Other Growth Groups

Thank God for those who have committed themselves to being a part of a Growth Group. Pray that each of the groups would grow this term.

### 2. The Weekend at Home 7-8 March

Pray that everyone would be able to make it. Ask that Peter Hughes would challenge us with the truth of God's word. And pray that we would enjoy spending time together over the weekend.

## An Introduction to Paul's letter to Timothy

Now we will spend some time digging around and working out what we can about Paul's letter to Timothy in Ephesus. Hopefully this will give us something to continue referring back to on our way through the rest of the letter.

## Meet Timothy

Let's build a profile of Timothy. We're going to jump around the New Testament and read a number of passages. Please **stay focussed on trying to get to know who Timothy is**, don't get distracted by other issues (note down any other observations to talk about at another time).

Here's some passages to read. Work your way through them together, rather than break it up for smaller groups or individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are in a large group, you may find it better to pray in pairs or in groups of three.

Acts 16:1-5, 17:10-15, 19:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3, 2 Timothy 1:2,4-5, 3:10-4:5; Romans 16:21; 1Corinthians 4:17,16:10-11; 2Corinthians 1:1; 1; Thessalonians 1:1; Philippians 1:1, etc...

## Timothy

Where is Timothy From?

What do we know about his parents and grandparents?

What sort of reputation does he have?

What 'ministry experience' does he have?

What sort of relationship does Timothy have with the apostle Paul?

What else can you say about Timothy?

## Meet the Church at Ephesus

Once again, let's read around and see what we can learn about the church in Ephesus.

Acts 18:18-28, 19:1-22; Revelation 2:1-7

## The church in Ephesus

What can you say about the church at Ephesus?

What potential issues might there be for the church in Ephesus?

## Now let's take a glimpse at the letter itself...

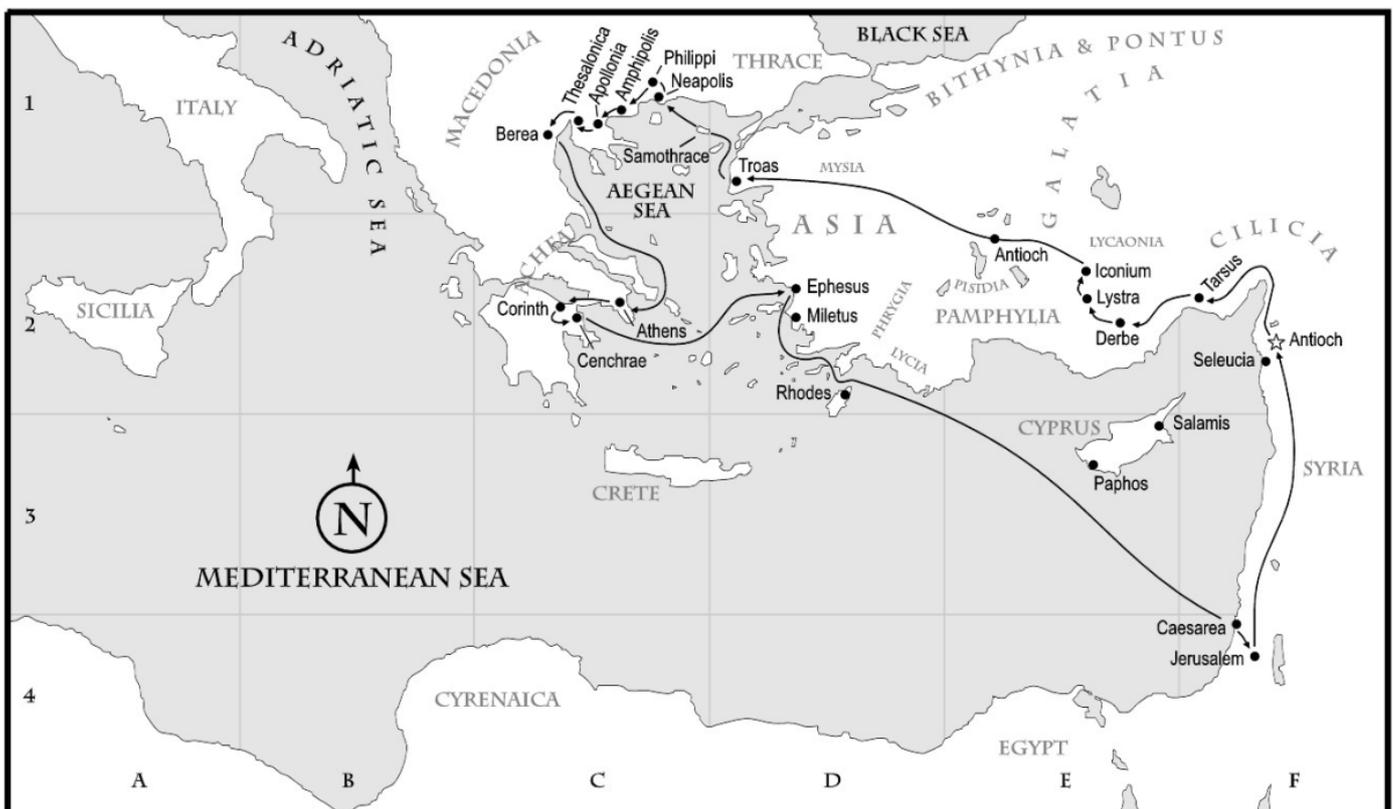
Read these three short passages 1:1-4, 3:14-15, 6:20-21

1. Why did Paul write to Timothy?
2. Isn't this just a personal letter from Paul to Timothy? Isn't it inappropriate to open other people's mail? How does our understanding of why Paul wrote, and what he wrote about, help us to answer this question?
3. What other thoughts do you have about this letter?

We'll leave it there for this week. Next week we'll have a closer look at chapter one in particular.

## Prayer

Have one or two people pray for what you have discussed, and for our time looking at 1 Timothy in the next few weeks.



# Study 2: TRUTH & godliness

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

### 1. KPC Kids and KPC Youth

Give thanks to God for the children and high-schoolers in our church. Thank God too for those who are giving up their time to teach in KPC Kids and KPC youth. Ask that the young people in our church might grow in godliness as they grow in their understanding of the truth.

### 2. Zimbabwe

Pray for the situation in Zimbabwe, and for the many who are struggling to survive and to hold their families together. Pray also for Highlands Presbyterian Church and others who are doing what they can to help. Ask that through all this people would some-how be convicted of the truth of the gospel and put their trust in God.

## 1 Timothy 1: TRUTH and godliness

Last week we did some background work to understand a little more about the Timothy, the church in Ephesus, and the relationship between Paul and Timothy. **What do you remember from your discussions?**

Now let's look at 1 Timothy chapter 1. **Read 1:1-2**

1. What authority does Paul have as an apostle? (Discuss)

**Read 1:3-7** and have a look at a map (the one on page 4) and familiarize yourselves with the places that Paul is talking about.

2. Why does Paul say that he wants Timothy to stay in Ephesus?
3. If you were to try and work out exactly what these men were teaching it would be hard – we don't have a lot to go on. So regardless what the heresy might have been...
  - a. Why does Paul want Timothy to stop these men?
  - b. With what motives should Timothy stop them?
4. Think about a time that you have disagreed with someone, even someone at church. It's easy to become self-righteous, and to fail to see your own faults, isn't it? Your disagreement can become a competition, to prove that YOU are right while THEY are wrong.

Paul tells Timothy, in effect, that his rebuke needs to show love. How can that be done?

In verses 6-7 Paul basically says that some people have lost the plot. They want to be teachers of the Old Testament law (presumably these people are expecting Christians to uphold the finer details and religious

traditions of the Jews). Paul says they don't know what they are talking about. Then he says more about the law... let's see what he says.

Read 1:8-11

5. How do you think the law can be used properly? (v8)
6. Why is the law NOT for the righteous? (v9)
7. The issue of false teaching, and the importance of the truth is theme that runs throughout this letter. For example, read Timothy 4:1-5.

Paul has just told Timothy to command certain men not to teach rubbish. Now in vs 12-17 Paul reminds Timothy of the truth, and uses himself as an example. This can be read in contrast to 1:8-11.

Read 1:12-17.

8. How does he show that he understands God's grace?
9. Have a go at putting verses 12-17 into your own words. What I mean is, pretend you're Paul speaking with Timothy... how would you summarise all that into 'Australian'?

Read vs. 18-20

10. How have Hymenaeus and Alexander shipwrecked their faith?
11. What do you think the 'instruction' is in verse 18. Is it the same instruction as in v3?

Defending the truth against false teaching is the major concern in this opening chapter. This theme runs through the rest of the letter too.

12. Why is it important to stop false teaching? Discuss.
13. What sort of false teaching are we up against, and how can it undermine our trust in Jesus.

Eg. It is not politically correct to say that Jesus is the only way to God. That is, it sounds harsh to say that well-meaning people of other religions will not be in heaven with God. So many Christians will not say that we must trust in Jesus alone. How is this view false? What are some of the consequences of thinking this way?

14. How are truth and godliness connected?

## Prayer

Have one or two people pray for what you have discussed, and for our time looking at 1 Timothy in the next few weeks.

*To talk about later...*

We can understand the main point of chapter one without nailing down every detail. But you may like to talk further about these two questions.

1. Have a go at guessing what the prophecies made about Timothy might be?

2. Any ideas what it means to hand these men over to Satan?

# Study 3: GENDER & godliness

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

### 1. AFES - UQ

Pray for Andrew Brown and the others who work with University Students at UQ. Pray that Bible studies would get under-way, that many new students would join, and that together they would be growing in know Christ and making him known.

### 2. Other Churches

Pray for the Eatons Hill church plant, as they move into their third year together. Pray for Garnett as he leads the new church. Pray too for the Unichurch plant in Dutton Park. Pray for Wez and Paula and the others who are working with them.

## Gender and Godliness – the way it was meant to be

As we begin to talk about godliness and gender differences, why not kick things off by **sharing your thoughts on how men and women are different**. Is it true that men can't do two things at once?

In the next few minutes we are going to look at a range of Bible passages. Please keep moving ahead, so you have time to talk about practical implications. We'll start in Genesis.

### Men and women are made in God's image

Read Genesis 1:26-28

1. What is our place in this world – as men and women?
2. Is there any distinction between men and women?

### Men and women are 'equal', but we're made with 'different' roles

As we move from Genesis 1 into Genesis 2, we start to see things from a different angle, and we are given more details than in chapter 1.

Genesis 2:15-25

3. Why did God make the woman?
4. How would you describe the way the man and woman ought to relate?
5. Is this different to what we read in Genesis 1:26-28?

## Men and Women no longer relate in the way that we ought to

Most would be familiar with how Adam and Eve rebelled against God by eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So, as you re-read this account, pay attention to the relationship between the man and the woman. Read Genesis 3:1-10.

6. How did Satan deceive the woman?
7. How would you describe the relationship between the man and woman – who played what role as they sinned against God.
8. Who was *responsible* for the original sin – the man or the woman, or the serpent? (v8)

God can't ignore sin, he must punish it, so he does. Read Genesis 3:11-19.

9. What happens to the relationship between the woman and the serpent, as a result of God's judgement? (v15)
10. What happens to the relationship between the man and woman? (v16)

It's worth comparing Genesis 3:16 with Genesis 4:7b – because the same verbs/sentence structure are used. In 4:7b sin 'desires' to have Cain, but Cain must 'master' it. Similarly, in 3:16, the woman will 'desire' to have her husband (his position of leadership), but he will 'master' (or over-power) her. It's not a pretty picture of marriage in the fallen world!

From that day on men and women have struggled to get back to the way things once were – marriage where the husband loves and leads, and the wife respects and helps. Team work - as we rule over God's creation and populate it.

As we read 1 Timothy chapter 2 you will be aware that Genesis 1-3 is there in the background.

## Gender and Godliness – what Christians should be aiming at

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15. At the risk of losing some of the context we're going to jump into the parts of the passage that are addressed to men and women.

11. What does Paul want **men** to do? (v8)
12. What does Paul want **women** to do? (v9-10)
13. Share your thoughts on how and why the instructions to men and women are different.
14. **Take some time to talk together about how we can encourage Christian men and women to be more godly.**

\*\*\*\* *don't rush this question*

Who is PAUL to be telling  
ME what to do?

Here's some more things to think about in your own time.

1. Paul says "I want.." (v8), "I also want.." (v9), "I do not permit" (v12). So, can't we just disagree with him and do what WE want?
2. How much weight of authority do Paul's words carry, as an apostle? (Read 1 Tim 1:1)
3. Is Paul on his own with these instructions, or do they ring true with the rest of the Bible (eg Genesis 1-3)?
4. Why is it that this passage (in particular 1 Timothy 2:11-12) sounds so counter-cultural? What should we do about that?

Now we come to how men and women should relate to one another in church.

15. How does Paul expect men and women to behave? (v11-12)
16. How many reasons does he give and what are his reasons?
17. Verse 15 is notoriously difficult. Share your thoughts on what you think it means, but be prepared to disagree!
18. How does reading Genesis 1-3 help us understand these instructions to men and women in verses 11 to 15?

Let's look at the passage more closely, and think a bit harder. **Take time on the next few questions.** Please be quick to listen and slow to judge. Talk about your ideas trying not to be 'legalistic'. Work hard at trying to understand the main principles, and leave some of the details unresolved if you need to.

19. What does it mean to 'teach' and 'have authority'?
20. What does it mean to be 'silent'? (cf 1 Timothy 2:2)
21. So what should and shouldn't women do in church?
22. In contrast, what should men be doing in church?

23. **Take some time to talk together about how we can encourage Christian men and women to be more godly when it comes to church.**

### *Men and Women in the NT*

There are numerous places in the New Testament where we are told how men and women ought to relate in marriage and in church.

If all this is new to you, then you may like to Read some of the other passages as well. Here's a good start.

Ephesians 5:22-33

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Colossians 3:18-20

Titus 2:1-10

1 Peter 3:1-7

etc...

1 Timothy 2 is one of the parts of the bible that we should re-visit more often – because it is so different to the way Australians tend to think. You'll probably have to cut conversations short and continue interacting with each other in informal ways. Let's finish by spending some time in prayer.

## **Prayer**

Have one or two people pray for what you have discussed, and ask for patience and persistence in working out how these truths ought to shape the way we relate to men and women

# Study 4: Godly LEADERS

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

**1. People who are training for ministry**

Pray for Rachel Enchelmaier at College in Sydney. Also pray for Matt Viney, Dan, Brad and others who are studying at QTC. Pray that they would be prepared for many years in full-time ministry.

**2. Those who govern us**

Pray for our Federal, State and local governments, and those who are elected to represent us. Pray that they would govern well. And ask that we would enjoy peace, so that we can live godly lives and share the gospel freely (1 Timothy 2).

## Godly Leaders

Talk about how our church is structured – as a Presbyterian Church. How do we fit into the rest of the denomination? What do you perceive to be strengths and weaknesses in the way that we do things?

Well, 1 Timothy chapter 3 doesn't **actually tell us much about how we ought to structure our church**. But that was still a helpful conversation for you to have! What Paul is more concerned with – is the **character** of those who take care of the church.

**Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7** to get a feel for what is expected of those who would oversee God's church.

1. In pairs (or on your own) take one of these qualities and think about it. <sup>2</sup>

<i>Temperate</i>	What does it mean?
<i>Self-controlled</i>	What would a person look like if they lived it?
<i>Respectable</i>	Who do you know that fits the description?
<i>Hospitable</i>	Can you think of some examples/actions that demonstrate this quality?
<i>Able to teach</i>	Why is this quality desirable in a Christian leader?

<sup>2</sup> Don't worry if you do not have enough people/pairs to cover every quality. It's more important to get your head around a few of them rather than gloss them all. You'll notice that there are more qualities in the passage too.

Share what your thoughts from 1, then re-read 1 Timothy 3:1-7

2. What does Paul require of an overseer's relationship to his wife and family? Why is this important?
3. What danger is there in making a new convert an overseer? Is this danger limited to new converts?
4. What might 'a good reputation with outsiders' look like? Why is it important?
5. In the light of the passage, and your discussions so far - what might it mean for an overseer to be **above reproach**? (v2)

Well, we know what an overseer should be like. And we're told that the task of overseeing God's church is a noble one (1 Timothy 3:1). In the next few verses we read what Paul says about deacons and their wives.

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

6. Comment on the similarities and differences between these qualities and those required of an overseer.
7. What do you think v13 means?

Now let's read the last part of the chapter. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

8. Why does Paul say he is writing to Timothy?
9. What is the relationship between the church, the truth, godliness and Jesus?

In v15 it sounds like the church supports and holds the truth. While in v16 the mystery (the truth of the gospel) is tied to godliness and seen in Jesus. It may sound confusing. Unless perhaps you're a bit 'arty' in which case you'll probably appreciate the neatness of it. **At very least we can say that 'the truth' and 'godliness' matter greatly when it comes to God's church.** Paul is concerned that the Ephesian Christians conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, and he knows having godly leaders is the place to start. But it does not stop with leaders.

10. Have a look back over the qualities required in overseers, deacons, and deacon's wives. Which qualities would you want to see in the life of every Christian?
11. What motivation is there to be godly, if we are not 'leaders' in our church family?
12. What can we do to encourage and help each other grow to be more like Jesus?

## Prayer

Have one or two people pray for what you have discussed – for those who lead our church and for each of us that we would be growing in godliness.

### *What is an Overseer?*

The word translated 'overseer' is different to 'deacon' (in v8 and v12) and different to 'elder' (eg. 5:17). It is sometimes translated 'bishop.'

In Acts 20:17, 28 Paul uses the words *overseer* and *elder* interchangeably.

Perhaps elders and overseers are one and the same? Or perhaps overseers and elders are just the same?

The truth is we are left guessing. In fact as you look at this chapter it would be hard to put together a job description for an overseer or a deacon.

# Study 5: TRAINING in godliness

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

**1. Give thanks for the weekend at home**

Thank God for the chance to spend time together on the weekend at home. Pray that we would continue to think about the things we were taught from the Bible too.

**2. Pray for Rachel as she prepares to go overseas with CMS**

On the weekend at home we heard about Rachel who is preparing to go overseas with the Church Missionary Society later this year. She will be visiting us as a church in the last week of May. Until then, pray for Rachel as she prepares to leave, and pray for her safety as she tries to share the truth about Jesus.

## 1 Timothy 4 – Training in Godliness

*Talk together about the sorts of things that might lead people away from wanting to be a follower of Jesus?*

Now read **1 Timothy 4:1 and 16**. Notice how this chapter begins by saying that some will abandon the faith, and ends by telling Timothy to watch both his **life** and his **doctrine**, so that he might save himself and his hearers. In other words Timothy needs to be godly in the way that he lives AND correct in what he teaches.

Now Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. Paul says people will follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. What might be so deceitful and damaging about not letting people marry or not letting them eat certain foods?
2. Can you recall some of the qualities Timothy is to look for in Overseers and Deacons? (in chapter 3) How are these deceivers different?

*Think about it...*

3. Can you think of false godliness, or lies that we need to be wary of? (celibacy and diet do not immediately jump to mind)

We don't have the full picture to draw on in understanding the context – but it sounds like these false teachers are promoting false-godliness. Behaviour that looks good on the outside, but which is in fact built on the lies and deceit of the devil. Paul is telling Timothy to speak the truth into this environment, and to watch his life and doctrine as he does so.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-16.

Paul wants Timothy to be training himself to be godly, and he wants him to be leading others into godliness as well. Talk about the following:

4. How does the hope of heaven shape Paul's instructions to Timothy (eg. v8, v10)?
5. What place does reading and teaching the Bible have in building people up in godliness (eg. v6, 13)?
6. And how much will Timothy's example play a part in building people up in godliness (eg. 7, 15-16)?

*Think about it.*

7. Look back over your answers to the previous three questions and talk about the part *we* might each be able to play in helping prevent others from wandering from the faith, and instead see them training in godliness.
8. Do you think you can call on others to follow *your* example? If not, what might you need to change in your life?
9. Brainstorm a few ways that you, as a group, can help each other identify false-hood and be training in Godliness.

In this passage there are at least two reminders that we are reading a 'personal' letter. Firstly, verse 12 where Paul tells Timothy not to let people look down in him because of his age. And secondly v14 where Paul tells him not to neglect his gift. Given the context (v11-14) what would you say Timothy's gift might be?

Well, it's not really too complicated today/tonight is it? We need to be training to be more godly. Focusing our hope in Jesus, filling our mind with God's word, and following godly examples will all help us to grow to be more like Jesus. On the other hand, if we get sloppy in our doctrine, or in our lives - not only will it be damaging to our faith, but we may well lead others astray as well.

## Prayer

Have one or two people pray about what you have discussed. Pray for each one of us as we train to be more godly.

# Study 6: CHURCH & godliness

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

### Friends and Family who are not Christians

Share briefly and pray together for your family and friends who still need to put their trust in Jesus and to submit to him as ruler and judge.

## Bible Study: CHURCH & Godliness

1. *Share some of the things that you like about being a part of the KPC church family.*

In 1 Timothy 3:14-15 Paul tells Timothy why he is writing. He is writing so that Timothy (and the others who read this letter) will know how people should conduct themselves as part of God's church. So what has Paul told Timothy so far?

2. Flick through all that we have read in 1 Timothy (chapter 1-4) and discuss the bits that touch on 'church' and how people should conduct themselves as God's church (eg. 2:11-12, 3:1ff, 3:14-16, 4:13-16...).

Now let's read on. **Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2**

Originally these were instructions for Timothy – telling him how to treat people as he pushes them to be more godly. At the same time we are given a glimpse at how we ought to treat each other as part of God's church. So let's think about that for a while.

3. Talk about what it may practically mean for you to treat older men as fathers...
4. ... younger men as brothers ...
5. ... older women as mothers ...
6. ... younger women as sister ...
7. So how are we doing as a church?

In the rest of today's passage Paul talks about widows, elders and slaves. Let's have a look at what he says about each.

## Widows

### Read 1 Timothy 5:3-8

8. How might we 'give proper recognition' to widows that are in need?
9. Who else might we need to treat in a similar way to widows? (eg perhaps single mums?)
10. Have another look at v4 and v8. Who are our immediate family and how should we be providing for them?
11. In the next section of the passage it may be that the 'list of widows' was a way of involving widows in the life of the church in some capacity of service, while in turn providing for them. What you think? **Read 1 Timothy 5:9-16**

As people grow old and frail, we can tend to exclude them from decision making or even from social activities. For a widow (or widower) you can imagine how damaging this can be.

Perhaps giving 'proper recognition' includes treating elderly widows (and widowers) as worthy of our time and energy?

## Elders

Next Paul talks to Timothy about elders. Elders are to be respected. Yet with respect comes responsibility too. **Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25**

12. What does it mean to be 'worthy of double honour'?
13. Under what situations might it be appropriate to publicly rebuke a church leader? How might it be done?

## Slaves<sup>3</sup>

Finally Paul has some advice on how slaves should live. **Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2**

14. What motivation is there for Christian slaves so serve well?
15. Does this apply to us in any way?

## Think about it

Paul has covered a range of things, but everything is connected with his desire to see the church in Ephesus growing to be more godly. So let's think about our church in Kenmore.

16. Does our church feel like a family? Should it?
17. How well are we caring for 'those who are really widows'? (and others in need?)
18. Are there ways in which you (the members of this growth group) need to change?

## Prayer

Have one or two people pray for our church, in the light of your discussions today/tonight.

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<sup>3</sup> leave this section out if you are pushed for time.

# Study 7: CONTENTMENT & godliness

## Praying Together

Pray for some of the things you have already discussed since arriving today/tonight. Share any other concerns and also pray for:

**1. Friends and family who are not yet Christians**

Continue to pray for some of those you mentioned/talked about last week.

**2. Pray of opportunities to share your faith this Easter**

Pray that Easter might give us each opportunities to share the reason for our hope as Christians.

Pray too for our Easter services (Friday and Sunday, plus the brunch on Friday) – ask that we would have visitors and that we would work together to make the truth about Jesus clear.

## Bible Study: CONTENTMENT & Godliness

The issue of false teachers in Ephesus sits behind most of what we have read in this short letter. Here in chapter 6 false teachers are mentioned again – but this time Paul launches into the topic of greed, by saying that the false teachers are after financial gain.

### Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10

1. How do you think 'godliness' could be a means to financial gain?
2. In contrast with the greed of these false teachers, Paul says godliness with *contentment* is great gain (v6). What is contentment?
3. Talk about the sorts of things which can stop you from feeling content?
4. What reasons are we given, in this passage, for being content?
5. Is Paul saying that money is evil?
6. What things can the love of money lead to? Can you think of examples of how people have 'pierced themselves with many griefs'?

7. How do you think you would know if you are loving money?

**Read 1 Timothy 6:11-17 and 20-21**

8. What does Paul say to Timothy to encourage him to flee ungodliness and the love of money?
9. How can being focussed on heaven help us to avoid the love of money?

The last part of this chapter gives specific instructions to those who are rich – like we are, here in Australia.

**Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.**

10. What should we do?
11. How well are we doing it?

**Think about it**

Greed or love of money is just one more thing that threatens to pull our eyes off Jesus – to stop us serving him whole heartedly as we wait for his return. Like in the garden of Eden, Satan wants us to doubt God’s goodness... he undermines our appreciation of just how rich we already are – in Christ.

12. What can we do for one-another to help each one of us keep our hope fixed on Jesus and keep money in its place?



**Looking Back...**

1. Take some time to flick back through 1 Timothy and share things that you have been caused to think about in the last seven/eight weeks.
2. In what ways have *you* been challenged to grow?

**Prayer**

Have one or two people pray for all that we have learned, been reminded of, and challenged by as we have worked our way through 1 Timothy this term.

*“..physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present and the life to come.” 1Timothy 4:8 (NIV)*