

# Paul's First Letter to TIMOTHY

*My Dear Timothy:*

**T**his is from Paul, a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent out by a command from God our Savior, and from the Lord Jesus Christ who is our hope.

<sup>2</sup>Timothy, you are my true son in the faith.<sup>a</sup> May God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord continue to grant you favor you never could have earned, resulting in God being merciful to you and giving you great peace.

## ***Warning Against False Teaching***

<sup>3</sup>As I urged you when I left for northern Greece, be sure to stay in Ephesus so that you may command certain men to stop spreading their false teachings.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Demand also that they stop wasting their time reciting mythological tales and the endless lists of their ancestors. Subjects of that nature cause only arguments, while preaching God's truth results in building up the Lord's followers in the faith.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Now the result you are aiming for in giving this command is to promote love for both God and man, coming from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a faith that is genuine.

<sup>6</sup>But some of your preachers and teachers are way off course, and their teaching is actually without aim or purpose.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>They want to be known as teachers who can clearly explain the real meaning of the Law of Moses. But they don't even understand the true intent of the Law, so they know nothing about what they are so strongly teaching as truth.

<sup>8</sup>Now we know that the Law does indeed serve a

good purpose if a person has a right understanding of it and properly explains it.

<sup>9</sup>One must first realize that the Law is not directed at people whose main goal in life is to please God, but at lawbreakers and rebels, at the ungodly and the sinful, at the unholy and disrespectful, at those who even kill their fathers and mothers, and at all other murderers.

<sup>10</sup>It's also directed at fornicators<sup>a</sup> and sexual perverts,<sup>b</sup> at kidnappers and liars, at those who lie by giving false testimony, and at all who act in a manner contrary to wholesome teaching.

<sup>11</sup>These regulations are also a vital part of the glorious Great News which has been entrusted to me by our marvelous God.

## ***Thanks Be to God for His Kindness***

<sup>12</sup>I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord for regarding me as one whom He could trust, and for that reason appointing me to serve Him, and then giving me the strength to do so.

<sup>13</sup>Even though I used to curse Jesus and speak violently against Him, being cruelly insulting and rude to His followers and persecuting them in a most violent way, I was shown mercy because I did it without realizing what I was actually doing. I honestly didn't believe that Jesus was our long-awaited Messiah.

<sup>14</sup>So the mercy God showed me was far beyond anything I deserved, resulting in wonderful faith and love toward Christ Jesus on my part.

<sup>15</sup>A trustworthy statement that deserves to be wholeheartedly accepted by everyone is this: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.** And of all sinners, I was the worst.<sup>a</sup>

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**1:2a** He was won to Christ by Paul, and served the Lord in the same selfless spirit that Paul did.

**1:3a** There is good reason to believe that the church in Ephesus was scattered in many homes, headed by an elder or bishop (overseer). Some think these home groups numbered in the hundreds.

Each group was headed by a congregational leader or elder, and training was something that essentially took place within each group. Though Paul's letters dealt with current problems in the churches, they were essentially training instruc-

tions for pastors and church leaders.

**1:4a** ... *and in winning the lost to faith in Jesus Christ.*

**1:6a** ... *preaching that makes no meaningful, lasting impact on the hearts of people for the glory of God.*

**1:10a** Fornication is voluntary sexual intercourse between persons of the opposite sex, who are not married to each other.

**1:10b** See Romans 1:26-27 note.

**1:15a** If God can forgive and give a new life to the worst sinner, He can forgive and give a new life to

<sup>16</sup>But I obtained mercy because Jesus Christ wanted to use me as object lesson number one, so He could show all others, by the inexhaustibly patient way He dealt with me, the worst sinner, how very merciful He wants to be to everyone else who will believe<sup>a</sup> in Him, and that they will live forever by doing so.

<sup>17</sup>May the King who rules thruout all ages, who will never die, be given honor and glory forever and ever! Human eyes cannot see Him, but He alone, our God, is the only One who has complete wisdom in regard to all things! And so may it ever be!

<sup>18</sup>Timothy, my son, here are my instructions to you: If you are careful to faithfully follow the instructions you received when those prophets prophesied about you, then you can continue to fight well in the Lord's battles.

<sup>19</sup>Continue to live in obedience to the faith!<sup>a</sup> By doing so, you will always have a clear conscience.<sup>b</sup> Some have believed that they don't need to obey the commands and obligations of the faith, and by following thru in that belief, they have made a shipwreck of their faith.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Included among those are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to punish until they learn to stop speaking abusively against God's plain truth.<sup>a</sup>

### How to Pray

**2** Here, then, is what I urge upon all followers of the Lord: Our first duty is to plead before God

you.

**1:16a** What does it mean to believe in Jesus? See Luke 14:26-33; John 3:36; Acts 16:31; Galatians 3:11, and the notes there.

**1:19a** This sentence is translated from just two words in the Greek text, *Holding faith*. Holding is in the present tense, denoting present continuous action. The implication here is obedience.

This is not referring to being faithful by continuing to believe with the mind, but to believe from the heart (Romans 10:9-10) by realizing what one's Christian duty is, and obeying all of Christ's teachings. No selective obedience is allowed from any soldier in any army. The expectation is total obedience to all commands—or court-martial will surely follow. And God's commands are no less demanding. Galatians 5:19-23; 6:7-9.

**1:19b** Again, this does not mean that God demands sinless perfection. He knows how weak we are. But He does demand perfect intent. That means that you will need to study the instruction manual, the New Testament, continuously, to be

for everyone. Intercede and plead most earnestly in prayer for them.<sup>a</sup> And don't fail to thank God for the way He is working in answer to your prayers.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Pray in the same way for the top government leaders, and for all who are in places of authority in our government, industry, and elsewhere. This will hopefully lead to our being allowed to live a peaceful and trouble-free life as we worship and serve God, and as we obey Him in our conduct toward our fellow men.

<sup>3</sup>It is only right that we pray in this way, and God our Savior is pleased when we do.

<sup>4</sup>Because it is His earnest desire that everyone should come to know what the truth really is, and be saved.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Put briefly, the truth is this:

There is only one God,<sup>a</sup> and there is only one Person who can act as a go-between between God and man. That Person is the Man whom we know as Christ Jesus.

<sup>6</sup>He's the One who gave Himself in suffering and death as a ransom to rescue all of us.<sup>a</sup> And this news will be given to all mankind at the proper times.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>7</sup>It's for this purpose that I've been appointed by God to be a preacher and missionary. Christ is my witness that I'm telling the truth and not lying when I state that I have been sent to tell the Gentiles<sup>a</sup> that they too can be saved by believing this truth.

<sup>8</sup>So I want the men to pray everywhere, men

reminded of what Christ expects from you. A study of the Old Testament is also needful.

The Christian faith is not only a fellowship, but also an army! It's an awesome army, with each member having awesome power thru its Commander. The opposition trembles when confronted by even a single truly dedicated Christian soldier.

But we are powerless if we are insubordinate. To refuse or neglect to obey any command of our Lord means insubordination! And God will deal with insubordination just as severely, and even more severely, than any earthly army officer ever did. So let's determine to shape up in all matters—immediately! Romans 2:6-11; 6:11-16; Galatians 6:7-9; Hebrews 5:9.

**1:19c** Jude 12.

**1:20a** They were evidently speaking against God by teaching that it was not necessary to *fully obey* what Christ and His apostles taught.

**2:1a** And surely we must follow our prayers with our witness for Christ to all who are yet unconverted. It is sinful to expect God to send someone else

who can lift up their hands to God from a life that is pure, and is not fouled up by anger and heated arguments.

<sup>9</sup>I also want the women to dress modestly and sensibly, not trying to call attention to themselves with elaborate hair styles, gold ornaments, pearls, or expensive clothing.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup>The main adornments appropriate for a woman who professes to love and obey the Lord are her good deeds.

<sup>11</sup>She should learn in quietness and be fully submissive.

<sup>12</sup>Nor do I permit a woman to teach men or to have authority over men. She is to remain silent,

<sup>13</sup>because God made Adam first, then Eve.

<sup>14</sup>It wasn't Adam who was fooled by Satan to believe a lie; but it was the woman who was deceived, and who then fell into sin.

<sup>15</sup>But women will also be saved as a result of the birth of the Child,<sup>a</sup> if they continue in faith toward Christ, showing true love for God and mankind, being ever watchful to live holy lives, and control their appetites of the body, and other desires.

### **Qualifications of Church Officers**

**3** Here's a statement that is indeed true: Any man wanting to be a pastor<sup>a</sup> is desiring to do very worthwhile work.

<sup>2</sup>But a pastor must be one who cannot honestly

be charged with doing wrong. He must have only one wife, be cool-headed, wise in practical matters, and well-behaved. He must enjoy opening his home to entertain guests, and be a good teacher of the Scriptures.

<sup>3</sup>He must not be addicted to wine, nor one who is always wanting to fight. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome. He must not be greedy for money, always wanting more.

<sup>4</sup>He must be a man who manages his household well, whose children highly respect and love him and quickly obey without whining.

<sup>5</sup>Because if he doesn't know how to manage and control his own family, how will he be able to properly manage the church of God?

<sup>6</sup>He must not be a new follower of the Lord, or he may become conceited by being chosen so soon. Then he would be judged guilty of being proud, and would receive the same judgment as the devil.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>In addition, he must have the respect of those outside the Church. If he is morally weak, he will surely fall into the devil's trap and become the laughingstock of the world.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, too, must be men who are worthy of respect, not saying one thing and then saying the opposite to someone else. They must not be drinkers of much wine, and must not be greedy for money, especially for money gotten by ignoble or

to witness to them when it's in our power to do so. See vss 4-6.

We must also pray for our fellow Christians and our Christian leaders. Here also we must follow our prayers with action, by speaking to them, especially if it's a minister who is preaching an easy way to Heaven, which is heresy. Don't just leave the church, speak up! Do your part in presenting to Christ (when He returns) *a glorious Church, one having no stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, being pure and unpolluted*. Ephesians 5:27.

**2:1b** By faith thank God for all He is now doing in their situations and in their hearts, and will yet do, as you and others continue to pray for them and witness to them.

**2:4a** But not everyone is willing to accept the truth and obey it, and God will not force anyone to be saved. However, God has given each follower the responsibility of offering them the opportunity.

**2:5a** John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6.

**2:6a** But the rescue provided must be accepted, and the conditions for rescue must be agreed to (that is, turning from sin to living to obey God).

**2:6b** The Greek word *kairois* is plural, and is correctly translated *proper times*.

**2:7a** All who are not Jews.

**2:9a** This is God's will for today as well.

**2:15a** This word is singular in the Greek, referring to the single fact of bearing children, or to a single birth. We believe this refers to the birth of Christ, for the following reasons: It's only by means of Christ that anyone can be saved, certainly not by childbearing. That would be salvation by works, which Paul so often declared was impossible. If women were saved by bearing children, then every woman would need to bear a child in order to be saved. Virgins, and married women who find it impossible to bear children, would have no chance to be saved.

If it means that God will spare the physical lives of women when they give birth to children, if they live holy lives, what about the many godly women who die while giving birth to a child? The only sensible conclusion is that this refers to the birth of Christ. Only because He was born, lived, died for us, and rose from death, can any of us be saved.

**3:1a** All pastors were *bishops*, meaning *overseers* in the early church. Only with the coming of the papacy did a hierarchy develop.

**3:6a** Isaiah 14:12-15; Jude 6.

dishonest means.

<sup>9</sup>They must not only continue to believe the truths revealed to us by the Great News, but they must also have a clear conscience, by living by what those truths reveal and command.

<sup>10</sup>These men should first be tested in less responsible positions in the church; and only then, if no problems are found with their lives and service, should they be allowed to serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>Their wives<sup>a</sup> too must be women who are worthy of respect, not malicious gossipers, but women who are self-controlled and faithful in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of only one wife, and must manage his children and household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well as deacons gain great respect,<sup>a</sup> and great confidence that their faith in Christ Jesus is genuine.

<sup>14</sup>Although I'm writing these things to you, I'm hoping to come your way soon.

<sup>15</sup>I'm writing this so that even if I'm delayed you'll know how the people ought to behave as members of the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation

support of the truth.

<sup>16</sup>And no one can dispute the fact that the mystery—as to why God has so graciously done so much for His people—is indeed great:

- God appeared to us in a human body.
- He was proved to indeed be the Son of God by the way the Holy Spirit worked thru Him.
- Angels were present and testified at His conception, His birth, His resurrection, and His ascension into Heaven.
- He has been proclaimed as the Savior who came to redeem people in all nations.
- In spite of the wickedness of the human heart, great numbers of people thruout the world have come to believe in Him.
- Then the triumphant Son of God was received back up into Heaven as His followers watched Him go.

### Instructions to Timothy

**4** But in spite of all of this, the Holy Spirit continues to clearly warn that in the last days some will abandon their faith in Christ<sup>a</sup> and attentively listen to lying spirits, to teachings that actu-

**3:11a** Or women who serve as deaconesses, etc.

**3:13a** ... which no doubt will result in further rewards in Heaven.

**4:1a** We find a most serious warning here to believers in Christ. Some will *abandon their faith in Christ* in these last days. They will "apostatize." This certainly teaches that it is possible to apostatize, to *abandon* the faith. No one can *abandon* something that he is not in or does not have. Only unbelievers find it impossible to *abandon their faith*, for they have no faith to abandon. Christians are warned in Hebrews 3:12, *So take warning, my brothers and sisters, and make sure there isn't an evil heart of unbelief in any of you, causing you to turn back from following the living God.*

**4:1b** Many evil spirits exist—*lying spirits*—who seek to lure both the godly and the ungodly to sin. An increasing number of Christians are yielding to their temptations these days. The *teachings of demons* encourage Christians to *abandon their faith* by living sensuous lives, living for the gratification of the flesh and for other God-condemned enjoyments of this brief life.

Every teacher who denies the reality of God, or denies the true teachings of the Bible, is as much of Satan and the demons as the Bible and Christianity are of God! Make sure that you are willing to accept and declare all the counsel of God—not subtracting from or adding to it in order to force it to fit into your system of belief. Any denial of any true teach-

ing of God is of Satan—it is a teaching inspired by demons!

Not every inner witness is authentic. The Bible warns against both self-deception and deceiving spirits. We are to *test the spirits* to make sure it is the Holy Spirit who is speaking, and not a demon. 1 John 4:1. The peril is real. To be preoccupied with inner feeling is dangerous and wrong. You are safe when you go by the teachings of God's word. Anything that does not agree with God's written truth is from the enemy! Beware!

**4:2a** We need not go into details concerning the lies and hypocrisy of those teachers and preachers who have *abandoned their faith*. Their *consciences* are literally *seared by a hot iron*. The warnings in their hearts appear to be completely burned out.

**4:3a** Acts 15:29; 21:25; Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 10:18-33.

**4:4-5a** Various foods were off-limits for the Jews, but this is not to be the case during the New Testament age. Paul gives instructions concerning this in the references given for v 3. But this doesn't mean that *everything God created* remains good.

Both men and angels were good as they were first made, but many of the angels fell, and all of mankind has fallen. Nor does it mean that all that God has made is good for every object to which it can be applied. Lumber from trees is good, but it is not good to be eaten. God has made apples and

ally come from demons.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>2</sup>These teachings will be taught by those who are liars and hypocrites, whose consciences are as dead as if they had been seared by a hot iron.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>3</sup>They will forbid certain people to marry, and forbid the eating of certain foods. But God created these foods to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Because everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected. You are to receive all of it with a prayer of thanks.

<sup>5</sup>When prayer is offered and God's word on this matter is believed, that food is blessed by God for your use.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>6</sup>If you continue to warn your assembly about these lies, you will be doing your duty as a worthy minister of Jesus Christ. In this way, you will be feeding them the true message of faith and sound doctrine, and bringing them to maturity in the faith by the same true teachings that you yourself have so closely followed.

<sup>7</sup>But have nothing to do with using godless, worthless stories in your sermons, which aren't worth telling. Instead, you must continue to per-

form every exercise necessary to keep spiritually strong.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Exercising your body is indeed profitable for a short while, but taking care to build up your spiritual strength is profitable in every way you can think of, both for your present life, and for the next life too.

<sup>9</sup>That is a statement of utmost importance, and should receive everyone's most serious attention.

<sup>10</sup>It's because we have hope in all that God has promised that we work hard, even while we're being accused and criticized. We work and persevere because we believe in a living God who is a Savior of all men,<sup>a</sup> but the Savior especially of all who are His true followers.

<sup>11</sup>So you must continue to teach these things, and you must continue to demand that the people hold firmly to them.

<sup>12</sup>Don't let anyone find any reason to despise you because of your youth. But you must earn their respect by being an example to the believers—by the things you say and the way you say them, how you live, by the genuine love you have for all, by the spirit in which you work and accept situations,

peaches good, and they are still useful and proper as food. The same is true of wheat, rye, and Indian corn, but that doesn't mean that all that people can make from them is necessarily good.

When people make poisonous liquids from these foods, and then say that *everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected*, they are perverting the Scriptures. Those who take license from this Scripture to drink alcoholic beverages will have to answer to God for their perversion.

The terrible price the drunkard and his or her family are forced to pay, and the frightful cost to others who are harmed and otherwise affected by the drunkard should cause us real concern. Many claim they drink only socially, but every drunkard began as a social drinker; he never planned to become a drunkard. Ten percent of all moderate drinkers become drunkards, and none of them intended to be ensnared!

In the U.S.A. today there are over 12 million drunkards and another 12 million problem drinkers. These numbers could actually be much higher in reality. And every drunkard is making life miserable for at least six other people, in the home, place of work, and elsewhere. This is a Satanic curse!

How does a person get to be a drunkard? By drinking moderately. Every moderate drinker is a potential drunkard. If you are a moderate drinker, by your "moderation" you are not only endangering

yourself, but you are also a stumbling block to your family and to others as well. Many following your example will also become moderate drinkers, and some of them will become drunkards.

Another factor of concern in our day is that, of the approximately 52,000 people killed by auto accidents in the USA each year, over one-half are killed by drunken drivers. Consider the needless deep heartaches in these thousands of homes each year, where a loved one is gone just because someone insisted on his right to drink. Consider also the pain and suffering and the needless expense of the multiplied thousands of others who were seriously injured by those drunken drivers. Thousands each year are maimed for life.

You, of course, would never drive while drunk, but by your drinking you are part of the problem, by your influence. You cannot escape your responsibility. Paul never condoned any actions that would result in so much heartache and death.

**4:7a** Feasting on God's word, spending time with God in prayer and meditation, witnessing to the lost, enjoying fellowship with other Christians, taking a determined and brave stand for the Truth.

**4:10a** ... *who experience any kind of deliverance* ... This can also refer to the fact that the atonement of Christ is not limited to just certain people; it is available to all. Hebrews 2:9; Acts 2:21; Revelation 22:17.

by your faith, and by the purity of your life.

<sup>13</sup>Until I come your way, devote yourself to both the private and public reading of the Scriptures, to the teaching of its meaning, and to the challenging of your hearers to put the truths of those Scriptures to work in their lives.

<sup>14</sup>And you must stop neglecting to use the gift God gave you when the elders of the church laid their hands upon your head and the prophecy was given concerning you.

<sup>15</sup>Continue to give serious attention to these things. In fact, give your full attention to them, to the extent that everyone will clearly see the progress you are making.

<sup>16</sup>Always pay close attention to both how you live and what you teach. Continue to be concerned about how truthful and effective they both are, because in doing so you will both ensure your own salvation and the salvation of those who listen to you.

### *Rules for Living with Others*

**5** Correct an older man gently, not harshly; plead with him as you would with a father. Correct the younger men as you would your brothers,

<sup>2</sup>older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with utmost care to maintain purity.

<sup>3</sup>See to it that widows who are truly alone and in need are cared for.

<sup>4</sup>But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn to first put their religion to work at home by repaying their parents and grandparents for all the blessings they have received from them. This is not only the right thing to do, but it also pleases God.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Now the widow who is left utterly alone is a widow indeed. She has only God to look to for help, so she continues to pray for His help day and

night.

<sup>6</sup>But the widow whose main interest is in satisfying her own personal desires is dead already, even while she's alive.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>So continue to warn the people about these things, so that no one will have any legitimate reason to sneer at the widows you support.

<sup>8</sup>But anyone who doesn't provide for his own relatives when they're in need, and especially for his own family, has renounced the Christian faith. He's worse than a heathen!<sup>a</sup>

<sup>9</sup>No widow should be put on the list of those the church should help unless she is over 60, and had been faithful to her husband.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup>She should be well known for the good she has done—for bringing up her children in a faithful way, showing kindness and concern for strangers, helping fellow followers, assisting those in distress, and devoting herself to doing good at every opportunity.

<sup>11</sup>But don't put the younger widows on the list, because when their physical desires are aroused, they may decide to marry and renounce their vows to serve Christ.

<sup>12</sup>By breaking the promise they made when they first became widows, they would then be judged by God.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Also, there's the danger they'll become idle, wandering around from house to house. Then they wouldn't only be idle, but in danger of gossiping and meddling in other people's affairs, and talking about things that are none of their business.

<sup>14</sup>So my advice to younger widows is that they marry again, have children, and take care of their homes. In that way, they won't be giving the enemy any opportunity to make abusive remarks.

<sup>15</sup>Because some widows have already turned from their devotion to Christ to follow Satan.

**5:4a** Because He knows all and sees all.

**5:6a** Physically alive, but spiritually dead.

**5:8a** Even most unbelievers are concerned enough to give of what they have, and care for their relatives and immediate family.

But concerning the giving of food, the same is true spiritually. Anyone who claims to be a Christian, but refuses to share his faith with those who are in need of knowing what he knows, because it will cost him something to do it (time, or maybe rejection, and embarrassment), is under the same indictment. Ezekiel 3:18-19; Romans 10:9-10.

**5:9a** Literally *had been the wife of one man*.

**5:12a** It appears that the widows receiving support from the church did not receive this help as a

hand-out, but pledged themselves to serve the Lord thru the church for the rest of their lives. If they had made this vow under the influence of strong emotions immediately after becoming a widow, the younger ones especially might have second thoughts about this arrangement as time went on. But God doesn't take our promises lightly, even if we sometimes do. God plans to fulfill all of His promises, and He expects us to do the same. So promises broken are treated by God as sin, with punishment sure to follow.

**5:18a** Deuteronomy 25:4; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11.

**5:18b** Luke 10:7.

**5:22a** In other words, investigate a man thoroughly before calling him as your pastor, or before

<sup>16</sup> I will again say: If any man or woman who is a follower of the Lord has widowed relatives who are in need, it is their responsibility to help them, instead of expecting the church to do so. Then the church can help those widows who are truly destitute and have no one to help them.

### ***The Treatment of Pastors***

<sup>17</sup> Pastors who are in charge of the work of the church, who do their work well, should be paid generously. This should be especially true of the pastor who always works hard at both his preaching and teaching.

<sup>18</sup> Because the Scripture says,

**You must not tie up the mouth of an ox to keep it from eating while it's treading out the grain,<sup>a</sup> and The one who works deserves to be paid.<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>19</sup> Don't pay any attention to an accusation against a pastor unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

<sup>20</sup> Those who are found to be sinning are to be rebuked in front of the whole congregation, so that all others will fear the consequences of doing the same.

<sup>21</sup> I call on God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels to be my witnesses as I earnestly charge you to follow these instructions without showing favoritism to anyone. You are to give special consideration to no one!

<sup>22</sup> Never be in a hurry to ordain a man or call a pastor.<sup>a</sup> Don't have any part in the sins of others by calling or ordaining men to work for God who are living in sin. Keep yourself absolutely pure in this regard.

<sup>23</sup> Stop drinking only water, but use a little wine<sup>a</sup> for the problems you are having with your stomach, and for your other frequent ailments.

<sup>24</sup> The sins of some people are obvious, being known by the public before they face the Day of Judgment. But the sins of others won't be known

until they are uncovered on Judgment Day.

<sup>25</sup> The same is true with good deeds. The good deeds of some people can be seen by everyone. But the good deeds not seen won't be hidden forever.<sup>a</sup>

**6** If you are employed<sup>a</sup> by someone, give full honor and respect to your employer by obeying orders and working industriously, so that God and His teachings are not ridiculed because of you.

<sup>2</sup> If your employer is a follower of the Lord, don't be jealous of him or think you don't need to work as hard for him because he's a fellow follower. Instead, work even harder, because the one you are benefiting believes as you do, and he is loved by the Lord. Timothy, you must make a practice of teaching and emphasizing these things.<sup>a</sup>

### ***False Teaching and True Wealth***

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches otherwise, and doesn't agree with the sound teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, teachings that promote godly living, he is conceited and lacks understanding.

<sup>4</sup> He has a sick desire to dispute and argue the fine points of the meaning of words, which results in envy, quarreling, malicious charges, and evil suspicions.

<sup>5</sup> Such people's minds are corrupt, majoring in arguments of no real value or importance. They have no personal acquaintance with the truth. They're only interested in religion if it increases their wealth. Withdraw yourself from such people!

<sup>6</sup> But when we are contented to believe God and faithfully obey Him, we can look forward with solid assurance to a rich eternity with Him. And that indeed is great wealth.

<sup>7</sup> Because we didn't bring anything into this world, and nothing is more sure than the fact that we can't carry anything out when we go.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>8</sup> So if I have food, clothing, and a roof over my head,<sup>a</sup> I'll be content with that.

ordaining a man as pastor, deacon, elder, etc. Allow a new Christian to mature and prove himself to be a truly dedicated follower of the Lord before giving him a responsible position in the church.

**5:23a** ... as a medicine ... Notice, it's a *little* wine, not for social reasons, but as medicine.

**5:25a** On Judgment Day all who have obeyed and served the Lord faithfully (both the well-known persons and the unknown) will be rewarded by the Lord. We will no doubt be surprised at the great rewards received by persons no one ever heard of. Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.

**6:1a** Literally if you are a slave. But today the

term would be *an employee*.

**6:2a** In other words, all these things that Paul is telling Timothy to teach in the churches should be earnestly and constantly taught by pastors and Bible teachers today!

**6:6-7a** We entered this world empty-handed, and we will leave it in the same way. But it is impossible to imagine the riches we have in and thru Christ, both now and in eternity, if we have found the Lord during this life and are living for Him! If we have been God-fearing, content with such material things as He has brought our way during this brief life, our lives have been the most rewarding of any to be lived on this earth.

<sup>9</sup>But those who have a continual desire to get rich fall into temptation to do all kinds of evil things to gain that wealth. Trapped into always wanting more money, together with foolish and harmful desires for more and more experiences and possessions, they finally drown in ruin and damnation.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Because the love of money<sup>a</sup> is a root that burrows deep into the very soul of man and finally grows into a force that results in all kinds of evil. Some have even strayed from their faith in Christ because of their greed for money. The final result has been that they themselves have been the cause of their finally being pierced thru with all kinds of sorrows.

### ***Paul's Charge to Timothy***

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, you must constantly turn your back on these things and run from them. Instead, constantly go after all that is right and honorable, after godliness, faith, love, gentleness, and the kind of patience that causes you to continue to hang in there.

<sup>12</sup>Continue to fight the good fight that must be fought in living the Christian faith.<sup>a</sup> Take real care, with eager intensity, to maintain a firm grip on eternal life, because it is God who has called you into it. In the past, you have given a good testimony of your faith, in the presence of many witnesses.

<sup>13</sup>But now in the presence of God, who gives life

to all that lives, and before Jesus Christ, who gave a faithful confession while testifying before Pontius Pilate,

<sup>14</sup>I charge you to obey all the orders He has given you; that you keep yourself altogether pure and blameless, from now until our Lord Jesus Christ appears in the heavens as He returns to earth to receive His Kingdom.

<sup>15</sup>His appearing will be brought about at the proper time by God, who is the revered and only Ruler, the true King of kings and Lord of lords.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>16</sup>It is He, God alone, who has immortality,<sup>a</sup> existing in light so utterly brilliant that no man can approach Him. No man has ever even seen Him, nor is any man able to see Him.<sup>b</sup> May we all highly honor Him, and acknowledge that by His power God will rule forever. So be it!

<sup>17</sup>Now here's how you must continually warn and instruct those who are rich in this present life:

"Don't be proud and arrogant! And don't put your trust in wealth, that can disappear so quickly. But do put your trust in the God who is alive, for it is He who in such wonderful ways gives us all that we need to enjoy life.

<sup>18</sup>Continue to do good by being generous with what you have. By being ready to give freely, and by being willing to share, you will become truly rich by means of the good you do.

<sup>19</sup>Because in this way, you will be storing up wealth and laying a good foundation for the

**6:8a** The Greek word Paul uses means *anything that serves as a cover*, which would include both clothing and housing. We can certainly afford to be content with only the essentials of life if we are laying up treasure in Heaven that will be ours to enjoy forever. Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:9, and the note.

Materially speaking, what does a person really need besides *food and clothing*? Yes, he needs a home in which to live, but even that doesn't need to be his own. It certainly doesn't need to be luxurious to afford happiness. A Christian is just a pilgrim on this earth. Any place of shelter out of the weather should be thankfully received as from the Lord, because we are just passing thru on our way home.

**6:9a** We often envy the *rich*, not recognizing the snare in wealth. The temptation is severe on most rich people to worship their wealth and to put their trust in it instead of in the Lord. And there is great danger of these riches leading them into *foolish and harmful desires* ... that can finally lead to their *drowning in ruin and destruction*. Revelation 20:10,14-15.

**6:10a** We all need and use money in some form or other. Paul doesn't say that money is evil. It's *the love of money* that does so much harm. But the rich aren't the only ones who are in danger of loving money. Many who do not have wealth, but desire it, *love money* just as certainly as the richest miser.

**6:12a** Many have said, "But it's so hard to live the Christian life." Yes, it is a hard battle. No Scripture ever said it would be easy. Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:24-28. But the moment you step into Heaven, you will realize so overwhelmingly that it was worth it all. Your battle against the flesh and the devil must be won! To settle for the alternative is unthinkable!

**6:15a** For verification that the Father is the true King of kings see v 16 and 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

**6:16a** ... *in the very essence of His being*, ...

**6:16b** But we have the promise that in the future in our glorified state, we will see God. Matthew 5:8.

**6:19a** We receive forgiveness from God for our sins only by our faith in the suffering and death Jesus experienced as He made restitution for our



greatest possible happiness and honor in the life to come. This is also necessary for you to do even to gain eternal life.”<sup>a</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Oh, Timothy, guard what God has given you for safe-keeping. Don’t allow yourself to be influenced in any way by empty chatter, or by those who contradict God’s truths and teachings by what they falsely claim is better knowledge and under-

standing.

<sup>21</sup> Some who once believed have been taken in by such false teaching, and have strayed away from their faith in Christ. May God bless and keep you. So be it!

Most sincerely,  
Paul

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sins. He is our justification.

But we also must be regenerated—born again—converted from living for ourselves to living to please God! We can’t be just half converted and make it to Heaven. We can’t give God all of ourselves—except our money, or except anything else,

and still claim we are born again. To be born again means, on our part, to unconditionally give all of ourselves and all that we have, to all that we know of God. See Matthew 6:19-21; 7:13-27; 19:16-30, and especially Acts 20:20-21 note.

**E**ven though I used to curse Jesus and speak violently against Him, being cruelly insulting and rude to His followers and persecuting them in a most violent way, I was shown mercy because I did it without realizing what I was actually doing. I honestly didn't believe that Jesus was our long-awaited Messiah.

<sup>14</sup>So the mercy God showed me was far beyond anything I deserved, resulting in wonderful faith and love toward Christ Jesus on my part.

<sup>15</sup>A trustworthy statement that deserves to be wholeheartedly accepted by everyone is this: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And of all sinners, I was the worst.

<sup>16</sup>But I obtained mercy because Jesus Christ wanted to use me as object lesson number one, so He could show all others, by the inexhaustibly patient way He dealt with me, the worst sinner, how very merciful He wants to be to everyone else who will believe in Him, and that they will live forever by doing so.

—I Timothy 1:13-16