

PASTORAL EPISTLES

To this point Paul's letters have been addressed to churches, but the next 4 are to individuals - Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. These three men were pastors. Thus, we call these letters *the Pastoral Epistles*. They teach the priorities, character, and conduct of a church leader. You can call these four books... *lessons for leaders*.

Paul's theme verse for these four letters is 1 Timothy 3:15, "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God."

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

One of nature's most unusual phenomena is the eye of a hurricane. In the midst of a hurricane its winds spin in a circular pattern up to 180 mph - but at the center of the storm, the winds die down and an eerie calm exists.

My wife grew up in South Florida, and lived through several hurricanes. She recalls her dad plucking the coconuts off the trees, and boarding up the windows. The family huddled in the hallway until the storm had finished unleashing its fury.

But when the eye of the hurricane passed over, Kathy's dad would lead the family out into the backyard to experience the strange serenity. They had braved a fierce storm, and would soon be right back in its teeth - the eye of the storm was a brief reprieve, an opportunity to catch their breath. It was nature's intermission.

1 Timothy was written in the eye of a hurricane. Paul had just endured a ferocious storm, and unbeknownst to him, he was headed right back into its teeth - but for the moment, there was a calm. Paul was enjoying a brief period of serenity.

Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem, imprisoned in Caesarea, and then tried before Caesar Nero in Rome. Though the Emperor set Paul free, his freedom was short-lived. Two years later, in 65 AD, Paul was arrested again - for the final time. A year later he was beheaded— martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ.

A fierce storm behind him...another fierce storm ahead of him— Paul is in the eye of the hurricane enjoying the calm, when he picks up his pen and writes two letters - 1 Timothy and Titus. 2 Timothy is written in the final storm.

PAUL AND TIMOTHY

Timothy was both Paul's *understudy*, and *troubleshooter*. Whenever a church had problems, Paul sent Timothy to straighten it out. The two men were tight. Paul and Timothy were like father and son. In fact, in 1:2 Paul calls Timothy, "my true son in the faith." Paul was a spiritual dad to the younger Timothy.

We'll also see from Paul's writings that

Timothy was a bit timid. Paul's letters to Timothy are laced with encouragement designed to light a fire under his faith.

In 1 Timothy Paul follows a pattern. He issues a charge to Timothy - then praises God. He urges, then praises. The pattern gets repeated, and it causes Timothy to look inward - then upward!

Devotion Box - Using The Law Unlawfully

The false teachers in Ephesus had a legalistic slant. They were pulling in all kinds of conjecture and speculation to support adherence to the Jewish Law. According to them, God's favor was only for people who were willing to jump through their hoops. You've heard of *hula hoops* - they were promoting a series of *holy hoops* you had to play if you had any hope of gaining God's forgiveness. In verses 7-8 Paul indicates these legalistic teachers were misusing God's Law. They were using the Law unlawfully...

Sadly, this often happens. People are prone to misuse the Scriptures...

Once, a guy in Houston fell on hard times. He turned to the Bible for guidance. He closed his eyes, and placed his finger on the page. It read "*olive oil*". He took it as a sign, and invested in Texas oil wells. Overnight the man became a millionaire. But soon the oil boom bottomed out, and once more he was faced with financial problems. He opened his Bible again and pointed to the page. It said, "*Paul was placed in the stocks*." He invested in the stock market and made millions. Of course, over the last few months, since the market took a dive, the man has really been hit hard. And just recently, he opened his Bible, closed his eyes, and pointed to the page... this time his finger landed on the words "*Chapter 11*".

Guys, don't be guilty of using *the Bible unbiblically* - *the Law unlawfully*.

THE LAW IS FOR THE LAWLESS

Paul says in 1:9 the Law is not for the righteous, but for the lawless. A person with rebellion in his heart needs parameters for his hands. People without Jesus need the do's and don'ts because they lack the proper wants. But the Christian has been made a new creation and given new desires. Rather than pen him in to the Law – a Christian needs to be turned loose to love.

Remember, the Law is like an x-ray. It *shows* the break - it doesn't fix it. "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." We gain God's favor and receive His forgiveness by faith – and faith alone.

There's no reason to live with the law looking over my shoulder when the Spirit of God is guiding my heart.

The Christian Gospel has always been about *love*, not law.

THE CHURCH'S POLITICAL AGENDA

The first four verses of I Timothy 2 provide the church its political agenda. "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

Verse 3, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Rather than picket or protest – our priority is prayer. Rather than push for a *government takeover* – we need to pray for *government's tolerance*. Verse 3 makes it clear that God wants – not just some, but "all men to be saved". Our goal is not the *Christianization of institutions*, but *evangelization of individuals*.

MALE AND FEMALE AT YOUR HOUSE AND IN GOD'S HOUSE

Human beings come in two varieties: *male and female* – and in the later half of chapter 2, Paul instructs both regarding the specific roles they play in church life. Verse 11 reads, "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission."

Take this verse in its strictest sense- that a woman should never speak in church - and you've got problems. There are other places in the New Testament where women do speak in church. 1 Corinthians 11:5 speaks of women praying and prophesying in church. Acts 21:9 speaks of Philip's four daughters who prophesied. Titus 2:4 encourages older women to *teach* younger women.

This is not a strict silence. It's the silence that grows out of proper submission.

Paul continues in verse 12, "And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence." In the church and in the family the man is to be the leader, and the woman is to supportively follow. Men and women are equal in worth and righteousness, but they've been given different roles to play.

In verse 11, the word "submission" means *"to rank under"*. Everyone who has served in the military has met someone of a higher rank who had lesser skills and smarts than

Devotion Box - From Madman To Minister

Paul was the perfect example of man let loose to love. The law had made him an angry, bitter, religious fanatic - but grace turned the madman into a minister.

In 2:13 Paul describes himself before his conversion to Christianity, "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man..." In verse 15, he even calls himself, *the chief of sinners*. But God saved *the chief of sinners* to prove He was able to save all sinners. With Paul, God set an important precedent... Nobody is beyond the reach of God's grace. No blasphemer, or persecutor, or arrogant person is unreachable. If God can save *Paul*, there's hope for us *all*!

GOD'S MIDDLEMAN

God has appointed a middleman - someone who can broker a peace - a restoration with man. This one Mediator is fully God and fully human - thus qualified to represent both. He's paid a ransom and can gain forgiveness.

2:5 identifies God's go-between, "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all." Notice Paul says there's "one Mediator" - and only one—and it's not Mohammed, Buddha, Moses, or Mary... it's "the Man Christ Jesus".

they had – but, for the sake of order they were submissive. This is what God asks of the females in the fellowship.

And understand, these roles were not just applicable to the culture of the first century church - they remain normative and relevant for the church today.

In verse 13-14 when Paul explains the reason for these roles he takes the issue out of its cultural context, and takes it all the way back to Genesis. Adam's sin was weakness of will, while Eve's sin was doctrinal deception.

Because the woman sinned by mishandling God's Word – man has been given the role of teaching doctrine, and exercising authority until the end of the age. *Why else would a superior gal submit to an inferior guy?* Our acceptance of our God-given roles reminds the world of its fallen state and our need for a Savior.

Don't underestimate the fact that God wants this world to remember what happened in Eden. This is why the world is full of symbols that point us back to the garden. Pain in childbirth, thorns and thistles in the workplace, crawling serpents – all of life was affected by the fall - including the interplay between men and women.

THE CHILDBIRTH

Chapter 2 closes with a cryptic verse. 2:15, “Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.” In the wake of her disaster Eve was consoled with the promise of a Savior. The Messiah would come into the world through the womb of a woman. Genesis 3:15 promised that *the seed of the woman* would crush the serpent’s head. And it was this childbirth - the birth of Jesus - and our faith - that brings about our salvation. A literal Greek translation of 2:15 renders it, “through the childbearing”. The Amplified puts it, “through the childbearing, that is, the birth of the (Divine) Child.” Paul is not saying a woman is saved because she has children, but she’s saved because she continues in her faith in *THE childbirth* - the coming of Jesus.

NAMING LEADERS - STATURE, NOT STRUCTURE - DEACONS - DEACONESSES

1 Timothy 3 begins with “bishops” or “overseers”. Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5 make this term synonymous with “elder” and “pastor”. All three words, *bishop*, *elder*, and *pastor* refer to the same man, but they describe a different aspects of his leadership... “*Bishop*” refers to what he does... he oversees *his ministry*. “*Elder*” speaks of the man himself... *his maturity*. And “*pastor*” is the Greek word for “*shepherd*”... which illustrates *his method*.

Today churches stress the structure and hierarchy of church government, while the quality of people involved gets compromised. Whereas the Bible emphasizes the leader’s caliber and leaves the issue of institutional structure flexible. It really doesn’t matter what structure a church adopts if the leaders are godly people. That’s why in chapter 3 Paul lists the qualifications for leaders.

Elder is a position of authority, whereas deacon is a role of service. I call the deacons... *the designated doers*.

In verse 11 the word “wives” can also be translated “the women.” Some Bible teachers, including myself, interpret the phrase as a female order of deacons - or “*deaconesses*” - that served in the early church. These serving sisters were organized by the early church to meet the special needs of other women. Over the years, I’ve noticed that situations arise in church life that need a feminine touch. It’s nice to have deaconesses around to meet those needs.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ELDER

1 Timothy 3:2-7 deal with the qualifications of an elder...

He must be respected by folks outside the church.

He should be level-headed and spiritually-minded.

He should abstain from alcohol. Being in authority he may have to make a spur of the moment decision- so he shouldn’t allow his mind to become clouded.

Nor should he be addicted to women, or money, or glory.

Not combative, but compassionate.

He needs to have room in his heart and home for other people - while his head and his bed should be reserved for one woman.

He needs to have a handle on his home - and a few years in the Lord under his belt.

Paul says in verse 6, “Not a novice (or a newcomer to the faith), lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DEACON

Verses 8-13 list qualifications for the deacon...

A deacon should have a respect for God, and respect from men.

Since he works closely with people he should have control over his tongue.

He shouldn’t be addicted to wine, or wealth, or women.

Deacons should be proven. Watch before you appoint. It’s easier to hire a deacon than to fire a deacon. Make sure the life backs up the profession.

And deacons also need to have their children and home in order. It’s been said, “If your Christianity doesn’t work at home, don’t try to export it elsewhere.”

Verse 11 lists qualifications for the deacon’s wife. She “must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.” She needs to honor God - watch her tongue - moderate her habits - and be faithful to God in every area of her life.

It reminds me of the man who said, “My wife should be in Congress... she keeps bringing bills to the house.” Women who serve need to be disciplined. And especially when it comes to her tongue. The word translated “slanderers” is the Greek word, “*she-devil*”. Remember the word “*devil*” means “*slanderer*”. Here’s a poem, “If you’re tempted with a tale another person told - before you speak it, make it pass three gates of gold. I have three narrow gates in mind - Is it true? Is it needful? Is it kind? If a statement passes all three, then you don’t have to worry what the consequences might be.” *Is it true? Is it needful? Is it kind?*

Devotion Box - Physical Exercise And Spiritual Exercise

Apparently, Timothy was spending too much time in the gym. In 4:8, Paul reminds him, “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” Physical exercise has a few benefits - but time in the Word and prayer is far more valuable than time in the gym. So what if you have huge muscles, and a well-toned body - if your faith is flabby and your spirit out of shape? It’s far better to add muscle to your faith - and to build up your spirit. It’s the spiritual part of you that’s going to last forever.

Bible Scan - 1 Timothy 1-6

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm

Calvary Chapel Announcements - Oct 11/12, Men's Conference at CC Heartland...Wed, Oct 16 7 PM—Praying Parents of Teens...Friday, Oct 18: Jr. High Putt-Putt and Pizza @ 6 PM...Mature Singles Fellowship—Dinner & A Movie 6:30 PM...Oct 25/26 Women's Conference....

Next Bible Scan - October 13, 2002 - 2 Timothy 1-4

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity...” - 1 Timothy 4:12

Bible Scan
Memory Verse

PRINCIPLES FOR DISTRIBUTING CHURCH BENEVOLENCE

1 Timothy 5:3, “Honor widows who are really widows.”

There were widows in the early church who were supported by the church's offerings. These ladies spent their time serving the saints - but not every woman who had lost her husband was supported. The early church, like all churches, was faced with trying to meet *unlimited needs* with *limited resources*. Thus, there were qualifications that a widow had to meet to receive the church's benevolence.

The principles Paul lists here in 1 Timothy 5 also apply to our benevolence...

First, verse 4, *never contribute to someone's irresponsibility*. If a widow has family who can support her, the kids and grandkids need to do their duty.

Second, verses 5-8, *the church should first take care of its own*. A real widow was one who was seeking God, not just a free meal. Paul says in verse 8, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” This verse not only applies to families it applies to churches.

Third, verse 9, *give God an opportunity to work through*

other means. If a widow was less than 60, and still might remarry, then a future husband could meet her needs.

Fourth, verses 9-10, *don't interfere with a lesson God wants to teach another person*. The younger ladies still had much to learn from trusting God to meet their needs.

Fifth, verses 11-13, *benevolence should never pose a further temptation to a person we want to help*. If you assist a younger widow - and she takes a vow to serve the church - what if later she desires to remarry and breaks that vow? She's condemned. And if she doesn't remarry - and she's not a mature Christian - idleness can turn her into a gossip and a busybody. You hurt rather than help.

Sixth, verses 14-15, *benevolence should always look for long term solutions*. It's better for a widow to remarry and bear children. Start a new life for herself.

Seventh, *encourage church members to take care of each other*. Verse 16, “If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.” People helping people should come first, before getting the church involved.

Devotion Box Your Youth

Paul again encourages a timid Tim... 4:12, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example...” Guys, spiritual maturity has very little to do with natural age. You can be 20 years old and be a mature Christian - or be 75 and still be a baby.

If you're a young person don't be intimidated. Be bold and serve the Lord.

Devotion Box We Are Family

Chapter 5:1, “Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger as sisters...” One of the tragedies of today's mobile society is a breakdown of the extended family. After a few moves we're no longer surrounded by grandparents and siblings. We don't really feel it until we get sick, or suffer a financial hardship, or need a babysitter. The safety-net is gone. But what an opportunity for the church! We can be each other's extended family.

Devotion Box - Godliness With Contentment

Wealth enlarges, rather than satisfies a man's appetite. The person who's truly rich is content with *bread on his table* and *Jesus in his heart*. The desire for God, not gold, is the door to happiness. As Paul says in 6:6, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” It's been said, “The key to contentment is not in getting more, but wanting less.” That is, wanting less from this world, and wanting more and more of God.

Verse 10 tells us, “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” It's not money itself, but the love of money that leads us astray. You can possess money, just as long as you don't let money possess you.

6:17 strikes a great balance. Don't live for earthly things, but at the same time, enjoy the blessings that God brings your way. Author, Ravi Zacharias, defines a legitimate pleasure as, “Something that refreshes along the journey without distracting from your ultimate goal.” That could be a vacation, or steak dinner... Don't live your life for it... but don't be afraid to enjoy it as one of God's blessings.

Paul tells Timothy in verses 18-19 to remind the rich, “you can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.” We store up riches in heaven by distributing our riches while on earth.