

# THROUGH THE BIBLE

## 1 TIMOTHY 1-2

One of the most bizarre phenomenas of nature is [the eye of a hurricane](#). The winds of a hurricane spin in a circular pattern up to 180 mph, but at the center of the storm the winds die down, an eery calm exists.

My wife is from South Florida, and lived through several hurricanes. She recalls how her dad plucked coconuts from the trees, and boarded up the house.

They huddled together in the hallway as the storm unleashed its fury. But when the eye passed overhead, Kathy's dad opened the doors and led the family into the backyard to experience the strange serenity.

They'd just braved a fierce storm, and soon they'd be back in its teeth, but the eye of the hurricane provided a brief reprieve – a chance to lick their wounds and catch their breath. [The eye was nature's intermission](#).

1 Timothy was written in the eye of a hurricane. Paul had just experienced a frightening storm, and unbeknownst to him he was headed right back into its teeth – but for the moment there was a calm.

Paul went to Rome to be tried before Caesar Nero. He'd stood in the lion's mouth and escaped. The Emperor set him free, but his freedom was short-lived.

Just two years later, in 65 AD, Paul was arrested again – this time for the last time. A year later Paul was beheaded - martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ.

So at this moment a fierce storm is behind him, a fiercer storm is ahead of him – and Paul is in the backyard enjoying the calm... In the eye of a hurricane he writes

two letters: 1 Timothy and Titus. His second letter to Timothy is penned in the final, fatal storm.

Up to this point in your Bible, Paul's letters are to churches, but his next four are written to individuals.

Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were church leaders, pastors. Thus, we call these letters "The Pastoral Epistles." They teach us the priorities of a church leader, and how he should conduct his ministry. We can title this section of the NT, "Lessons for Leaders."

Chapter 1, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope..." The term "apostle" means "ambassador." We'll talk about the apostolic office later, but the term refers to a man "sent as a representative."

And this colored all Paul was, and did, and said.

He was always conscious that he represented realities bigger than himself. He represented God, His Lord Jesus, the Gospel, the Church, God's grace...

He writes "to Timothy, a true son in the faith..."

It reminds me of Billy, the pastor's 6 year-old son. At church Billy would always introduce himself as "Billy Allen, Pastor Allen's son." One night his mom suggested he drop the "Pastor Allen's son" – be his own man – introduce himself as just "Billy Allen."

The next Sunday a visitor asked Billy his name.

Following his mom's advice, he replied, "I'm Billy Allen." The man replied, "*Billy Allen, oh, you must be Pastor Allen's son.*" Billy answered, "Well, dad says so, but my mom isn't so sure." Well, unlike Pastor Allen's wife, Paul had no qualms about advertising the father-son relationship he had with Timothy...

According to Acts 16 Timothy's natural father was not a believer in Jesus. And though his mother, Eunice – and his grandma, Lois, were Christians, and godly examples... *a mom's influence only goes so far...*

Here's a startling stat... "When a father is an active believer, 75% of the time his kids become active believers. But when mom is the only active believer in the family the odds decrease to 15%." The *father factor* is crucial in a son or daughter's spiritual formation.

This is why Eunice jumped for joy when Paul took her son under his wing. Paul was a spiritual dad to Tim.

And Timothy became Paul's *faithful friend and troubleshooter*. He put out fires in Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus. Timothy was a capable pastor.

Paul greets Timothy, "Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." When Paul writes to churches he greets them with grace and peace. But when he writes to pastors he adds "*mercy.*"

I can tell you firsthand, a pastor's *job is harder* - his *responsibilities are greater* - and his *judgment will be stricter...* that means he really needs "*mercy.*"

In Acts 19, Paul started the church in Ephesus. It was a strong, healthy church - and when Paul moved on, he turned its leadership over to Timothy.

Here he writes to his protege, “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia - remain in Ephesus...”

Needless to say, Timothy had some big shoes to fill.

Pastoring in the wake of Paul was like taking over for Bear Bryant, or filling in for Billy Graham... And you'll notice *Tim* was a bit *timid*. that's why Paul “urged” him to stick it out, stay at it. Timothy needed a holy nudge.

Throughout this letter Paul follows a pattern. He urges Tim - then praises God. He challenges Timothy to *press on* by getting Timothy to *look up*. And the first thing Paul urges Timothy to do is to “*remain.*”

As the pastor of the same church for 32 years, to my surprise, longevity has brought with it some rewards.

In fact, I think in almost every venue “longevity” is an underrated virtue. Whether it's a job, a marriage, a community, a church you'll find some blessings come only by longevity. They accrue when you “*remain.*”

In verse 3, Paul also urges Timothy to “charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.”

Apparently, **falsehoods** and **speculations** were seeping into the church - and Timothy needed to resist them both. And this is still the central job of any pastor.

**Falsehoods** deny the truth of Scripture. **Speculations** may not deny the Bible, but they *distract* from its emphasis. They take folks down irrelevant rabbit trails.

Bible Codes, and 666 interpretations, and UFOs, and conspiracy theories... are all clever speculation - but they don't promote godly living or biblical knowledge. Paul is telling Tim to never let *tabloid* overshadow *truth*.

Our focus should be on the Scriptures. For verse 5 tells us its end result... **“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith...”** Christian truth produces love for God and man. *Not arrogance... not fear... not elitism... not combativeness... but love!*

That's why every insight or preaching point – if it doesn't increase my love for God and you – it doesn't deserve a lot of my attention! It might be intellectually stimulating – or peak my curiosity – but if it doesn't encourage me to love God from a pure heart, a good conscience, a sincere faith it doesn't merit my focus.

But verse 6, **“from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.”** There were legalists in Ephesus.

Rather than preach God's grace, they forced the believers to jump through legalistic hoops. They had all kinds of *rules* and *rituals* and *requirements* that went far beyond the Gospel's demand for simple faith.

Heard of *hula hoops*? Beware of *holy hoops*... you got to worship on a certain day, or speak in tongues, or be baptized in exact formula, or read from a specific Bible version, or vote for a particular party, or educate your kids the way we do, or eat or drink our way...

Do this, avoid that - *or you're a second class Christian.* The legalist says, *“Follow our stipulations or you'll never know God's best...”* That's just not true. Faith is not about *toeing a line*, but *following Jesus*.

Remember, **“the purpose of the commandment is love.”** This was true of the OT Law - its stories, and codes of conduct, and rituals - were all about love.

The Law taught us that God loves us enough to provide a sacrifice. Even the genealogies reveal a God who cares enough about His people to call each one by name. The Law God gave to Moses was all about how to love God and how to love one another.

Verse 8, **“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully...”** **It's possible to use the Bible in unbiblical ways.** You can use God's law unlawfully!

Once a man fell on hard times. He turned to the Bible, closed his eyes, and plopped his finger down on the page. It read *“olive oil.”* He took it as a sign. He invested in Texas oil wells and earned millions.

But soon his wells dried up, so once more he turned to the Bible. Put his finger on the page and read, *“Paul was placed in the stocks.”* It was a sign! He invested in the stock market, and once again became a millionaire.

But not soon after the market took a dramatic dive that cost him his fortune. So once again he opened his Bible. This time his fingertip landed on, **“Chapter 11.”**

Hopefully this last *“sign”* caused him to realize Bible roulette is not a reliable way to find God's will.

Twist enough - cut and paste - and a person can make the Bible say whatever he wants. We need to interpret the Bible in context - use the Law Lawfully.

In 2 Timothy 2:15 Paul tells Timothy to study the Bible so that he can “rightly divide the word of truth.”

Paul comments on the correct use of the Law in verse 9, “Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane...” The person with *rebellion in his heart* is the one who needs *boundaries for his hands*.

You need *dos and don'ts* if you lack proper *wants*.

But a Christian has been made a new creation and given new desires. Rather than bound by the Law – a believer in Jesus needs to be released to love.

Remember, the Law is like an X-ray. It *shows* the break in the bone, but it doesn't fix it. “What can wash away my sin? *Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*”

We gain God's favor and forgiveness by faith, and faith alone. *Why live with the Law looking over my shoulder when the Holy Spirit now fills my heart?*

People live far more godly lives when they're bathed in God's grace than when they're flogged by the Law.

Paul says the Law is not for the righteous, but “for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers...” These are people who lack love.

The law is “For fornicators, for sodomites...” It's not love to use a person for sexual gratification with no regard to what's morally and spiritually best for them.



The long arm of the Law is “for kidnappers,” Love doesn’t steal another person’s freedom and force them to comply against their will.... And it’s “for liars, for perjurers...” Love doesn’t deceive or distort the truth.

Laws are necessary because people lack love.

“And if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”

Here’s a definition for “*sound doctrine*”... It’s “God’s love in action.” And the Gospel produces this love.

This is why the Law no longer applies to a Christian.

But where there’s no Gospel there’s no love. Thus, selfish, loveless people have to be restrained by Law.

And notice Paul mentions “*the glorious gospel.*” I’m sure when he did it brought a tear or two to his eyes.

He shares a bit of his testimony with Timothy...

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man (literally, a bully); but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

Notice the words, “I was formerly...”

What if you wrote a letter and you used those some words, *what would follow?* I was formerly a “*druggie... an adulterer... a hothead... a pervert... a hypocrite...*”



There's a line in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Christian is told, "You must know that Forgetful Green is the most dangerous place in these parts."

"*Forgetful Green*" is that grassy bluff where you relax and forget *who you were* and *what you would be* apart from Christ. It's the place you get *bluffed!* Don't forget.

*And Paul doesn't!* Verse 15, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." In his former life Paul hated Christ and killed Christians.

Now he says, "However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life." With Paul, God set a marvelous precedent... He found the meanest, vilest sinner on the block, and cut him down to size.

On the Damascus off-ramp, Jesus knocked Paul off his high horse with a bright light. He reached as low as He could go - *turned* the chief of sinners to prove He can *turn* anyone. After *Paul* there's now hope for us *all*.

And Paul erupts in praise to God! Verse 17, "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Why remain at your post? Why represent God well?

*Because the King is worthy!* He's timeless. He's incorruptible. He's intangible. He's wise and wonderful.

Again, notice the pattern in Paul's letter... Here's Timothy's duty, for here's God's glory. God's honor is the reason Tim should conduct his ministry honorably.

Thus, now in verse 18 he gives him a new challenge.

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare...”

Notice, Timothy’s ministry is couched in military terminology. The word translated “*charge*” speaks of a “military assignment” - “orders from headquarters.” The Christian life is *a battleground not a playground*.

We learn from these letters that Timothy a bit timid. He loved Jesus, but when met with resistance he tended to shrink back rather than rise up. *Cower rather than power*. Here Paul supplies a needed reminder...

Apparently, when God called Timothy to ministry He gave to Timothy a few personal, predictive promises.

**Promises from God are powerful.** They cast vision, and establish direction. They become anchors in the storm, reflectors in the dark, guideposts along the road.

They fan the fire when you start to run out of steam.

And here’s my question, *what personal promises has God made to you?* Do as Paul encourages Timothy...

Don’t shirk from those promises.

Don’t conveniently forget them. Recall them, embrace them – rise up in faith, and use those old promises as new motivation to keep up the fight.

Timothy needs to hold fast. Verse 19, “Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

All wars have casualties, including the spiritual battle. Paul mentions two men who *“suffered shipwreck.”*

Hymenaeus and Alexander denied the faith, and got the right foot of dis-fellowship. They were *booted from the body*. The fastest way to learn to appreciate what you’ve been given, is to be forced to live without it.

In the last 32 years we’ve only had to remove people from our fellowship on a few occasions - but when it was done it was necessary and it was done biblically.

1 Timothy will talk a lot about church membership – its **safeguards**, its **privileges**, its **obligations**.

And at times, like here, the **safeguards and privileges** have to be removed to remind the person of the **obligations**. ***Tough love has a place in church life.***

Chapter 2, *“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...”* It’s our job to pray. But for whom should we pray? Paul says, *“All men.”*

This has incredible implications. It means no human being on earth is outside the influence of prayer.

God wouldn’t have told us to pray for *“all men”* if there were *some men* for whom our prayers had no effect. This is why it’s wrong to write anyone off...

**No one is beyond the reach of our prayers!**

And notice the four types of prayer...

**“Supplication”** is a felt need – an open wound. It’s a spontaneous cry of the heart brought to the Healer!

The next word translated, “**prayers,**” speaks of a reverence for God. This is more of a deliberate posturing before God. It’s coming with a humble heart.

“**Intercession**” is a request on behalf of someone else

And fourthly, “**giving of thanks**”. Should anyone ever approach God apart from a grateful heart? Our prayers should consist of all the above... *cries of my heart - praise for God - help for others - and always gratitude!*

Pray for all men, and especially, “**kings and all who are in authority...**” Realize as Paul pens these words the most evil tyrant the world has ever seen sits on the throne in Rome. Emperor Nero was *the kissing cousin of Adolph Hitler. He made Saddam Hussein look like a babysitter. Nero was a certifiable nut... but not a nut that couldn't be cracked* if the church chose to pray!

Biblically speaking, you and I can disagree with President Obama, *but not before we pray for him...*

And how should we pray for our authorities? Verse 2 outlines the Church’s political agenda. Here’s what to expect from government - “**that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.**”

Realize, a government that allows the right to vote, enacts moral laws, even laws that reflect Christian values, affords tax breaks... this is all icing on the cake.

Paul’s expectations are far more modest.

He says just be thankful when the government stays off your back. If you can “**lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence...**” Be thankful if you can live and worship without government interference...

It's helpful to remember the goal of the Church in society isn't the *Christianization of institutions*, but the *evangelization of individuals*. Pray for government to stay out of our lives – and let us share our faith freely.

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.”

Some people think God's salvation targets a select few - that idea is foreign to the NT. The Marines want *a few good men*, but God “*desires all men to be saved...*”

And He's appointed a middleman to broker our salvation. “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...”

In the midst of his suffering Job felt the huge chasm that separated him from God. In 9:33 he cried out, “Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both.” Job needed help in reaching God.

This is a universal realization. Everyone knows deep inside that they can't reach a holy God on their own.

This is why people carry a rabbit's foot, or consult mediums, or wear crystals, or pray the rosary, or hail Mary... they're reiterating the cry of Job. They need a Mediator - a go-between - someone who can bridge the gap between God's love and their lostness.

It reminds me of Ernie. When the hospital attendant wheeled him back from surgery she inadvertently forgot to place the call button within his reach.

As he shook off the anesthesia Ernie's pain became excruciating. He couldn't reach the button, and he couldn't walk over to get it... so *he found a mediator*.

Ernie picked up his cell phone and called the hospital switchboard. The operator connected him to the nurses station on his floor, and immediately help arrived.

If you want God's forgiveness and His healing... if you want to know God... you need to find someone close to God, who can solicit His help on your behalf...

And neither the Buddha, nor Muhammad, nor Moses, nor Mary, nor the saints, nor even Oprah - can help you. There is one Mediator between God and man - and only one - He is **"the Man Christ Jesus..."**

And here's why Christ Jesus can broker salvation - because He **"gave Himself a ransom for all..."**

He came as a man to die in the place of all men.

Jesus died not as a *criminal*, or *victim*, or a *political pawn* - but as a **"ransom."** His *sinless blood* was the price required for our *sinful life*. The Man Christ Jesus is the ransom God paid for *all the sins*, of *all mankind*.

One of the five points of Calvinism is the doctrine of **"limited atonement"** - that Jesus died for a select few.

But Paul tells us He **"gave Himself a ransom for all!"**

Sadly, in the end not everyone will be saved - but if they're not – they won't be able to blame God! Verse 4 tells us God **"desires all men to be saved."** The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for all men in all times.

And now Paul points to Jesus. Paul had been a Pharisee in love with the rules of Judaism, but he *gave up* religion when he realized Jesus **"gave Himself a ransom to**



be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle - I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying..." It's amazing, Paul now preaches the faith he once persecuted.

And he adds to his resume "a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." As a Jewish rabbi Paul hated Gentiles, but Jesus had won his heart with love, and now direct Paul's focus to the people he once hated.

Paul has been talking about "all men," but "all men" come in two varieties – male and female. And now in the last half of chapter 2 Paul is going to instruct both men and women regarding the specific roles each should play in church life. Our gender matters to God.

He begins in verse 8, "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere..." I'm sure Paul wants women to pray, but here he makes special mention of the men. Men are called to lead – and *good leaders will pray.*

Men should pray, "lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting..." Stick a gun in my face, *and what happens to my hands?* They shoot straight up!

I surrender!... This is the attitude that men should possess - total surrender to the will and direction of God. If men want to lead they need to bow to God.

Verse 9 is a word to women, "In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."



A woman can look *cool* without making the guys *drool*. Once I saw a teenage girl with a T-shirt that read, “**Modest is hottest.**” I agree. Rather than dress to draw attention to her curves and cleavage, a Christian woman should dress to highlight her inner beauty.

One of the early Church fathers noticed a prostitute sashaying down the street. He looked at her heavy make-up and gaudy apparel – and was moved to tears.

He confessed, not once had he ever taken the pains to dress his soul in faith and godliness to please the Lord - to the degree she’d adorn her body to please the world. Where’s our focus – on the spirit or the flesh?

Here’s a theme for the next “*Project Runway*” – *mod but modest...* Sounds great... *don’t hold your breath.*

In verse 11, Paul says, “**Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.**” From here through chapter 3 Paul will deal with the qualifications for Church leaders.

And they fall into three categories... **character**, **giftedness**, and **gender**. Sadly, today’s church stresses *giftedness*. Yet the only *giftedness* Paul mentions is “**apt to teach.**” His priority is on **character** and **gender**.

Here Paul says a woman should “**learn in silence with all submission.**” First, let me say, I don’t believe this verse is advocating a strict, absolute silence for women – that a sister can never speak up in church.

In fact, there are other places in the NT where woman participate vocally... In I Corinthians 11:5 ladies pray and prophesy in church... Acts 21:9, Philip has four virgin

daughters who prophesy... In Titus 2:4, Paul tells us older women should teach younger women...

Paul's intention is not to forbid Christian women from ever speaking in the church. Rather this silence is an attitude that flows from a submissive spirit.

Notice, Paul adds in verse 12, **“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”** Here's what a lot of ladies don't realize, women have to show restraint if they want men to lead.

Ladies, if you're always asserting - and doing the talking - and taking over - your man won't fight you for the leadership... He'll let you lead *and just go fishing*.

Men are taught early on... **never fight with girls**. If a woman is determined to lead, her man will just let her...

Here's the biblical mandate... **In the church and in the home the man is to lead and hold final authority, while the woman is to support and to follow the man.**

In the eyes of God men and women are equal in **righteousness** and **worth** and **gifts** - but they have different **roles** to play in the church and in the home.

Some of the best Bible teachers I know are women. Kay Smith was probably a better Bible teacher than Pastor Chuck, but if you're a man you weren't allowed into her Bible class. Men would try to attend, but Kay would run them off. She understood the biblical roles.

This word in verse 11 translated, **“submission”** means **“to rank under.”** Everyone who's ever served in the military has met someone of a higher rank who was just

plain stupid - or who had lesser skills and smarts than you - *but because of military order you submitted.*

This is what God is asking of the females in the Christian fellowship. Men are to lead not because they're better or braver or brainier... There's only one reason for male leadership... **Because God said so!**

Wives, when you submit to your husband this makes a strong, radical statement in the eyes of your neighbors. Your marriage portrays the Gospel...

Men are called to assume the role of Jesus – *and lovingly lead.* Ladies are commanded to act like the Church - *and willingly follow...* **God wants both sexes to complement each other, not compete with one another.**

And please don't buy into the liberal dribble that these roles were only applicable to the oriental culture of the first century, and they don't apply today.

Paul anticipates this argument in verses 13-14. The biblical roles of male and female transcend cultural, for he traces them back to the creation - to the very first couple... **“For Adam was formed first, then Eve...”**

Adam was **“first-formed,”** and like the Oriental title of **“firstborn,”** this carried with it special privileges, and authority, and responsibility. God made Adam the head of the human race. The man received **“headship.”**

Yet how quickly both the man and woman violated their roles. They bucked against God's will. **“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”** Eve sinned when she usurped her husband's authority, and negotiated with the devil.

Adam on the other hand, was weak and failed to lead. And because of their mutual rebellion, sin entered the world. The whole human race has suffered since.

Yet in the wake of Eve's disaster women were consoled by God with a promise of the Savior.

Paul explains in verse 15, "Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control." A literal translation puts it, "the childbearing." Here's God's promise, a woman got us into our mess, and a woman will help get us out.

Sin came into the world when Satan tempted Eve.

But now salvation - the Messiah - also enters the world through a woman - a virgin named Mary.

And it's through "THE childbearing" - the miracle of Jesus' incarnation - that you and I can be saved.

What's expect of us, is not just a one-time pledge, but let's "continue in faith" - *and* in the fruits of living out that faith... "love, and holiness, with self-control."