

# Challenges

# Paul's Personal Letters

## Lesson #1 — Selections from I Timothy

*Authors' Note: To look at the important lessons the apostle Paul is passing on to Timothy, we have divided the book of I Timothy into four themes: Challenges, Conflict, Christ and Conduct. As we examine each theme we will look at all the verses in I Timothy that deal with that theme; some verses will be in multiple lessons.*

### Section I. Read I Timothy 1:1-11

1. a. Describe Timothy and his relationship to Paul (Acts 16:1-3; Philippians 2:19-23; I Timothy 1:2).

b. What "family" do you have in the faith? What do you do to nurture those relationships?

*Using Acts 19:23-28 & Acts 20:17, 28-30 as background information along with I Timothy 1:3-7 answer questions 2-4.*

2. What was Timothy's mission in Ephesus?

3. a. Rank the difficulty of Timothy's task.

Very Easy       Easy       Medium       Hard       Very Hard

b. Discuss the reasons for your ranking.

4. Learning from Paul and Timothy, when your ministry becomes difficult, what does God want you to do?

***"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."  
I Timothy 1:5***

### Section II. Read I Timothy 4:6-16

5. a. Share a passage that defines godliness.

b. How does this trait bless our life?

6. a. List the areas in which Timothy was to serve as a model for others.

6. b. If you are young, what does verse 12 say to you? If you are older, what does it say to you?

7. What level of energy is Paul requesting Timothy to expend on the tasks in verses 11-14?

8. a. In your own words, describe the difference between life and doctrine.

b. For salvation, why must people watch and persevere in those areas?

### Section III. Read I Timothy 5:21-25

9. When we show partiality and favoritism, what are we really doing (James 2:1-4) and how does it hurt the church?

10.a. What has experience taught you about hasty behavior?

b. In your ministry, how can you refrain from acting hastily per Paul's instructions?

11. What are some ways to keep pure (Psalm 119:9-16)?

12.a. What is the same about sin and good deeds according to verses 24-25?

b. Cite one of Jesus' teachings to illustrate what Paul is telling Timothy about sin and good deeds.

## Section IV. Read I Timothy 6:6-14, 20-21

13. How does leading a godly life affect contentment (Proverbs 19:23; Philippians 4:11-12; I Timothy 6:6-10)?
14. List the changes in your life if you pursued godly wealth (as defined in 6:11) with the same intensity that you pursue earthly wealth.
15. a. Explain why possessing faith involves a fight.
- b. Give a biblical example of someone who had to “fight” to hold onto his/her faith.
16. List the action words in verses 11-12. What does that tell you about the kind of approach we should take to remain faithful?

***“This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially those who believe.”  
I Timothy 4:9-10***

## Section V. One More Look at Hope

17. Use Timothy 1:1 to fill in the blanks.  
Paul was an apostle of \_\_\_\_\_ by the  
command of \_\_\_\_\_ our Savior and of  
Christ Jesus our \_\_\_\_\_.
18. What role does hope play in equipping us with faith?  
Romans 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
II Corinthians 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 6:17-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
I John 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_
19. Why is hope the driving force behind faith?