



THE DAILY READING BIBLE

1 TIMOTHY

EXODUS 1-18

THE CHRISTIAN CALLING

60 daily readings with full Bible text

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

An all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from God's word.

Time to get back into regular Bible reading? *The Daily Reading Bible* has everything you need to get started, and in one compact, portable package.

This volume contains 60 readings from 1 Timothy, Exodus 1-18 and topical studies on 'the Christian calling'. Each reading is designed to take around 15-20 minutes and contains:

- *the full text of the Bible passage for that reading*
- *some questions to get you thinking*
- *some 'points to ponder'*
- *some ideas to get you started in prayer.*

It's all here in one booklet that you can take with you anywhere—on the train, on the bus, to the park at lunchtime, or to your favourite armchair.



THE DAILY READING BIBLE

Volume 10

1 TIMOTHY

EXODUS 1-18

THE CHRISTIAN CALLING

The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 10)

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Matthias Media

(St Matthias Press Ltd ACN 067 558 365)

PO Box 225

Kingsford NSW 2032

Australia

Ph: (02) 9663 1478; Int. +61-2-9663-1478

Fax: (02) 9663 3265; Int. +61-2-9663-3265

Email: info@matthiasmedia.com.au

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com.au

Matthias Media (USA)

Ph: 330 953 1702; Int. +1-330-953-1702

Fax: 330 953 1712; Int. +1-330-953-1712

Email: sales@matthiasmedia.com

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com

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INTRODUCTION

Readng our Bibles regularly is getting harder. That, at least, seems to be the common experience of many Christians. We could waste lots of ink speculating on the reasons for this: is it the frenetic pace of life these days? Is it spiritual laziness? Is it the impact of postmodernism on our culture and the lack of certainty when it comes to interpreting the written word?

But a better option than speculating on the reasons, we thought, was to provide a new resource for Christians to help them get back into a more regular habit of reflecting daily on God's word. So back in June 2001, we decided to start including a section called 'Bible Brief' in our monthly magazine, *The Briefing* (see www.matthiasmedia.com for more information about *The Briefing*). The 'Bible Brief' provided 20 short readings each month—acknowledging that there will be days we miss or days when we want to do something a bit different—with questions, thoughts to ponder, and suggestions to get started in prayer.

Now, several years later, we have a good collection of 'Bible Briefs', and it's time to offer them to a wider audience in a format that will, we hope, be even more convenient and useful.

This tenth volume contains 60 readings, all designed to be done in 15–20 minutes. These short daily Bible readings are designed to help

you feed regularly from God's word. They won't cover every issue in each passage, nor even every passage from each Bible book. In other words, *they are no substitute for the in-depth study of the Scriptures* that you may undertake personally, in small groups or through listening to sermons.

With the kind permission of our friends at Crossway Bibles, we've been able to make this a complete package to take with you—we've included the English Standard Version Bible text with each daily study. So you can take this one book with you and have everything you need—on the train, on the bus, or to the park at lunchtime—wherever and whenever you can get 20 minutes to yourself.

How to use these readings

- *With a penitent heart*, the true prerequisite for all Bible reading. Open with prayer (perhaps using the prayer suggested at the beginning of each set of studies).
- *With 15–20 minutes* of peace and quiet. If you can take longer, and want to read and pray further—great! But we have designed the readings to be done in a fairly short space of time.
- *With an accurate modern translation*. We recommend and have included the new ESV translation. The writers of the studies refer to this translation. Contact us for further details about the ESV or visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au/ESV

- *With a pen.* Even if you only jot down brief ideas, writing focuses the mind.
- *As a guide and help, not a straitjacket.* Feel free to dig further into the passage, to notice and ponder things that the questions don't point to.
- *As a launch-pad for prayer.* Use the prayer ideas at the end of each reading as a starting point for your daily prayer. Many of the points that will arise from the readings will be things you can pray for yourself, and also for others (family, friends, neighbours, etc.). Why not compile a list of people you want to pray for (you can write them in the blank space below), and use the prayer ideas from each reading to pray for the next person on your list?

This tenth volume includes:

- studies on 1 Timothy (written by Steve Cree, minister at Southern Cross Presbyterian Church in Lismore);
- studies on Exodus 1-18 (written by Andrew Reid, lecturer in Old Testament at Ridley College, Melbourne); and
- studies on 'The Christian Calling' (written by Neil Atwood, associate pastor at Springwood Anglican Church in Springwood).

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Please note: the main section of Scripture for each study is reproduced before the questions. Other Scripture references are reproduced as footnotes at the bottom of the page, or, where the passages are too long to be included as footnotes, in the Appendix.

PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR:

1 TIMOTHY

INTRODUCTION

Paul's two letters to Timothy and his smaller letter to Titus are very practical. That's because Timothy and Titus were two of Paul's apprentices. Paul was keen to pass on the benefits of his experience, together with plenty of concrete instructions about leadership and church life. The first letter to Timothy has much to say, both to us as individuals and to us as a church—the household of God.

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation on it) before each of the next 20 studies:

Dear heavenly Father,

Thank you that your passion is for all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Thank you for acting on this passion by sending your son, Christ Jesus, into the world to save sinners. I confess that without your word, I am ignorant of this salvation: how to receive it; how to live in response to it; how to serve others. Please help me through reading this letter to know how to conduct myself in your household—your church, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Amen.

NB: Tick the box when you've completed each study ✓

READING 1

BACKGROUND TO 1 TIMOTHY

Acts 20:17–32

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen

to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

1:18-19

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith...

3:14-15

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

4:11-16

Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice

these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

6:20-21

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.

1. *Read Acts 20:17-32. What is Paul's warning to the church of Ephesus? What threats will they face?*
2. *Read 1 Timothy 1:3-4, 18-19; 3:14-15; 4:11-16; 6:20-21. Was Paul's warning justified? Why?*
3. *Look at these verses again. What is Timothy's role in Ephesus and why is Paul writing to him?*

PONDER Paul knew that wherever there are sheep, there will be wolves; and wherever there is truth, there will be lies. What is the warning for you?

PRAYER IDEAS Pray that through your reading of 1 Timothy, you will know how to conduct yourself in God's household, "which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth" (1 Tim 3:16).

READING 2

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-6

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion...

1. *What is Paul urging Timothy to do?*

2. *What is wrong with what "certain persons" are teaching?*

3. *What is the result of following this false teaching?*

PONDER Paul says that Timothy's goal in setting these false teachers straight should be love (v. 5). Have you bought into our society's lie that it's unloving to say that something is untrue?

PRAYER IDEAS Pray that you will hold to the truth of the gospel and not wander from the faith. Pray that you would be loving when you correct those who are wandering.

READING 3

1 TIMOTHY 1:6-11

Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

1. *What do these false teachers want to be? Have they understood the Old Testament law properly?*

2. *Who is the law meant for? Who is it not meant for? What is the real purpose of the law?*

3. *Paul calls the gospel "glorious" because it achieves what the law couldn't. Glance ahead to Reading 4 for some clues as to why.*