

Walking
in Power,
Love, and
Discipline

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WHAT AM I DOING?



You are about to begin a study that will revolutionize not only your approach to the Word of God, but also your understanding and comprehension of the Word. This is the consistent testimony of those who are using this series.

The New Inductive Study Series is the first series of its kind in that it is a 15- to 25-minute daily study that takes you systematically through the Bible, book by book, teaching you to observe the text and see for yourself what it says. The more you learn to observe the text carefully and to familiarize yourself with the context in which specific texts are presented, the closer you will come to an accurate and unbiased interpretation of God's Word. This, in turn, will help you to apply the truth of God's Word correctly and to find yourself transformed in the process.

As you go through this series, remember that it is an inductive survey of the various books of the Bible. The purpose of this series is to help you get a comprehensive overview of the whole counsel of God so that you will be better able to let Scripture interpret Scripture and to understand truth in the context of the Bible, book by book and in its entirety.

If you desire to expand and sharpen your study skills, we would like to recommend two things. One, purchase the book *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur. Two, attend a Precept Ministries Institute of Training.

The Institutes are conducted throughout the United States, Canada, and in a number of other countries. You can attend classes of various lengths—from one to five days, depending on the courses you elect to take. Whatever your choices, you will join the thousands of people who are absolutely awed at the way God has enriched their relationship with Him and deepened their understanding of His Word. For more information on the Precept Ministries Institute of Training, call our Customer Service Representatives at (800) 763-8280, visit our website at www.precept.org, or fill out and mail the response card at the back of this book.

We don't know if you have ever used one of the books in our New Inductive Study Series before, so let us acknowledge that reading directions is sometimes difficult and hardly ever enjoyable. Most often, you just want to get started. Only if all else fails are you ready to tackle the instructions! We understand—we're not into details either. But read "How to Get Started" before you begin. This is a vital part of getting started on the right foot. The pages are few...and they will help you immensely.

HOW TO GET STARTED...



FIRST

As you study the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. Marking is essential because it is an integral part of the learning process and will help you remember and retain what you learned. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB*, available in the New American Standard Version comes in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, and is ideal for marking. The page margins are wide and blank for note-taking.

The *NISB* is unique among all study Bibles in that it has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text. The *NISB* isn't compiled from any particular theological stance since its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. Inductive Bible study simply means that the Bible itself is the primary source for study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.) Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings us to the second item you will need.

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens (such as Micron pens) for writing in

your Bible. The Micron pens are best for this purpose. Office supply stores should have these.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.

4. A composition notebook or loose-leaf notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

SECOND

1. As you study this book, you'll find specific instructions for each day's study. The study should take you between 15 and 25 minutes a day. However, just know that the more time you can give to this study, the greater the spiritual dividends, the greater your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.


As a word of warning, you need to be aware that any time you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And the enemy doesn't want you prepared for battle. Thus, the warfare! Remember that our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and it is enough to fell the enemy.

To study or not to study is a matter of choice first, discipline second. It's a matter of the heart. On what or whom are you setting your heart? Get armed for war! And remember, victory is certain.

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to think through the content of the text by asking the "5 W's and an H": who, what, when, where, why, and how. Posing questions like these and searching out the answers help you see

exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, you ask questions like these:

- a. **Who** are the main characters?
- b. **What** is the chapter about?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this occur?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did this happen?

3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. We do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of our Bibles beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. Or you may want to underline references to time in one specific color. As a reminder, note on your key-word bookmark (which is explained next in this section) how you are going to mark time references in each chapter.

4. You will be told about certain key words that you should mark throughout this study. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. While this may seem a little time-consuming, you will discover that it is a valuable learning tool. If you will develop the habit of marking your Bible, you will find it will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of your study and in how much you retain as a result of your study.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the

book, while other key words will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that have the same meaning in a particular context) and any pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way you have marked the key word. Because some people have requested them, we will give you various ideas and suggestions in your daily assignments for how you can mark different key words.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors, symbols, or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If you use symbols, we suggest you keep them very simple. For example, one of the key words in 1 Timothy is *law*. You could draw a tablet like this over **law** and color it black. If a symbol is used in marking a key word, it is best for the symbol to somehow convey the meaning of the word.

As you begin this new venture, we recommend that you devise a color-coding system for marking key words that you decide to mark throughout your Bible. Then, when you glance at the pages of your Bible, you will have instant recognition of the words.

In marking the members of the Godhead (which we do not always mark), we use a triangle to represent the Father. We then color it yellow. Then, playing off the triangle, we mark the Son this way: **Jesus** , and the Holy Spirit this way: **Spirit** . We find that when you mark every reference to God and Jesus, your Bible becomes cluttered. However, since the Spirit is mentioned less and because many people do not have a thorough biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit, it is good to mark all the references to the Spirit of God.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. Therefore, we recommend that

you tear out the perforated card in the back of this book and write the key words and their symbols on it. Mark the words in the way you plan to mark each in the Bible text, and then use the card as a bookmark. Make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible, and a different one for any specific book of the Bible you are studying. Or record your marking system for the words you plan to mark throughout your Bible on a blank page in your Bible.

5. Because locations are important in Epistles and they tell you “where,” you will find it helpful to mark locations in a distinguishable way in your study. Try double underlining every reference to a location in green (grass and trees are green!). We suggest that you make a note on your keyword bookmark to mark locations.

6. Charts called 1 TIMOTHY AT A GLANCE, 2 TIMOTHY AT A GLANCE, and TITUS AT A GLANCE are located at the end of each section. When you complete your study of each chapter of these books, record the main theme of that chapter on the appropriate chart. A chapter theme is a brief description or summary of the main theme or predominant subject, teaching, or event covered in that chapter.

When stating chapter themes, it is best to use words found within the text itself and to be as brief as possible. Make sure that you do them in such a way as to distinguish one chapter from another. Doing this will help you to remember what each chapter is about. In addition, it will provide you with a ready reference if you desire to find something in the book rather quickly and without a lot of page turning.

If you develop the habit of filling out the AT A GLANCE charts as you progress through the study, you

will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find the same charts in your Bible. If you record your chapter themes on the charts in your Bible and on the designated line at the head of each chapter in the text, you'll always have a quick synopsis of the chapter and the book.

7. Begin your study with prayer. Don't start without it. Why? Well, although you are doing your part to handle the Word of God accurately, remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are absolute truth, given to you by God so that you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely understood.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

This is why you need to pray. Simply tell God you want to understand His Word so you can live accordingly. Nothing pleases Him more than obedience—honoring Him as God—as you are about to see.

8. Each day, when you finish your lesson, take some time to think about what you read, what you saw with your own eyes. Ask your heavenly Father how you can apply these insights, principles, precepts, and commands to your own life. At times, depending on how God speaks to you through His Word, you might want to record these "Lessons for Life" in the margin of your Bible next to the text you have studied. Simply put "LFL" in the margin of your Bible; then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for

life that you want to remember. You can also make the note “LFL” on your key word bookmark as a reminder to look for these when you study. You will find them encouraging (and sometimes convicting) when you come across them again. They will be a reminder of what God has shown you from His Word.

THIRD

This study is designed so that you have an assignment for every day of the week. This puts you where you should be—in the Word of God on a daily basis, grasping, systematizing, and utilizing truth. It’s revolutionary!

If you will do your study daily, you will find it more profitable than doing a week’s study in one sitting. Pacing yourself this way allows time for thinking through what you learn on a daily basis. However, whatever it takes to get it done, do it!

The seventh day of each week has several features that differ from the other six days. These features are designed to aid in one-on-one discipleship, group discussions, and Sunday school classes. However, they are also profitable even if you are studying this book by yourself.

The “seventh” day is whatever day in the week you choose to think about and/or discuss your week’s study. On this day, you will find a verse or two to memorize and thus STORE IN YOUR HEART. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material for discipleship, family devotions, or in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. Whatever your situation, seeking to answer these questions will help you reason through some key issues in the study.

If you are using the study in a group setting, make sure the answers given are supported from the Bible text itself. This practice will help ensure that you are handling the Word of God accurately. As you learn to see what the text says, you will find that the Bible explains itself.

Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context. Context is what goes with the text...the Scriptures preceding and following what is written. Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If a Scripture passage ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

Your discussion time should cause you to see how to apply these truths to your own life. What are you now going to embrace as truth? How are you going to order your life? Are you going to not only know these truths but also live accordingly?

The purpose of a THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK is to help you apply what you've learned. We've done this for your edification. In this, a little of our theology will inevitably come to the surface; however, we don't ask that you always agree with us. Rather, think through what is said in light of the context of the Word of God. You can determine how valuable it is.

Remember, books in the New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. The Precept studies are awesome but require five hours of personal study a week.

WALKING IN THE TRUTH



What could be gained by a study of the personal letters of a first-century missionary to his two most trusted disciples? In this case, a knowledge of the truth. Paul wrote almost half of the New Testament, but only four of his letters are to individuals. Three—the three we will study together for the next 13 weeks—are to his primary lieutenants, Titus and Timothy. These were men that he trained to be elders in the church. He loved them as if they were his own sons. They served him as if he was their father. Historically, these have been called the “Pastoral Epistles” since these men were serving as pastors. Although these are personal letters to the local pastors, the truth they contain is eternal; it is universal. What Paul shares goes beyond the bounds of personal remarks to define sound doctrine (real truth) and sound discipline (right behavior) for the church of the ages.

Study with us for the next 13 weeks, and we will help you discover the truth and how to live.

1 *T*IMOTHY

INTRODUCTION TO 1 TIMOTHY



Thirty years of labor for the gospel had taken its toll on Paul. His body bore the brand-marks of a servant of Jesus Christ. However, the intensity of his sufferings never changed the intensity of his love and concern for the churches which were etched on his heart.

One of these churches was Ephesus. Timothy, his faithful disciple, was pastoring that strategically important church. Possibly concerned that he might be delayed and that Timothy might need something in writing to set before others as an ever-present reminder, Paul took quill and ink, spread out the parchment, and wrote his first letter to his son in the faith. This letter would become a legacy for the church, defining both sound doctrine (truth), and sound discipline (right behavior). It was about A.D. 62.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?



DAY ONE

Before we begin our study, be sure to read the “How to Get Started” section beginning on page 7. This information will make your study easier and more exciting.

To understand *what* the apostle Paul means by what he says, it is very helpful to know *why* he is writing. Sometimes he states his purposes very clearly; sometimes he only hints. Today we will begin the process of determining the context of 1 Timothy by looking at the first three chapters. Read 1 Timothy 1–3. Since this is a letter, read it as if you had just received it in the mail. See if you can discover why he is writing and why he left Timothy in Ephesus. The answers to these two questions will help us establish the context of the letter and understand why he says what he does. Just read straight through—don’t get distracted by difficult passages now. We will get answers in due time. Simply familiarize yourself with the letter.

The word *context* comes from a Latin word meaning “to weave together.” Before we can understand a passage, we must see what it is woven together with. In other words, we need to see what is talked about before it and after it.

Reading through the book will help you see the big picture and then make it easier to see the context of each passage.

Before you start, pray. Always ask the Father for guidance when you are studying His Book. Enjoy.




 DAY TWO

Did you discover Paul's purpose? Just in case you missed it, he tells us why he left Timothy in Ephesus in 1:3, and why he is writing in 3:14,15. Read chapters 4–6 to familiarize yourself with the rest of this letter. When you finish, record Paul's purpose in writing and his purpose in leaving Timothy in Ephesus on your AT A GLANCE chart, page 52. These two purposes will help us interpret the difficult passages by giving us a context from which to work.



 DAY THREE

Today focus your attention on 1 Timothy 1. Mark every reference to *doctrines*¹ and any synonyms such as *instruction*² or *sound teaching*.³ Continue to mark these words throughout your study of 1 Timothy. The word doctrine simply means “a teaching.” You will notice that Paul describes sound and unsound doctrine. Start a list in your notebook of what you learn about each one. Title your lists “Sound Doctrine” and “Unsound Doctrine,” respectively. On your list identify what strange doctrine looks like according to verse 4. Also, under “Sound Doctrine,” record the goal of our instruction according to verse 5. In the next weeks, you will add to this list as you see the word *doctrine* or its synonyms in 1 Timothy.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11 again and mark every reference to *law*. I draw a black tablet like this  which represents two tablets of stone. When you finish, list everything you learn about the law. For example, in verse 8 we learn “the Law is good if one uses it lawfully.” Did you notice in verse 9 who the law is for and who it isn’t for?



DAY FOUR

The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. Many times looking at other passages of Scripture will help give understanding to the passage you are studying. This is called cross-referencing. Read Galatians 3:23-29 and mark every reference to *law* and *faith*. In your notebook, list what you learn about each one. Also, take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned about sound doctrine. According to 1 Timothy 1:5, what is the goal of sound doctrine or instruction?



DAY FIVE

When we study the Bible, it is always important to pay close attention to what we learn about Jesus Christ. Today read 1 Timothy 1 and Galatians 3:23-29 again. In both passages mark every reference to *Jesus Christ* and the pronouns which refer to Him. Pay close attention to 1 Timothy 1:12-17. This is the first doctrinal passage in this letter where the gospel is presented. You don’t want to miss this. When you finish, start a list in your notebook of everything you learn about Jesus Christ. To mark *Christ*, I use the same symbol and color shown in the “How to Get Started”

section, but you are free to develop any marking system which suits you.

DAY SIX

To keep yourself in context, read 1 Timothy 1 today. As you do, mark each reference to *Timothy*. When you finish, list what you learn about Timothy's responsibilities. In other words, what is Timothy charged to do?

Now read 1 Timothy 4:6. How does this compare with what you have learned in chapter 1 about Timothy's responsibilities?

I know by now you must be curious about this man Timothy. You will learn more about him when you study 2 Timothy, but for now let me say that he was Paul's most trusted disciple. Paul even described Timothy as a man of kindred spirit. Enough for now—you will see more later.

When you finish, record what chapter 1 is about (the main idea or theme) in as few words as possible on your AT A GLANCE chart on page 52.

DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: 1 Timothy 1:5.

Read and discuss: 1 Timothy 1.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ☞ What was Paul's purpose in writing this letter to Timothy? Why did he leave Timothy in Ephesus? Which of these purposes relates to knowing the truth or knowing

- sound doctrine? Which relates to living the truth or walking in sound discipline?
- ☞ Discuss the characteristics of the strange doctrines against which Paul warns Timothy. What is the result of these unsound teachings?
 - ☞ What did you learn about the law from 1 Timothy? What did you learn about the law from Galatians? What is the purpose of the law? Who is the law for? What is the relationship of the law to salvation?
 - ☞ Once you come to know Christ, what relationship do you have with the law? What did you learn about Jesus Christ this week? What difference should it make in your life?
 - ☞ In 1 Timothy 1:18, Paul says, “This command I entrust to you....” What command is he talking about? What was the last command he gave Timothy in chapter 1? In your communication of the Word of God, are you careful to adhere to sound teaching? What is the goal of sound doctrine? Can you adhere to sound teaching if you don’t know what the Bible says?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our focus this week has been on knowing the truth, on knowing sound doctrine. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus in order that he might instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines. As you study this letter, you need to pay close attention to the truth being presented. The false doctrines Timothy faced are still around in religion today. Do you know the truth well enough to recognize strange doctrine when you hear it? It is vital that you know what God has said instead of simply what man has said about God.

Being dependent on man places you in the dangerous position of being susceptible to strange doctrines.

What is strange doctrine? We may not know everything Timothy faced, but part of the false teaching had to do with the law. This was probably the law of Moses as interpreted by the Pharisees. They taught that to get into a right relationship with God one had to keep the law. You studied that this week. Are you made right with God by keeping rules and regulations? No, of course not. You have seen in Galatians 3:24 that we are justified (put in right relationship with God) by faith. In 1 Timothy 1:15 you saw that Jesus came into the world to save sinners (those who have violated God's law, not those who have kept it).

The point Paul is making in both of these passages is that you are saved by faith, not by keeping some external set of rules or regulations. To come into a relationship with God, we must first recognize that we have sinned against Him. Paul talks about this in relationship to himself in chapter 1, verses 12-17. We then must surrender our will to God's. This is what it means to call Him Lord. Did you notice that there is no mention of keeping any rules or regulations? You enter into this relationship by placing your faith, your trust, in what Christ has done for you.

What is sound doctrine? You saw some of the answer in chapter 1:12-17. Christ came into the world to save sinners. In Him is found mercy, grace, faith, and love. The goal of sound doctrine is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. It is enough for this week; we will see more in chapter 2.

If I am not under the law, can I live any way I want? Good question. This week we focused on knowing the truth. Later we will talk about living the truth (in chapters 4, 5, and 6).

Now for the question I know you have been asking: What about Alexander and Hymenaeus? They were apparently teachers of strange doctrine. Paul's use of the phrase "handed over to Satan" means that he excommunicated them from the church. The early church believed that unscriptural teaching was so dangerous that anyone found engaging in it was excommunicated. What an idea! You will see these two men mentioned in 2 Timothy when you do the next study.