

# 1 TIMOTHY

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## LIFE IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD



**MBM Bible Studies** – Adapted from studies written for Moore Women



# How to be a good Growth Group member at MBM



## Be There

The power of just turning up to encourage others is phenomenal. We don't think of our groups as events we might go to, but people we do life with. Seek to commit yourself to your small group family weekly. The blessings we give and get from one another are of eternal value!

## Be Active

It's true, the more you put in, the more you'll get out of your small group. Look through the study or passage before the group meets. Engage in conversation, answer questions, share opinions, be willing to pray, read, lead, help set-up or pack-up. Jesus wasn't lying when he said *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"*.



## Be Open

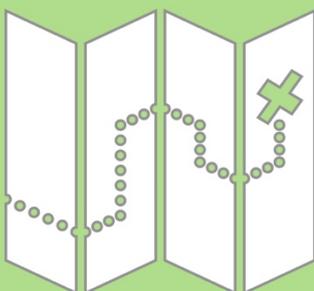
 about yourself, your joys and your struggles.

One of the greatest blessings of a small group is knowing others and being known more personally. So share and listen openly. Similarly, be honest about when you don't understand a question or part of scripture. Chances are, someone else has been through a similar experience and appreciates you sharing it, or had a similar question to you but were too shy to ask it.

## Be Concerned

 for others.

Resist the temptation to think *"the group must serve my needs"* before asking, *"how can I serve the needs of others?"* It's also not just the leaders' role to care for the needs of the group; Each member plays their part as we all care for one another. Be concerned for how people are travelling. Ask questions about their week and their life and be active in caring for them as they share. Seek to connect with members outside of the meeting.



## Be On About God

One of the temptations of a good small group is to get caught up in each other's interests and end up talking about lots of not-so-meaningful things. Be *on about God* and what He's doing in each other's lives. Share His word with each other, pray for each other, encourage mission and godly living, rebuke, correct and train one another in righteousness.

# 1 TIMOTHY

## LIFE IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Bible Study Plan			Church Sermons	
Week	Study Passage	Topic	Sunday	Sermon Passage
1	1 Timothy 1	Fixing False Teaching	18 Jul	1 Tim 1:1-11
2	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Prayer	25 Jul	1 Tim 1:12-20
3	1 Timothy 2:8-15	Men & Women	1 Aug	1 Tim 2:1-7
4	1 Timothy 3	Leading with Integrity	8 Aug	1 Tim 2:8-15
5	1 Timothy 4	Reading the Times	15 Aug	1 Tim 3
6	1 Timothy 5:1-16	Honouring The Powerless	22 Aug	1Tim 4
7	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2	Honouring Authority	29 Aug	1 Tim 5:1-16
8	1 Timothy 6:3-21	Great Gains	12 Sept	1 Tim 5:17-6:2
			19 Sept	1 Tim 6:3-21

# 1 TIMOTHY

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## INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Written around AD 60-62, 1 Timothy (along with 2 Timothy and Titus) is a pastoral letter written by Paul to ensure his work for the Gospel would continue. Timothy was then in Ephesus, a thriving city where believers were being pressed to conform to the culture progressing around them. Paul writes to confirm and affirm God's foundational pattern for His people - the Church, as they continue doing life together as family.

Paul gives instructions on Church leadership, on roles in relationships, gives guidance for dealing with false teaching, speaks about work and money and urges Timothy to set an example for all by godly living. His main aim is help Timothy keep the Church centred on God's truth, so that, by preserving the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the world might come to know God's great salvation through Him.

After arriving in Ephesus (Acts 19:1), Paul built on Apollos' work spending around 2 years teaching and preaching the gospel "so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10). After performing incredible miracles, facing severe persecution and yet seeing many converted to Jesus, Paul left for Jerusalem. Along the way, he gathered the leaders of the Ephesian Church together encouraging them to hold firmly to the grace of God and warning them of dangers to come, even from within the Church (Acts 20:17-38).

In the letter to the Ephesian Church in Revelation 2:1-7, Jesus convicts them of abandoning their first love. It appears the devotion they had to Christ and his people at first had become compromised as they were hard-pressed by their surroundings. Now, not only did the Ephesians face that pressure, but since then, the same danger has been experienced by every Church, not least in our very own Church today!

Just as Paul encouraged Timothy and the Ephesian Church to "Fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim 6:12a), God will also call us to do the same as we commit ourselves to hearing His voice in this letter.





# STUDY ONE: 1 TIMOTHY 1

## FIXING FALSE TEACHING

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Discuss: Are you a rule keeper or rule breaker? What drives your rule keeping or breaking? (Give an example)

### Read 1 Timothy 1

1. In **1:3-7 & 18-20**, What is Timothy's role in the church at Ephesus? What does Paul charge him to do?
2. From **1:3-11 & 18-20**, What is the nature of the false teachings that Paul attacks? Why does Paul not allow any deviation from the gospel? (**see also Gal 1:6-12**)
3. How would this false teaching lead to people wandering away from the faith? What is attractive about it?
4. In **1:7-11**, Who is the law laid down for? What effect does it have on them?
5. The false teaching taught that the law was a means of righteousness. In **1:8-16**, how does Paul show the limitations of the law and the superiority of the gospel?

6. How does Paul describe himself before he met Christ (**vv.12–16**)? How did Jesus deal with him and why?
  
7. What was your experience of the gospel like, compared with Paul's in **verses 12–17**? What features does Paul emphasise? How has Christ shown you mercy, grace and patience?
  
8. From **verses 18-20** why is it necessary to “fight the good fight” with “faith and a good conscience”? What other alternatives are there? (Compare also with 6:12)
  
9. How can we avoid the dangers Paul points out to Timothy, and how can we keep our eyes focused on Christ and his amazing grace?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote this regarding Paul's words in 1:15:

“If my sin appears to me to be in any way smaller or less reprehensible in comparison with the sins of others, then I am not yet recognizing my sin at all. My sin is of necessity the worst, the most serious, the most objectionable. Christian love will find any number of excuses for the sins of others; only for my sin is there no excuse whatsoever. That is why my sin is the worst. Those who would serve others in the community must descend all the way down to this depth of humility. How could I possibly serve other persons in unfeigned humility if their sins appear to me to be seriously worse than my own? If I am to have any hope for them, then I must not raise myself above them. Such service would be a sham.”

- [Life Together, Bonhoeffer](#)

Spend some time praying about these things.

# STUDY TWO: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

## PRAYER

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Discuss: What opportunities did COVID-19 bring for the gospel?

### Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

1. In **2:1-4**, for whom and for what does Paul urge us to pray? Why does Paul urge this? (Consider also last week's study)
2. In **2:2**, how is praying for national leaders linked to living peaceful, quiet and godly lives? (see also **Jeremiah 29:7**)
3. In **verse 3**, what is good and pleasing to God? Why is it?
4. What things do we learn about God in **verses 3-6**?

5. What's the connection between people being saved (coming to a knowledge of the truth) and the way we pray and live (v. 7)?
  
6. How should these verses challenge and affect the way you pray? What about the way our church or growth group prays?
  
7. Consider the different types of prayer in Paul's encouragement in **2:1**:
  - **Requests**
  - **Prayers**
  - **Intercession**
  - **Thanksgiving**

How do they differ? How frequently do each appear in your own prayers? How might you need to alter your prayers to include all of these?

Spend some time praying about these things now.

## STUDY THREE: 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

### MEN AND WOMEN.

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Discuss: What aspects of our culture (good and bad) do you think the Church has accepted without realising?

Or

In what ways do you think Feminism has helped our society?

#### Read 1 Timothy 2:8-15

1. Whenever a section starts with “Therefore” we always ask, what’s it there for? What is the context this section of teaching (vs8-15) is based on?
2. In **v8**, what does Paul want the men to do and not do? What do you think might have been going on in the Church?
3. In **vv9-10**, what does Paul want the women to do and not do? What message does each one send to an unbeliever who joins the gathering?

4. Men and women, reflect personally on how these verses challenge you?
  - a) Men, are you quick to confront or grumble about something/someone before praying for it/them? What are the desires that drive this and how can you change it?
  
  - b) Women, what does your life reveal about where your identity is found? What things do you find yourself putting your energy into to satisfy your sense of significance/acceptance?

This next few verses (11-15) can be the cause of much division and has at times been taught wrongly and misunderstood resulting in a poor treatment of women. It must be approached with much sensitivity and wisdom. As we do, we seek to uphold the important biblical tension of celebrating the various gifts and wisdom of men and women in our churches, while preserving the goodness of their biblical distinctives (differing in role and responsibilities).

In **verse 11**, we may easily miss it, but women learning together with the men was a very big cultural change. Paul is positively giving women a place in the congregation that previously was rarely practiced and, in their culture, was not the norm. This was a very progressive verse, affirming the value of women in the Church!

5. What is the manner in which Paul says women are to learn? How different do you think it was to how the men were learning? (Consider our current Church setting and how we learn during the sermons)

6. With the following definitions in view, what are women not permitted to do in **v12**?

“**Teaching**” here is shepherding God’s people through preaching and teaching God’s word in a mixed adult congregation (**1 Tim 3:1-2, 5:17, 1 Pet 5:1-4, Titus 1:6-9, Acts 20:25-31**). Contrast with “teach” in **Col 3:16**).

“**Authority**” in the Church is primarily exercised through the preaching and teaching of the scriptures, by appointed elders/overseers (**1 Tim 3:1-7, 5:17, Tit 1:6-9**) bearing responsibility for setting theological foundation and godly living.

“**Submission**” here means submitting to God’s word as it is faithfully taught and applied through appointed (tested and approved) men (**1 Tim 3:1-7**).

“**Silent**” here does not mean at all times – as women were encouraged to speak in various ways in other Churches (**1 Cor 11:5, Eph 5:19, Col 3:16**).

7. What are Paul’s points in these examples from Genesis (**vv13-14**)?

8. How do verses **13-14** reveal that this is not merely a cultural principle, but a timeless one? (See also **3:14-15**)

9. How are women saved through childbearing (v. 15)? What do you think the purpose of this verse is in this section?

There are many options for what this verse could mean. The main positions that have been put forward are:

- a) Women, including Eve are able to be saved through the birth of the child descendent who was promised in Genesis 3:15. He would defeat Satan's work and ultimately redeem humanity. This was Jesus Christ, who through our faith, saves us. (see **John 16:11, Col 2:15, Heb 2:14**)
- b) Women will be saved by having children. Or at least, by having children and being busy at home, they will be saved from the desire and availability to lead and teach the Church, especially as false teachers.
- c) Having children and bringing them up in the Lord, while it does not save a person, is a good and godly pursuit. It is one of the "good works which God has prepared" for those who have put their faith in Jesus for salvation (**Eph 2:8-10**). This verse encourages and affirms the ministry of raising a family (see also **4:3, 5:10 and 5:14**).
- d) Women, though they experience the effects of the curse (pain in childbearing), are not cut off from salvation due to Eve's transgression, but will also be saved along with men (who also experience aspects of the curse) if they continue in faith, love and holiness.

The consensus generally falls to position a) while c) and d) are also consistent with scripture. Position b) is generally less favored (even heretical!).

10. Considering the context these verses appear in (**1:3-5, 15-17, 2:1-7**), how can we seek to honour and support each other as we celebrate and exercise our different roles and gifts within the Church?

How can you?

Spend some time praying about these things.

# STUDY FOUR: 1 TIMOTHY 3

## LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

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Discuss: What do you think makes for a good leader?

### Read 1 Timothy 3

1. What qualities are required of an overseer? What qualities are required of a deacon? Take note of what Paul says about their character, general reputation and abilities.

Overseers (vv. 1-7)	Deacons (vv. 8-13)

2. What are the similarities and differences emphasised here? Why?
  
3. Why does Paul put such emphasis on the personal life of a Christian leader? What are the effects or consequences of bad leadership?
  
4. What is the danger of appointing someone to church leadership too quickly (v. 6)?
  
5. Why is it important for church leaders to have a good reputation with outsiders (v. 7)?
  
6. How can we encourage our leaders in the standards set in this chapter?

In **verse 11** Paul is either referring to wives of the deacons, or women who were counted as deacons themselves. The early church certainly had female leadership such as Lydia (**Acts 16:14, 20**) and Priscilla (**Acts 18:18; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19**). There is no mention that Lydia was married, and she managed her own household, so these standards can be applied to single women as well.

7. What are the expectations for these women in **verse 11**?

8. Most of the qualifications in this chapter are qualities we would want to see in any mature Christian, not just our leaders. How is God growing these qualities in your life? Is there anything on the list that you find particularly challenging? How can you encourage each other in this type of godly living?
  
9. **Verse 15** is a little summary of what this letter is all about. How does Paul describe the church in **verse 15**? How does that description differ from how you view the Church? What effect ought these truths have on our lives?

**Verse 16** was most likely a common creed and summary of the Gospel.

10. a) What are the main aspects and why do you think they are?
  - b) If anything, what would you have added or taken away?
  - c) What would a creed or summary of the Gospel for people in our day sound like?

Spend some time praying about these things.

# STUDY FIVE: 1 TIMOTHY 4

## READING THE TIMES

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Discuss: “Do as I say, not as I do.” Is there anything wrong with this statement? If so, what?

### Read 1 Timothy 4

1. In **4:1-5**, where does Paul say the false teaching will come from? By what kind of people is it taught?
2. According to **verses 3-5**, why is what the false teachers were saying false?
3. From **verse 6 to 16**, make a list of all the things Timothy is told to do and to avoid in order to become a ‘good minister of Christ Jesus’.

To do	Not to do

4. From your list, which things concern Timothy's personal life and which concern his public ministry? What can we learn about the connection of these two?
  
5. How valuable is godliness compared with physical training? (vv. 7-8)? How are you currently training in godliness? Is anyone helping you? Does your training program need to change/be altered?
  
6. What do verses 9-10 add to this section? Why are they here?
  
7. How are you setting an example to other believers in speech, conduct, love, faith or purity (v. 12)? What might need to change to do this?
  
8. What are Timothy's ministry (Church) priorities to be (v. 13)? Why are these important? How can we ensure that these stay as priorities in our own church?
  
9. From v16, how is having our life and teaching closely aligned linked with us and others being saved?

Spend some time praying about these things.

## STUDY SIX: 1 TIMOTHY 5:1–16

### HONOURING THE POWERLESS

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Discuss: Where (or to whom) do you usually turn when you're in need?

#### Read 1 Timothy 5:1–16

1. How are we to view other people in the Church and how does that affect the way we minister to them (v1-2)?
2. From **verses 3-4 and 16**, how are the elderly (e.g. widows) expected to be cared for? What other ways are they cared for in our society?
3. Paul says in **verse 8** that if anyone doesn't provide for their relatives they are worse than an unbeliever. Why do you think Paul uses such strong language? How does this verse impact you?
4. In **verses 5-6**, Paul discerns the widows who are really in need from those who aren't. How do these differences express themselves, and how might we see this today in our elderly/retired generation?

5. Scan over **verses 9-16**, what enables or disqualifies someone for Church support? What is good and what is difficult about these requirements?
  
6. Why does Paul advise against giving Church support to younger widows in **verse 11-15**? How might that scenario look in our day and what can/should we do about it? What did Paul encourage them to do (**v.14**)
  
7. Our government, and Christian organisations like Anglicare currently offer great support/care for our elderly population. What should the Church's role be in caring for those "in need"? From **verse 16**, how can we ensure the Church is not over-burdened, yet is a solid support network?
  
8. Did you know we have frozen meals in our Church Kitchen Freezer ready to hand to people who are in need? If you'd like to find out more, please contact Mel Potter (MBM Kitchen Manager) [melanipotter@gmail.com](mailto:melanipotter@gmail.com)

Spend some time praying about these things.

## STUDY SEVEN: 1 TIMOTHY 5:17–6:2 HONOURING THOSE WITH AUTHORITY

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Discuss: Australians are well known for “tall poppy syndrome”, where we seek to bring high achievers and those in authority down to everyone else’s level. What is good and bad about this cultural trait?

### Read 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

1. **Verse 17** develops our understanding of the role of an overseer from **3:1-7**. What is their role and how are they to be supported in it (**v17-18**)?
2. In **verses 19-21**, why would an accusation against a leader need good evidence? And when discipline is required, why is it so severe?
3. How does question 2 help us understand the importance of **v. 22**? What are the possible consequences of appointing too early?
4. What warnings against sin does Paul give to Timothy (**see verses 22, 24**)?

5. How does **verse 23** relate to **verse 22** here, particularly in light of the false teaching in **4:3** and instructions to leaders in **3:3 & 3:8**?
  
6. Share an example of someone's good deeds that were obvious/unable to be hidden (**v25**)
  
7. How is the instruction to Christian slaves/servants consistent with the overall purpose of Paul's letter and this section on leaders? (see also **2:1-7, 3:15, 4:10, 4:15-16**)
  
8. What does **6:2-3** tell us about the relationship between Christian slaves and Christian masters? Why do you think Paul addresses slaves and not masters?
  
9. Why might it be tempting not to work hard for a non-Christian boss? Or for a Christian boss?

Spend some time praying about these things.

## STUDY EIGHT: 1 TIMOTHY 6:3–21

### GREAT GAINS

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Discuss: What areas of your life would be easier if you had more money?

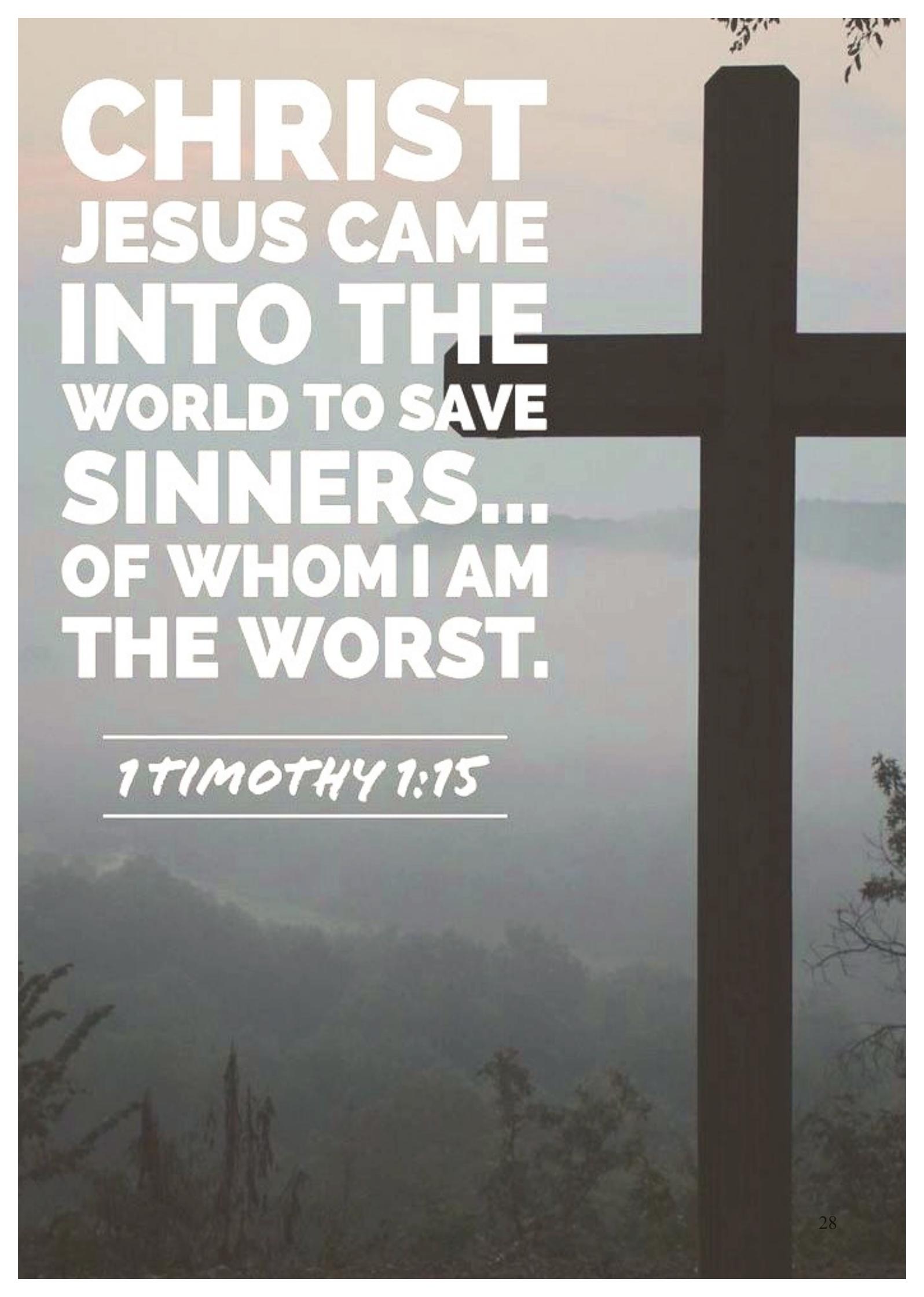
#### Read 1 Timothy 6:3–21

1. How does Paul describe the false teachers here (6:3-5, 20-21) and what are the causes of these errors?
2. What reason does Paul give for being content and what are the marks of contentedness (vs7-8)?
3. What stops you from being content?
4. From **verses 6–10, 17–19**, what are the dangers for those who are rich, or want to be rich? What instead should our desires, hopes and pursuits be fixed on?

5. What is Timothy called to focus on instead of financial gain (**vs11-16**)? How can we encourage each other to do the same?
  
6. In your experience, what are some reasons people wander from the faith? What are some of the reasons Paul gives here (**6:10, 20-21**)? (see also **1:5-7, 18-20 & 5:11-15**)
  
7. How does Paul describe God in **verses 14-16**? Why do you think Paul chose these descriptors in this particular context?
  
8. After a heavy letter with lots of commands and practical application, how do Paul's final words tie this letter together (**v21**)?

Spend some time praying about these things.





**CHRIST  
JESUS CAME  
INTO THE  
WORLD TO SAVE  
SINNERS...  
OF WHOM I AM  
THE WORST.**

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*1TIMOTHY 1:15*

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