



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

1 TIMOTHY WEEK 1

OPENING & PRAYER:

Paul opens 1 Timothy by planting Timothy in history and in grace. The text stands less than a generation from the cross, so the claims are not foggy myths but near-term facts that birthed real churches and real letters. Paul writes as an apostle by command, announcing that Jesus Christ is the church's hope. The passage pushes that line hard - hope is not in tech, trends, or dodging death - hope is Jesus alone. God calls, God sends, and God anchors the work.

"Lord, thank You for bringing us together at this moment right now. We ask that You would stir our hearts and minds to be curious about You and kind to one another. Please reveal more of Yourself to us as we grow closer to You and one another. We thank You for this small group time we're about to have. In Jesus' name, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

Philippians 2:19-23

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine (The Law of Moses Vs. Grace and Christ's New Covenant), nor give heed to fables (Tales as Opposed To Historical Facts) and endless genealogies (Jews and Samaritans Had Great Pride In Genealogies), which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

Now the purpose of the commandment is love (Agape) from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 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.

1 Timothy 1:5-7

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the

unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

1 Timothy 1:8-9

for fornicators, for sodomites (KJV- "for them that defile themselves with mankind"), for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, 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. **1 Timothy 1:10-11**

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; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. **1 Timothy 1:12-13**

And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 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.

1 Timothy 1:14-15

GO DEEPER:

Timothy appears as a true son set over Ephesus as an overseer. The relationship reads like father to son, and the emphasis lands not on polish but on proven life. Character rises over gifting. "Gifting will write checks that character can't pay" is the street-level wisdom that matches Paul's praise of Timothy's "proven character." The church needs overseers, not celebrities - well trained, deeply devoted, highly consecrated leaders whose lives are readable Bibles.

The charge is clear: teach no other doctrine. Paul draws a hard line between Moses' law and grace in Christ. The law is not a ladder to climb into righteousness. The law exposes sin and points to a Savior. Used "lawfully," the law convicts the lawless, not the righteous person who is in Christ. The text refuses endless fables and genealogies that stir up disputes and distract from godly edification. Identity is not bloodline - in Christ there is one family, one priesthood, one access.

Paul names the goal - love - and then fences it. Love flows from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. That conscience matters. It can chew a person up or carry a person with confidence. The way forward is twofold. Obey the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. And when failure shows up - it will - do not run to numbing substitutes. Allow the blood of Jesus to cleanse the conscience. That is freedom without denial and holiness without despair.

The text also exposes the swagger of would-be law teachers who "do not know what they are talking about." Sabbath-keeping and thread-count policing crumble the moment the whole law is held up. Paul then testifies. Formerly a blasphemer and persecutor, he was shown mercy. Grace proved "exceedingly abundant," and the faithful saying lands like a drumbeat of the gospel - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom Paul calls himself chief.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 1. Character outlasts and outruns gifting [07:01]** Gifting can open doors, but only character can keep them from slamming shut. Paul commends Timothy's "proven character," not a shiny platform. The church's credibility rides on integrity, not talent. Let gifting grow, but let character lead and set the limits.
- 2. Hope is Jesus, not forever here [21:21]** The world chases workarounds for death, but resurrection hope is a Person. Christ anchors the future and drains the sting from dying. Longing for this age to last forever is a small dream compared to the new creation He promises.
- 3. The law points, grace saves [39:24]** "The law is good if one uses it lawfully" - to expose sin and steer sinners to Christ. It cannot make anyone righteous, and it will only condemn those who try to ride it to God. Faith in Jesus gives the righteousness the law demands but cannot deliver.
- 4. Love needs a pure, cleaned conscience [29:31]** Biblical love is not vibes - it is rooted in a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Obey the Spirit's nudge, and when missing the mark, run straight to the blood of Jesus. A cleansed conscience frees a believer to love without hiding or posing.
- 5. Sound doctrine grows sturdier saints [12:49]** Feel-good moments cannot carry a soul through storms. Truth can. Not every "Christian" lyric teaches the Bible, so the church must prize doctrine that plants deep roots. Solid teaching builds steady lives, steady families, and steady churches.

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. What two qualities does Paul highlight about Timothy in Philippians 2:20-22, and how does this connect to leadership in the church?
2. Why might Paul emphasize Timothy's character over his gifting when appointing him as an overseer? How does this contrast with modern cultural values?
3. The sermon critiques worship music that prioritizes "feel" over doctrine. **[12:49]** How could you evaluate the songs or teachings you engage with to ensure they root you in biblical truth?
4. Paul's testimony in 1 Timothy 1:13-14 highlights mercy for past failures. Is there an area of your history where you still struggle to accept God's grace? How might embracing Paul's story change your perspective?
5. The Sabbath example **[35:56]** shows how rules can distract from relationships. Are there religious habits or traditions in your life that have become empty rituals? How could you reconnect them to their purpose in Christ?

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We will continue to lean on Your Word as we grow to bring people to know you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."