

LESSON THREE

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY (Continued)

A. **PROPER RESPECT TO BE SHOWN: (I Timothy 5:1-2).**

Respect is a necessary quality of being a Christian. When respect is lost for each other, respect is soon lost for the house of God and for God Himself. A person's speech and actions will reveal his attitude.

Timothy is instructed regarding the attitude to be shown in respect of age.

1. Older Men: They were never to be spoken to sharply but respectfully as if they were a father.
2. Younger Men: They were to be treated as brothers.
3. Older Women: They were to be treated as mothers.
4. Younger Women: They were to be sisters and one was to only have pure thoughts regarding them.

B. **WIDOWS: (I Timothy 5:3-16).**

In the days of the early church, there were no relief agencies in the country to assist the needy. Apparently this became the direct responsibility of the church. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "*Only they would that we should remember the poor ...*" (Galatians 2:10).

It was the problem of ministering to the widows in the early church (Acts 6) which brought about the appointment of deacons. The need of ministering to widows was in the Ephesian church and Paul gave Timothy explicit instructions.

In this Scripture, Paul divided the widows into four groups:

1. Widows who have children or grandchildren who should take the responsibility of providing for their family;
2. Widows who sought only pleasure and spent their time running around gossiping.
3. Young widows who should marry again and have children.
4. "Widows indeed" who were poor and alone in the world.

The church was to be responsible for this last group of widows who were entirely alone and desolate. These widows who were their help and spent much time in prayer. These widows who were going to be supported by the church had to meet certain conditions.

1. She had to be at least sixty years of age.
2. She had only one husband in her life.
3. She must have a good reputation for her good deeds.
4. She had been a good mother.
5. She had been hospitable.
6. She had ministered to the saints and helped the sick.
7. She had shown kindness to all.

In this Scripture regarding widows, the student should give attention to two verses especially: 1) Verse 6 - One who lives in pleasure and self indulgence is dead spiritually; 2) Verse 8 - A person who will not provide for his own household is not a Christian and is worse than the heathen.

C. HONOR OF ELDERS: (I Timothy 5:17-20).

The ministers who faithfully labor in preaching and teaching should have double honor: be highly appreciated and be paid well. The ox should be permitted to eat as he works threshing the grain; likewise every laborer is worthy of his hire.

Paul gave instructions that no accusation should be considered against a minister unless it is confirmed with the testimony of two or three witnesses. The testimony of just one person should never be accepted against a minister. However, when one is proven guilty and persists to continue in sin, he should be rebuked in front of the whole church so that all will fear and not follow his example.

D. PERSONAL ADMONITION: (I Timothy 5:21-25).

In these closing verses of Chapter 5, Timothy is admonished to take proper care of his body for his health sake and to keep himself pure.

Since Paul dealt with disciplining an elder in verses 19 & 20, it would appear that the next two verses deal with the same subject. The instructions given here are:

1. Deal with each matter without partiality or personal prejudice.
2. He should not be hasty in discipline.
3. He should not be lenient nor condone sin.
4. He should keep himself untainted from the sins of others.

The thought of not laying hands suddenly on any man also has the meaning of not being hasty to ordain a minister.

Apparently Timothy did not have good health. In those days, the water supply was not always pure. In travelling, it would be necessary to drink something other than water. Paul recommended to Timothy that he would drink a little wine for medicinal reasons. In no way can this be interpreted as giving license for social drinking of alcoholic beverages.

The last two verses of the chapter should be interpreted within the context. This should be connected with the warning against hasty action. Some men's sins are open and the right decision can be made. In the case of others, time will reveal a man's true connection.

E. SERVANT - MASTER RELATIONSHIP: (I Timothy 6:1-2).

In the early church, there were cases where masters and servants (even slaves) were in the same congregation. They were to treat each other as brothers in the Lord.

The servants were to show proper respect to their masters. When they do not show respect, the Lord's Name and His Word are brought under reproach.

F. WARNING AGAINST COVETOUSNESS: (I Timothy 6:3-12).

Paul strongly instructed Timothy to teach the truth. These men who would deny the wholesome teachings of Jesus, which are the foundation for a godly life are both proud and stupid. Timothy is told to keep away from these men who only stir up arguments which end in jealousy and anger. They do not know how to tell the truth and believe that the ministry is a means to make money.

Worldly gain is one of the greatest weaknesses and temptations to fight against. It is great gain to be content with godliness. We should be content with enough to eat and clothes to wear. There is no sin in money itself, but the love of it is the source of evil. Covetousness will lead men astray and plunge them into ruin and destruction.

Timothy was exhorted to run from all these evil things but pursue righteousness and godliness. He was to hold fast to eternal life and fight on for God.

G. FINAL ADMONITIONS: (I Timothy 6:13-21).

Paul charged Timothy that in the sight of God; he would obey his orders irreproachably and without fault until Jesus returns. At that time, Jesus will reveal who is the only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, dwelling in unapproachable light.

Timothy was to charge the rich not to be high minded. They were to share with others and store up a treasure in eternity.

Timothy was to give a deaf ear to foolish arguments and to keep that which is committed to his trust. Some of these foolish arguments are called science but it is falsely named.

LESSON THREE

SELF HELP TEST

- A. Why is it thought that Timothy did not have good health?
- B. Who were the "widows indeed?"
- C. What were the qualifications of the "widows indeed?"
- D. What responsibility did the church have towards these widows?
- C. What instructions did Paul give Timothy concerning administering discipline?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- F. What is the Christian's correct attitude towards the following:
1. Older Men?
 2. Younger Men?
 3. Older Women?
 4. Younger Women?
- G. What are the instructions given by Paul concerning receiving an accusation against a minister of the gospel?