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**THE BOOK OF**

# **1ST TIMOTHY**

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**TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS**

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## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 1:1-11

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **1st Timothy 1:1-11 (NIV)**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, 2 To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. 9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 11 that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...God's work - which is by faith."

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those that are away from family. Ask God to comfort those at home and those traveling with His special grace.

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### MESSAGE

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Welcome to the next book for the Traveling Prayer Partners. I trust you will enjoy this book of mentoring, from one of the old hands (Paul) to one of the young brothers (Timothy). Paul starts, as he does almost all of his books, with a greeting that we should all warmly embrace. Grace, mercy and peace! What more would anyone want from the one true God? These are the things I believe we all are living for, whether we focus on it or not. God's grace, mercy and peace. The first lesson from Paul is FOCUS! He makes it very clear to Timothy that God's kingdom and its participants have time only for what is important, "...a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

And what is EVERYTHING else? Verse 6 makes it clear, "Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk." As we live in this world we need to constantly be reminded that it is our FAITH in Christ alone that powers our life, and the way to live that power is to focus on it. What is in your engine today? Carefully seek God's will and power this week.

## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 1:12-20

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### 1st Timothy 1:12-20 (NIV)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners,

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God...”

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Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those traveling to focus on God alone as their power. Ask God to comfort and encourage those at home as they spend time without their loved ones.

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### MESSAGE

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This week Paul leads us to a focus on two of God's characteristics that bring many of us to our knees. Yes, He is eternal, immortal and invisible, but what Paul really wants us to focus on is the fact that He is the **ONLY GOD** and that He has unlimited patience for those who believe. When we focus on these two items, we gain the ability to live our lives in this complex world. Consider Paul, a self-admitted blasphemer of God and Jesus Christ. He not only persecuted those who followed Christ, but was a violent man as well, including murder on his list of offenses. In his past, nothing would stop his hate for the Gospel of Christ.

Yet even at this, the love, mercy and grace of Jesus **CHANGED** his life. God could love even him, and God can (and **DOES**) love each of us. This was also the foundation Paul used to encourage Timothy to not be intimidated by anything, but to “...fight the good fight, holding on to faith...” God alone holds the keys to tomorrow. He wanted Timothy to have nothing to do with doubt and disbelief. Where does your faith stand today: in yourself and what you can accomplish, or in Jesus Christ, God alone?

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 2:1-15

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **1st Timothy 2:1-15 (NIV)**

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. 7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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“This is good, and pleases God our Savior ...”

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8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. 9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. 11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week take the time to pray for local and national officials.

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## MESSAGE

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The continuing debate in Christendom: should we get involved politically? Well today we will only argue one point that Paul makes very clearly. We are to pray for our politicians! And what exactly do we pray for? First and foremost we are to pray for their salvation. We can see in verses 3 and 4 that there are reasons to pray for politicians (and everyone else), “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” The best way to please God is to pray for others.

While we all have our own concerns and trials, we also need to see that our responsibility is to be a servant to others, and one of the best ways to be of service is to pray for others. Remember to intercede for local and national politicians (even those from your “other” party) as it does one very important thing... it pleases God.

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 3:1-16

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 1st Timothy 3:1-16 (NIV)

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere,

not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. 14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week seek God's wisdom on what He has for you. Ask Him to remind you what He has gifted you with and for. Pray for those on the road, asking that God will give them His special grace as they seek His face and His will.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...he desires a noble task."

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## MESSAGE

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What has God asked you to do in life? If it has to do with spiritual leadership, take note: it is not a task for the timid. Chapter 3 is a well-known chapter on leadership qualifications in the church. It really gives us some great fundamentals for anyone with leadership tasks in their life. Let's look at a couple of helpful thoughts...

We are to be:

Temperate

Self-controlled

Gentle

Sincere

We are NOT to be:

Violent

Quarrelsome

Malicious talkers

We could spend hours and weeks reviewing these and the other comments in this chapter, but today I think we need to narrow our focus. This week ask God which ones HE wants YOU to focus on, and then turn it over to HIM to focus on in your life! Enjoy this week as one of God's Servant Leaders.

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 4:1-8

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **1st Timothy 4:1-8 (NIV)**

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...everything God created is good..."

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5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week ask God to be with those at home longing for their loved ones who are traveling. Ask God to remind them of His deep love no matter what the circumstances.

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### MESSAGE

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This week we see the outcome of leadership as explained in chapter 3. Paul continues to give instructions to Timothy on the way to exercise his role as a leader in the church. The focus begins with a reminder of the reality of life: not all will follow. This is very difficult for many to accept, especially leaders. The goal, hope and desire of a leader (and of God as we saw last week) is to see people grow and strengthen their commitment to the cause. Paul points out the fact that, "...some will abandon the faith..." It is important to see how Paul continues, because although he wants Timothy (and us) to know the potential results, he takes this time to remind us of the reasons some fall from their faith. They are caught up with and believe deceiving spirits and hypocritical liars. It is important to remember that

ALL messages must be looked at in light of the TRUTH of God's word; otherwise we might be tempted to turn away from His truth. What is the best defense in this situation? A great offense, as shown in verse 7, "Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly." Easily said, but only commitment and discipline will allow us to see what God desires. This week see what is causing your heart to be confused, what godless myth you continue to allow to be seen or heard in your mind, and ask God to replace it with HIS truth.

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 4:9-16

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 1st Timothy 4:9-16 (NIV)

9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance 10 (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"Do not neglect your gift..."

13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week ask God to show you your gifts and how He expects you to use them.

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## MESSAGE

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We continue to see the best offense as the solution to the battle with our enemy. Paul begins the second half of the chapter with a perfect focus for our lives. Verses 9 and 10 say, "This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God..." He then goes on to command Timothy to continue teaching and focusing on God's truth, not letting anyone condemn his youth. Finally, Paul reminds Timothy, "Do not neglect your gift..." This is the BEST advice we can remember as we seek to pursue our lives before God. He has given us each specific gifts and skills to use on this earth.

When we focus on using them, we are not only doing God's will, but we also find the joy He has planned for us. When we focus on our will and our strength, we find frustrations and failure. God has given us our gifts for a reason: to serve Him. He also has given them to us to experience joy in Him. Take that double dose of an offense and let the world see what He can do through us.

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 5:1-16

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 1st Timothy 5:1-16 (NIV)

1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. 3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. 8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his

immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. 11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan. 16 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God places you in situations where you can show respect for those older and in higher positions than you are. Pray for those traveling that they may see God's influence and wisdom as they are away from family and friends.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need."

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## MESSAGE

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**From** explaining the use of our gifts in chapter four, Paul immediately speaks of working with others. Remember that Timothy is a young man in a position of leadership in a culture that believed physical age was a prerequisite for wisdom. The ability to influence others for God should be done in the context of the environment in which we live. Paul gives two very important exhortations to Timothy in the way he should deal with others. First, he is told to work with older men as if they were his father. Timothy had to have a working relationship that was built on respect, not arrogance of youth.

To gain respect you must **FIRST** respect the other, especially those older or in a higher position. Secondly, he was to care for the true widows. These were women who had been left alone not only by the death of their husband, but possibly by the rest of their family. The command to give recognition and care for these women is once again showing respect for those of age and who were in need in the church. As we seek God's will and share His promises, we must be able to influence others, and the foundation for influence is respect.



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## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 5:17-25

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **1st Timothy 5:17-25 (NIV)**

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning. 21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

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### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"Keep yourself pure."

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. 23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. 24 The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. 25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God continues to show you His purity and how you can trust Him alone for yours. Pray this week for those away from family, that they might remain pure as they focus on God's will for their life.

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### MESSAGE

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This week Paul lays it on thick to Timothy about Timothy's responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of those in leadership positions in the church. He makes it clear that the standard is very high. At first this small phrase seems buried amongst the rest, but in fact it is the very foundation of the entire chapter. Nothing else matters if we cannot, as Timothy is commanded, "Keep yourself pure." We can focus back to the other thoughts Paul discusses about favoritism, fairness and respect, but the one that stands above all is keeping oneself pure.

In this age of lost integrity and almost daily news of failed leaders, a leader who truly is pure stands out like a lighthouse. Our respect is given to those who are pure in thought, words and deeds. Paul understood that this is foundational; we cannot influence anyone without being pure.

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TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 6:1-2

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### 1st Timothy 6:1-2 (NIV)

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. 2 Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for those at home and missing their traveling family member. Ask God to give them the encouragement to see God as Master and themselves as slave.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...serve them even better..."

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## MESSAGE

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This passage brings up a subject that has been a very difficult one for me: slavery. It is not difficult because I do not understand it, but because of the seemingly strange way the Bible discusses this subject. Throughout the Bible we see God's people (and many others) trapped in slavery, yet the emphasis of the Bible is NOT on the cruelty of slavery, but instead much of the discussion is on the relationship of the slave to the master, and of the slave being good more than the masters releasing the slaves. Yes, Moses was God's instrument to free the Israelites from slavery, and, yes, there are many passages on masters treating their slaves properly, but it seems there is little, if any, focus on the abolishment of slavery. In this passage we see the emphasis on the believer being a slave-owner and the slave working even harder for their masters.

While much has been written and much can be discussed in this area, (and trust me, I am way in the camp, as I feel God is, for abolishment of slavery) I think the discussion centers around the relationship between master and slave because the reality is that as believers we have "sold" ourselves to Christ. Just like many of the slaves in the New Testament, we have made a willing choice to enter into slavery, and we need to use the master/slave relationship to help us focus on our relationship with God Almighty. We are His slaves to do His will. There is definitely a whole lot more to our lives as Christians, but this is an important point to remember.

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TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 6:3-10

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **1st Timothy 6:3-10 (NIV)**

3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...godliness with contentment is great gain."

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray that God will give those traveling a focus on His will and His word and that the wealth of this world will not be a trap for them.

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## MESSAGE

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Well, we go from the subject of slavery to love of money and false doctrines. Paul is relentless in his instructions to Timothy. Here he once again reminds Timothy that ANYTHING apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ is unhealthy. In fact those who believe anything else know nothing. It is interesting that it is with these same comments on false doctrine he specifically brings up the misguided connection of godliness and worldly wealth. As Paul describes those who have neglected the gospel for other doctrines, he ends the verse with, "...who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain."

Just as we saw last week that slavery is not erased here on earth for the godly or for the godless, we see here that godliness is NOT a path to worldly riches. Paul goes on to say that for someone with a focus or desire for riches, godliness will most likely be missed.

## TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 6:11-16

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### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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#### **1st Timothy 6:11-16 (NIV)**

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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As you pray this week ask God to be an inspiration to those on the road. Ask God to speak to those traveling with His mighty voice. Pray that the days of travel will allow for focus on God's power instead of ours.

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

### MESSAGE

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After Paul clearly outlines what not to do, he follows up with the positives on what we should be doing. His advice for Timothy rings even truer today. We must "...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness." This is not only the command of Christ; it is what makes this world we live in bearable. God's choices for our life are good for both today as well as eternity. Paul continues to show this young preacher, Timothy, that his focus on Christ and the qualities of Christ are the **ONLY** focus to have.

The final statement in this paragraph is enough to make anyone quiver and be inspired: "God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal...To him be honor and might forever. Amen." To know our God so personally and with such awe allows us to live this life He has given us. This week, let God inspire you.

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TRAVELING PRAYER PARTNERS

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# 1ST TIMOTHY 6:17-21

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## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

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### **1st Timothy 6:17-21 (NIV)**

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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This week pray for all to see the joy in giving. Ask God to give you a generous heart and that you will be able to freely and with joy give to others out of what God has given to you.

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## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

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"...to put their hope in God..."

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## MESSAGE

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Paul now goes from direct instructions to Timothy to instructions for the rest of us. Verse 17 applies to ALL of us! What? You do not think you are rich? I beg to differ. I believe we all have an abundance of worldly wealth, especially if we compare to the early Greek times Paul is discussing, or if we look at ourselves in the context of the global community today. We have a lot! So what does God command? NOT to be arrogant and NOT to put our hope in worldly wealth. Why? Because it is "so uncertain".

We could give a dozen other reasons, but Paul goes on to command us to be RICH in what God cares about: good deeds and a generous heart that is willing to share. Why? Because we got it all from Him anyway! Paul's final comments are to guard what God has given you (His Truth) and avoid empty chatter....Great words to end this book. "Grace be with you."