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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
03/22	Need for Prayer	2:1-8
03/29	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/05	To Be Determined	
04/12	Easter	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-15
04/26	Guide for Teaching Pt 1	4:1-16
05/03	Guide for Teaching Pt 2	4:1-16
05/10	Need for Respect	5:1-24
05/17	Summary & Review	

### Food for Thought

**Isaiah 54:8**

*In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*

**Reflection**

Rejoice now and forevermore in the eternal covenant of peace bought by the Son of righteousness! God's compassion will last forever and His mercy to everlasting. Look to Him and embrace the heavenly hope promised to all His beloved children.

*(From "Promises" - Blue Letter Web)*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF 1 TIMOTHY

When Paul passed through Lystra on his second missionary journey, the brethren highly commended a young man named Timothy (Acts 16:1-2). Paul circumcised Timothy and took him along with him as he went his way (16:3). This was the beginning of a long and fruitful association. Timothy became one of Paul's most trusted colleagues (Philippians 2:19-22). Paul and Timothy became so close that Paul spoke of himself as Timothy's spiritual father (Philippians 2:22), and of Timothy as his "son" in the faith (see, for example, 1 Timothy 1:2, 18). Paul frequently sent Timothy to churches as his personal emissary (e.g. 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10; 1 Thessalonians 3:2). In no less than six of Paul's letters, Paul includes Timothy in his greeting (2 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 1:1). The Book of Acts ends with Paul's imprisonment in Rome. From Paul's words in the first chapter of Philippians, we assume with some assurance that he was found innocent, and thus was able to resume his ministry. After Paul's release around A.D. 62, it would seem that he made a fourth missionary journey. As Paul made his way toward Macedonia, he left Timothy behind in Ephesus, and Titus in Crete. Paul knew well that the church at Ephesus needed a man like Timothy. He had earlier warned of those who would arise – even from among the elders – who would turn from the truth and teach false doctrine in order to gain a personal following (Acts 20:29-30). Apparently this had already begun to happen, and so Paul found it necessary to leave Timothy behind in Ephesus as he made his way to Macedonia (1 Timothy 1:3-7). **One of Paul's reasons for writing his First Epistle to Timothy was to instruct him how to recognize and deal with these false teachers. But more broadly Paul's purpose was to instruct the saints through Timothy as to how they should behave as members of the household of God (1 Timothy 3:14-15).** The church, Paul wrote, is "the support and bulwark of the truth." While the false teachers sought to deceive the Ephesian saints, it was the church that was to uphold the truth; the church was the key to dealing with these deceivers, just as they were to uphold and proclaim the truth. First Timothy is God's instruction manual for the conduct of the church. Many books are available in the bookstore that deal with the subject of the church, but **1 Timothy contains God's divinely inspired, inerrant, infallible instructions regarding the church.** Seldom does one find contemporary works on the church dealing with the subject matter that we find in 1 or 2 Timothy. This is a vitally important book, one which we should hear and heed. Let us listen well, then, and ask God's Spirit to enable us to think our way through the message of this great letter from the Apostle Paul to his spiritual son, and thus to the church at Ephesus.

*(Excerpt from "Creation to the Cross" By Bob Deffinbaugh)*

**A good Church leader is one who is taking their faith seriously, growing in his knowledge of God, and maturing in his Christian life**

- Servant Attitude (1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:1-3)
- Equips the Saints (Eph 4:11-12; 1 Tim 4:6,11,13,16; 2 Tim 4:2-4)
- Protects the Flock (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Tim 1:3-4; 6:20-21; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Tit 1:10-16)
- Shields the Church (2 Tim 2:14-18,23-26; Tit 3:9-11)

*(Excerpt from the RBC Booklet "Who Qualifies to be a Church Leader")*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

**AUTHOR:** The apostle Paul

**DATE WRITTEN:** Uncertain, but possibly about A.D. 64 after Paul's first imprisonment.

**PURPOSE:** To encourage Timothy, Paul's young assistant, to be a godly example (4:12), exercising his spiritual gifts (4:14); and to give guidance in his pastoral responsibilities during Paul's absence, 3:14-15.

**TO WHOM WRITTEN:** Timothy, Paul's "true son in the faith," 1:2.

**MAIN THEMES:** Advice and exhortation to a young pastor respecting his personal conduct and ministerial work.

**KEY WORD:** Conduct.

**KEY VERSE:** 3:15.

### SYNOPSIS:

#### I. Mainly Doctrinal Counsels and Personal Experiences.

##### Chapter 1

- (1) **Salutation**, 1:1-2.
- (2) **Counsels** concerning dealing with legalistic teachers,
  - (a) Who emphasize non-essentials rather than real godliness; who, instead of building up character, stir up strife, 1:3-6.
  - (b) Who desire to be teachers of the law without understanding its significance, 1:7-11.
- (3) **Paul's experience**.
  - (a) His call to the ministry while in active opposition to the gospel, 1:12-13.
  - (b) His acknowledgment of divine grace and confession of unworthiness, 1:14-15.
  - (c) Christ's purpose in using him as a pattern of long-suffering, 1:16.
- (4) The first solemn charge to Timothy, 1:18-20.

#### II. Prayer and Counsels to Men and Women.

##### Chapter 2

- (1) Intercessory prayer for all men, 2:1-4.
- (2) Christ the mediator, 2:5-6.
- (3) Paul the apostle to the Gentiles, 2:7.
- (4) The duties of men and women, 2:8-15.

#### III. Spiritual Oversight. The qualifications of bishops and deacons.

##### Chapter 3

- (1) **The qualifications of a bishop:**
  - (a) Personal character and habits, 3:2-3.
  - (b) Attitude toward his family, 3:4-5.
  - (c) Experience and good reputation, 3:6-7.

- (2) **The qualifications of deacons:**

- (a) Character, habits, and Christian experience, 3:8-9.
  - (b) Tested for a period, 3:10.
  - (c) Having faithful wives and proper authority in their own homes, 3:11-12.
  - (d) The advantages of the diaconate, 3:13.
- (3) The purpose of the epistle, 3:15.
  - (4) The mystery of the incarnation of Christ, 3:16.

#### IV. Predictions and Counsels.

##### Chapter 4

- (1) **Predictions of future apostasy** and the prevalence of satanic doctrines that would undermine the home and result in a godless asceticism, 4:1-4.
- (2) **Counsels as to teaching, ministerial conduct, example**.
  - (a) The marks of a good servant of Christ, 4:6.
  - (b) The preeminence of godliness, 4:7-8.
  - (c) The importance of a godly example, 4:12.
  - (d) The duty of diligence in reading and teaching and the exercise of personal gifts, 4:13-14.
  - (e) The importance of meditation and entire consecration, coupled with watchfulness over personal conduct for the sake of a saving influence, 4:15-16.

#### V. Ministerial Administration, counsels concerning.

##### Chapter 5

- (1) Courtesy to old and young, 5:1-2.
- (2) The attitude of the church toward widows, 5:3-16.  
NOTE: This passage should be studied with a knowledge of the times and social conditions.
- (3) The duty to the church elders, 5:17-20.
- (4) The duty of impartial and deliberate action, 5:21-22.
- (5) Parenthesis. Advice relating to personal matters, 5:23-25.

##### Chapter 6

- (6) Duties of slaves, 6:1-2.
- (7) Duty of separation from contentious teachers, 6:3-5.
- (8) The blessings of contentment, 6:6-8.
- (9) The peril of riches and the duty of the minister to avoid covetousness; to seek Christian virtues and "fight the good fight of faith," 6:9-12.
  - (10) A solemn charge to the young pastor to keep his doctrine pure until the appearing of the King of kings, 6:13-16.
  - (11) An exhortation to warn the rich against pride and self-confidence and to urge them to generous giving and heavenly investments, 6:17-19.
  - (12) Final charge to fidelity and avoidance of false doctrine, 6:20-21.

**PROMINENT PEOPLE:** Paul, Timothy.

*(Taken from Thompson's Bible Book Outlines)*