English: Translation Notes for 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Philemon, Titus

Formatted for Translators

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## Chapter 1

# 1 Timothy 1 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Paul formally introduces this letter in verses 1-2. Writers often began letters in this way in the ancient Near East.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Spiritual children

In this chapter, Paul calls Timothy a "son" and his "child." Paul discipled Timothy as a Christian and a church leader. Paul may also have led him to believe in Christ. Therefore, Paul called Timothy his "son in the faith."

#### Genealogies

Genealogies are lists that record a person's ancestors or descendants. Jews used genealogies to choose the right man to become king. They did this because only a son of a king could normally become king. They also showed from what tribe and family they came. For example, priests came from the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron. Most important people had records of their genealogies.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Play on words

The phrase "the law is good if one uses it lawfully" ([1 Timothy 1:8](./08.md)) is a play on words. The English words "law" and "lawfully" come from the same root, and they translate words that come from the same root in the original language, so it would be well to translate the clause so as to preserve this word play.

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 1:1 Notes](./01.md)
* [1 Timothy intro](../front/intro.md)

#### 1 Timothy 1:1

##### General Information:

In this book, unless otherwise noted, the word "our" refers to Paul and Timothy

##### Paul, an apostle

"I, Paul, wrote this letter. I am an apostle." Your language may have a particular way of introducing the author of a letter. Immediately after introducing the writer, you may want to indicate to whom the letter was written, as in the UDB.

##### according to the commandment of

"by the command of" or "by the authority of"

##### God our Savior

"God who saves us"

##### Christ Jesus our hope

Here "our hope" refers to the person in whom we have confidence. Alternate translation: "Christ Jesus, who is the one in whom we have confidence" or "Christ Jesus, whom we trust"

#### 1 Timothy 1:2

##### true son in the faith

Paul speaks of his close relationship to Timothy as though they were father and son. This shows Paul's sincere love and approval of Timothy. It is also likely that Timothy was converted to Christ by Paul, and so this is why Paul considers him like his own child. Alternate translation: "who is truly like a son to me"

##### Grace, mercy, and peace

"May grace, mercy, and peace be yours," or "May you experience kindness, mercy, and peace"

##### God the Father and

"God, who is our Father, and." Here "Father" is an important title for God.

##### Christ Jesus our Lord

"Christ Jesus, who is our Lord"

#### 1 Timothy 1:3

##### General Information:

The word "you" in this letter is singular and refers to Timothy.

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul encourages Timothy to reject the wrong use of the law and instead to use good teaching from God.

##### As I urged you

"As I pleaded with you" or "As I asked you very strongly"

##### remain in Ephesus

"wait for me there in the city of Ephesus"

##### a different doctrine

The implied information can be stated explicitly. Alternate translation: "a different doctrine from what we teach"

#### 1 Timothy 1:4

##### Neither should they pay attention

"And I also want you to command them not to pay attention"

##### to stories

These may have been stories about their ancestors.

##### endless genealogies

With the word "endless" Paul uses exaggeration to emphasize that the genealogies are very long.

##### genealogies

the written or verbal record of a person's parents and ancestors

##### These promote arguments

"These make people angrily disagree." The people debated about stories and genealogies about which no one could know the truth for certain.

##### rather than the plan of God, which is by faith

Possible meanings are 1) "rather than helping people to understand God's plan to save us, which we learn by faith" or 2) "rather than helping us to do God's work, which we do by faith."

#### 1 Timothy 1:5

##### Now

This word is used here to mark a break in the main teaching. Here Paul explains the purpose of what he is commanding Timothy.

##### the commandment

Here this does not mean the Old Testament or the Ten Commandments but rather the instructions that Paul gives in 1 Timothy 1:3 and 1 Timothy 1:4.

##### is love

Possible meanings are 1) "is to love God" or 2) "is to love people."

##### from a pure heart

Here "pure" means the person does not have hidden motives to do wrong. Here "heart" refers to a person's mind and thoughts. Alternate translation: "from a mind that is honest"

##### good conscience

"a conscience that chooses right instead wrong"

##### sincere faith

"genuine faith" or "a faith without hypocrisy"

#### 1 Timothy 1:6

##### have gone astray from these things

Paul speaks of people who no longer try to "love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith"

##### turned to worthless talk

"begun to have useless discussions"

#### 1 Timothy 1:7

##### teachers of the law

Here "law" refers to the law of Moses.

##### but they do not understand

"even though they do not understand" or "and yet they do not understand"

##### what they so confidently affirm

"what they so confidently state is true"

#### 1 Timothy 1:8

##### we know that the law is good

"we understand that the law is useful" or "we understand that the law is beneficial"

##### if one uses it lawfully

"if a person uses it correctly" or "if a person uses it the way God intended"

#### 1 Timothy 1:9

##### We know this

"Because we realize this" or "We also know this"

##### that law is not set in place for a righteous man

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "that God did not set the law in place for the righteous man"

##### a righteous man

Here "man" includes both male and female. Alternate translation: "a righteous person" or "a good person"

#### 1 Timothy 1:10

##### sexually immoral people

This refers to anyone who sleeps with someone to whom they are not married.

##### homosexuality

"sexual activity with other members of the same sex." The Greek word specifies males, but it probably is intended here to includes females as well.

##### those who kidnap people for slaves

"those who kidnap people to sell as slaves" or "those who take people to sell as slaves"

##### whatever else is opposed to truthful teaching

The Greek has "healthy" but that term is a figure for "truthful" here. It is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "whatever other things people do that we teach is wrong"

#### 1 Timothy 1:11

##### the glorious gospel of the blessed God

"the gospel about the glory that belongs to the blessed God" or "the gospel of the glorious and blessed God"

##### with which I have been entrusted

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "which God has given me and made me responsible for"

#### 1 Timothy 1:12

##### he considered me faithful

"he considered me trustworthy" or "he regarded me as reliable"

##### he appointed me to service

"he assigned me to serve him" or "he appointed me as his servant"

#### 1 Timothy 1:13

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul begins to tell how he acted in the past.

##### I was a blasphemer

"I was a person who spoke evil against Christ." Paul is referring to his character before he was a Christian.

##### a persecutor

"a person who persecuted those who believed in Christ"

##### a violent man

"a person who was cruel to other people" or "a person who believed I had the right to hurt others"

##### But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief

"But because I did not believe in Jesus, and I did not know what I was doing, I received mercy from Jesus"

##### I received mercy

"Jesus showed me mercy" or "Jesus had mercy on me"

#### 1 Timothy 1:14

##### the grace of our Lord overflowed

Paul speaks of God's grace as if it were a liquid that could fill a container and spill out of the top when the container is full. Alternate translation: "God showed me much grace"

##### overflowed with the faith and the love that is in Christ Jesus

This is the result of God showing much grace to Paul. Alternate translation: "overflowed, which caused me to trust in Christ Jesus and love him"

##### that is in Christ Jesus

This speaks about Jesus as if he were a container that holds a liquid. Here "in Christ Jesus" refers to having a relationship with Jesus. Alternate translation: "that Christ Jesus enables me to give to God because I am united to him"

#### 1 Timothy 1:15

##### This message is reliable

"This statement is true"

##### worthy of all acceptance

"we should receive it without any doubt" or "deserves for us to accept it with full confidence"

##### sinners, of whom I am chief

"sinners, of whom I am the chief sinner" or "sinners, of whom I am the worst." Paul is saying that he has sinned more than any other sinner, not that he has been the leader of a group of sinners.

#### 1 Timothy 1:16

##### I was given mercy

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God showed me mercy" or "I obtained mercy from God"

##### the chief

"the chief sinner" or "the worst sinner." Paul is saying that he has sinned more than any other sinner, not that he has been the leader of a group of sinners. See how you translated this in 1 Timothy 1:15.

#### 1 Timothy 1:17

##### Now ... Amen

The word "Now" is used here to mark a break in the main teaching. Here Paul praises God.

##### the king of the ages

"the eternal king" or "the chief ruler forever"

##### Now to the king of the ages, the immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever

The abstract nouns "honor" and "glory" can be stated as verbs. Alternate translation: "Now may people forever honor and glorify the king of the ages, who is immortal, invisible, and the only God"

#### 1 Timothy 1:18

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul begins to encourage Timothy to trust God.

##### I am placing this command before you

Paul speaks of his instructions as if he could physically put them in front of Timothy. Alternate translation: "I am entrusting you with this command" or "This is what I am commanding you"

##### my child

Paul speaks of his close relationship to Timothy as though Paul is the father and Timothy is the child. It is also likely that Timothy was converted to Christ by Paul, and so this is why Paul considered him like his own child. Alternate translation: "who is truly like my child"

##### in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "in agreement with what other believers prophesied about you"

##### fight the good fight

Paul speaks about Timothy working for the Lord as if he were a soldier fighting a battle. Alternate translation: "continue to work hard for the Lord"

#### 1 Timothy 1:19

##### a good conscience

"a conscience that chooses right instead wrong." See how you translated this in 1 Timothy 1:5.

##### some have shipwrecked their faith

Paul speaks of these people's faith as if it were a ship that could be wrecked at sea. He means that they have ruined their faith and no longer believe in Jesus. You should use this or a similar metaphor if it will be understood in the project language.

#### 1 Timothy 1:20

##### Hymenaeus ... Alexander

These are names of men.

##### whom I delivered over to Satan

Paul has cast the men out of the community, so Satan now has power over them and can harm them.

##### they may be taught

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God may teach them"

## Chapter 2

# 1 Timothy 2 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Peace

Paul encourages Christians to pray for everyone. They should pray for rulers so that Christians can live peacefully, in a godly and dignified way.

#### Women in the church

Scholars are divided over how to understand this passage in its historical and cultural context. Some scholars believe men and women are perfectly equal in all things. Other scholars believe God created men and women to serve in distinctly different roles in marriage and the church. Translators should be careful not to let how they understand this issue affect how they translate this passage.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "Prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings"

These terms overlap each other in what they mean. It is not necessary to view them as distinct categories.

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 2:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 1 Timothy 2:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul encourages Timothy to pray for all people.

##### first of all

"most importantly" or "before anything else"

##### I urge that humble requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be made

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "I urge all believers to make requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving to God"

##### I urge

"I plead" or "I ask"

#### 1 Timothy 2:2

##### a peaceful and quiet life

Here "peaceful" and "quiet" mean the same thing. Paul wants all believers to be able to live calm lives without trouble from the authorities.

##### in all godliness and dignity

"that honors God and that other people will respect"

#### 1 Timothy 2:3

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 1 Timothy 2:4

##### He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God desires to save all people and for them to come to the knowledge of the truth"

##### to come to the knowledge of the truth

Paul speaks of learning the truth about God as if it were a place to which people could go. Alternate translation: "to know and accept what is true"

#### 1 Timothy 2:5

##### one mediator for God and man

A mediator is a person who helps negotiate a peaceful settlement between two parties who disagree with each other. Here Jesus helps sinners enter into a peaceful relationship with God.

#### 1 Timothy 2:6

##### gave himself

"died willingly"

##### as a ransom

"as a price of freedom" or "as a payment to obtain freedom"

##### as the testimony at the right time

It can be made explicit that this was the testimony that God wants to save all people. Alternate translation: "as the proof at the right time that God wants to save all people"

##### at the right time

This means that this was the time that God had chosen.

#### 1 Timothy 2:7

##### For this purpose

"For this" or "For this reason"

##### I was appointed a herald and an apostle

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Christ appointed me to be a herald and an apostle" or "Christ made me a preacher and an apostle"

##### a herald

"an official messenger." A herald is an official messenger who is sent to bring news.

##### I am telling the truth, I am not lying

With these two comments Paul emphasizes that he is telling the truth when he says that he was appointed to be a herald, an apostle, and a teacher. Some translators may prefer to put these comments at the end of the verse.

##### in faith and truth

This probably refers to what Paul was to teach about. He may be using "faith" and truth" to express one idea. Alternate translation: "about the message of faith and truth" or "about the true faith"

#### 1 Timothy 2:8

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul finishes his instructions on prayer and then gives some special instructions for women.

##### I want men in every place to pray and to lift up holy hands

Here "holy hands" is a metonym for a holy person. Alternate translation: "I want holy men in every place to lift up their hands and pray"

##### men in every place

"the males in all places" or "the males everywhere." Here the word "men" refers specifically to males.

##### lift up holy hands

It was a normal posture for people to raise their hands while praying.

#### 1 Timothy 2:9

##### with modesty and self-control

Both of these words mean basically the same thing. Paul is emphasizing that women should wear clothes that are appropriate and do not attract improper attention from men.

##### not with braided hair

During Paul's time, many Roman women braided their hair to make themselves attractive. Braiding is only one way a woman can give undue attention to her hair. If braided hair is unknown, it can be stated in a more general way. Alternate translation: "not having fancy hairstyles" or "not having elaborate hairstyles that attract attention"

##### pearls

These are beautiful and valuable white balls that people use as jewelry. They are formed inside the shell of a certain kind of small animal that lives in the ocean.

#### 1 Timothy 2:10

##### General Information:

Possible meanings of this verse are 1) the words "through good works" tell how the women Paul is talking about "proclaim godliness" or 2) those words tell how women are to "dress," a metaphor that refers to what people are to see and think about when they look at the women to whom Paul is writing. Alternate translation: "but with good works, as is proper for women who proclaim godliness"

##### who proclaim godliness through good works

"who want to show that they honor God by doing good deeds"

#### 1 Timothy 2:11

##### in silence

"in quietness"

##### and with all submission

"and submit to what is taught"

#### 1 Timothy 2:12

##### I do not permit a woman

"I do not allow a woman"

#### 1 Timothy 2:13

##### Adam was formed first

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Adam is the one God formed first" or "God created Adam first"

##### then Eve

The understood information can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "and then God formed Eve" or "and then God created Eve"

#### 1 Timothy 2:14

##### Adam was not deceived

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "And Adam was not the one whom the serpent deceived"

##### but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "but it was the woman who disobeyed God when the serpent deceived her"

#### 1 Timothy 2:15

##### she will be saved through bearing children

Here "she" refers to women in general. Possible meanings are 1) God will keep women physically safe as they give birth to children, or 2) God will save women from their sins through their role as child bearers.

##### she will be saved

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will save her" or "God will save women"

##### if they continue

"if they remain" or "if they continue living." Here "they" refers to women.

##### in faith and love and sanctification

The abstract nouns here can be translated with verbal phrases. Alternate translation: "in trusting Jesus and loving others and living a holy life"

##### with self-control

Other possible meanings are 1) "with good judgment" or 2) "with modesty."

## Chapter 3

# 1 Timothy 3 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

[1 Timothy 3:16](./16.md) was probably a song, poem, or creed the early church used to list important doctrines that believers all shared.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Overseers and deacons

The church has used different titles for church leaders. Some titles include elder, pastor, and bishop. The word "overseer" reflects the meaning of the original language in verses 1-2. Paul writes about "deacons" in verses 8 and 12 as another kind of church leader.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Character qualities

This chapter lists several qualities that a man must have if he is to be an overseer or deacon in the church.

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 3:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 1 Timothy 3:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul gives some special instructions on how the overseers of the church should act and be.

##### a good work

"an honorable task"

#### 1 Timothy 3:2

##### husband of one wife

An overseer must have only one wife. It is unclear if this excludes men who have been previously widowed or divorced, or never married.

##### He must be moderate, sensible, orderly, and hospitable

"He must not do anything to excess, must be reasonable and behave well, and must be friendly to strangers"

#### 1 Timothy 3:3

##### He must not be addicted to wine, not a brawler but instead gentle, peaceful

"He must neither drink too much alcohol nor like to fight and argue, but instead he must be gentle and peaceful"

##### a lover of money

"greedy for money"

#### 1 Timothy 3:4

##### He should manage

"He should lead" or "He should take care of"

##### he should make sure his children obey and respect him in every way

Possible meanings are 1) the overseer's children should obey and show respect to their father or 2) the overseer's children should show respect to everyone or 3) the overseer should show respect to those in his household as he leads them.

#### 1 Timothy 3:5

##### For if a man does not know how to manage

"For when a man cannot manage"

##### how will he care for a church of God?

Paul uses a question to teach Timothy. Alternate translation: "he cannot take care of a church of God." or "he will not be able to lead a church of God."

##### a church of God

Here "church" refers to a local group of God's people. Alternate translation: "a group of God's people" or "the believers over whom he is in charge"

#### 1 Timothy 3:6

##### He should not be a new convert

"He should not be a new believer" or "He must be a mature believer"

##### fall into condemnation as the devil

Paul speaks of a person being condemned for having done wrong as if he were falling into a hole. Alternate translation: "have God condemn him as he condemned the devil"

#### 1 Timothy 3:7

##### those outside

"those outside of the church." Paul speaks of the church as though it were a place, and of unbelievers as though they were physically outside of it. Alternate translation: "those who are not Christians"

##### he does not fall into disgrace and the trap of the devil

Paul speaks of disgrace and the devil causing someone to sin as if they were a hole or a trap into which a person falls. Here "fall into" means to experience. Alternate translation: "nothing causes him shame before the unbelievers and so that the devil does not cause him to sin"

#### 1 Timothy 3:8

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul gives some special instructions on how the deacons of the church and their wives should act and be.

##### In the same way, deacons

"Deacons, like overseers,"

##### should be dignified, not double-talkers

Paul speaks about some people as if they were "double-talkers" who could say two things at once. He is talking about people who say one thing but mean something else. Alternate translation: "should act properly and mean what they say"

#### 1 Timothy 3:9

##### They should keep the mystery of the faith with a clean conscience

"They must continue to believe, with a clean conscience, the true message God has revealed to us." This refers to a truth that had existed for some time but that God was showing to them at that moment. Paul speaks of true teaching about God as if it were an object that a person could keep with himself.

##### the mystery of the faith

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the truth of the faith that God revealed"

##### faith with a clean conscience

Paul speaks of a person's knowledge that he has done no wrong as if that knowledge or conscience were clean. Alternate translation: "faith, knowing they have tried their hardest to do what is right"

#### 1 Timothy 3:10

##### They should also be approved first

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Other believers should approve of them first" or "They should prove themselves first"

##### be approved

This means other believers should evaluate those who want to be a deacon and determine if they are fit to serve in the church.

#### 1 Timothy 3:11

##### In the same way, their wives

Possible meanings of "their wives" are 1) the wives of deacons or 2) female deacons or 3) women in general.

##### be dignified

"act properly" or "be worthy of respect"

##### should be dignified, not slanderers, but sober and faithful

"should be dignified; they should not speak evil about other people, and they should not do anything to excess; rather, they should be faithful"

##### sober

"moderate." See how you translated "moderate" in 1 Timothy 3:2.

#### 1 Timothy 3:12

##### husbands of one wife

A man must have only one wife. It is unclear if this excludes men who have been previously widowed, divorced, or never married. See how you translated this in 1 Timothy 3:2.

##### manage well their children and household

"properly take care of and lead their children and others who live in their homes"

#### 1 Timothy 3:13

##### For those

"For those deacons" or "For these church leaders"

##### acquire for themselves

"receive for themselves" or "gain for themselves"

##### a good standing

The implied meaning may be stated explicitly. Alternate translation: "a good reputation among other believers"

##### great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus

Possible meanings are 1) they will trust in Jesus with even more confidence or 2) they will speak confidently to other people about their faith in Jesus.

#### 1 Timothy 3:14

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul tells Timothy the reason he wrote to him and then describes Christ's godliness.

##### I hope to come to you soon

Paul expected that his desire to visit them soon would happen. Alternate translation: "I expect to come to you soon"

#### 1 Timothy 3:15

##### But if I delay

"But in case I cannot go there soon" or "But if something prevents me for being there soon"

##### so that you may know how to conduct yourself in the household of God

Paul speaks of the group of believers as if they were a family. Possible meanings are 1) Paul is referring only to Timothy's behavior in the church. Or 2) Paul is referring to believers in general. Alternate translation: "so that you all may know how to conduct yourselves as members of God's family"

##### household of God, which is the church of the living God

This phrase gives us information about "the household of God" rather than making a distinction between a household of God which is the church and one that is not the church. This can be stated as a new sentence. Alternate translation: "household of God. Those who belong to the family of God are the community of believers in the living God"

##### which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth

Paul speaks of the believers bearing witness to the truth about Christ as if they were a pillar and a base supporting a building. This can be stated as a new sentence. Alternate translation: "which is the church of the living God. And, by keeping and teaching God's truth, these members of the church support the truth just as a pillar and base support a building"

##### the living God

Here this expression may be speaking of God as the one who gives life to all, as in the UDB.

#### 1 Timothy 3:16

##### We all agree

"No one can deny"

##### that the mystery of godliness is great

"that the truth that God has revealed is great"

##### He was revealed ... up in glory

This is most likely a song or poem that Paul is quoting. If your language has a way of indicating that this is poetry you could use it here. If not, you could translate this as regular prose rather than poetry.

##### He was revealed

Some modern translations read, "God was revealed" or "God appeared." If Paul is quoting a song or poem, the word "he" refers to Jesus Christ. If he is not quoting, the word "he" could refer to either God or Jesus Christ.

##### in the flesh

Paul uses "flesh" here to mean a human being. Alternate translation: "as a true human being"

##### was vindicated by the Spirit

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the Holy Spirit confirmed that he was who he said he was"

##### was seen by angels

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the angels saw him"

##### was proclaimed among nations

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "people in many nations told others about him"

##### was believed on in the world

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "people in many parts of the world believed in him"

##### was taken up in glory

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God the Father took him up to heaven in glory"

##### in glory

This means he received power from God the Father and he is worthy of honor.

## Chapter 4

# 1 Timothy 4 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

1 Timothy 4:1 is a prophecy. (See: prophet)

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Later times

This is another way of referring to the last days. (See: lastday)

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 4:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 1 Timothy 4:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul tells Timothy what the Spirit says will happen and encourages him in what he should teach.

##### Now

This word is used here to mark a break in the main teaching. Here Paul starts to tell a new part of the teaching.

##### in later times

These words could refer to 1) a time after Paul dies or 2) a later time in Paul's own life.

##### leave the faith

Paul speaks of people ceasing to trust in Christ as if they were physically leaving a place or an object. Alternate translation: "stop trusting in Jesus"

##### and pay attention

"and give attention" or "because they are paying attention"

##### deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons

"spirits who trick people and the things that demons teach"

#### 1 Timothy 4:2

##### by the hypocrisy of liars

This can be stated as a separate sentence if verse 1 is ended with a period. Alternate translation: "They will learn these things by the hypocrisy of liars" or "They will learn these things from hypocrital liars"

##### their own consciences having been seared

Possible meanings are 1) Paul is speaking of people who can no longer tell that they are doing wrong as if their minds were ruined. He speaks of their minds being ruined as if their minds were skin that someone had burned with a hot iron. Or 2) Paul is speaking of these people as if Satan had put a mark on them with a hot iron to indicate that they belong to him.

##### seared

touched with a hot object until it burns brown or black

#### 1 Timothy 4:3

##### They will

"These people will"

##### forbid people to marry

It is implied that they will forbid believers to marry. Alternate translation: "forbid believers to marry"

##### require them to abstain from foods

It is implied that they will forbid only certain foods. Alternate translation: "they will not allow people to eat certain foods"

#### 1 Timothy 4:4

##### For every creation of God is good

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "everything that God has created is good"

##### nothing received with thanksgiving is to be rejected

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "we should not refuse anything for which we give thanks to God" or "everything that we eat with thanksgiving is acceptable"

#### 1 Timothy 4:5

##### it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer

Here "word of God" and "prayer" are used together to express one idea. The prayer is in agreement with the truth that God has revealed. Alternate translation: "it is dedicated for God's use by praying in agreement with his word"

##### it is sanctified

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "we sanctify it" or "we have set it apart"

##### word of God

Here "word" refers to God's message or what he has revealed.

#### 1 Timothy 4:6

##### If you place these things before the brothers

Paul speaks of his instructions as if they were objects that could be physically presented to the believers. Here, to place before means to instruct or to remind. Alternate translation: "If you help the believers remember these things"

##### these things

This refers to the teaching that started in 1 Timothy 3:16.

##### the brothers

This refers to all believers whether male or female.

##### you are being nourished by the words of faith and by the good teaching that you have followed

Paul speaks of God's word and its teaching as if it could physically feed Timothy and make him strong. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the words of faith and the good teaching that you have followed are causing you to trust more strongly in Christ"

##### words of faith

"words that cause people to believe"

#### 1 Timothy 4:7

##### profane stories loved by old women

"ungodly stories and old wives' tales." "Profane" here refers to stories that purposely dishonor God. Translate "stories" as you did in 1 Timothy 1:4.

##### loved by old women

This is probably an expression that means "silly" or "absurd." Paul is not purposely insulting women in his reference to "old women." Instead, he and his audience knew that men die younger than women, so there are more women than men whose minds have become feeble due to old age.

##### train yourself in godliness

"train yourself to honor God" or "train yourself to act in ways that please God"

#### 1 Timothy 4:8

##### bodily training

"physical exercise"

##### holds promise for this life

"is beneficial to this life"

#### 1 Timothy 4:9

##### worthy of full acceptance

"worthy of your complete belief" or "worthy of your full trust"

#### 1 Timothy 4:10

##### For it is for this

"This is the reason"

##### labor and struggle

The word "labor" here refers to working very hard, and "struggle" is a metaphor for dealing with difficulties and dangers.

##### For we hope in the living God ... believers

Paul and his fellow workers confidently expect that God will do all that he has promised to do. Alternate translation: "For we confidently expect that the living God... believers, will do what he promised to do" or "For we fully trust in the living God ... believers"

##### the living God

Possible meanings are 1) "the God who is alive," as opposed to idols, who are not alive, or 2) "God, who acts," as opposed to idols that do nothing, or 3) "God, who gives life to all living beings."

##### but especially of believers

The ellipsis can be filled in. Alternate translation: "but he is especially the Savior of those people who believe"

#### 1 Timothy 4:11

##### Instruct the people and teach these things

"Command and teach these things" or "Instruct and teach these things I just mentioned"

#### 1 Timothy 4:12

##### Let no one despise your youth

"Do not let anyone consider you less important because you are young"

##### in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity

Paul wanted Timothy to be an example in these things. Alternate translation: "by speaking and doing what is right, by loving others, and by being faithful and pure"

#### 1 Timothy 4:13

##### attend to the reading, to the exhortation, and to the teaching

The words "reading," "exhortation," and "teaching" can be translated with verbal phrases. The implied information can also be supplied in translation Alternate translation: "continue reading the scripture to the people, exhorting the people, and teaching the people"

#### 1 Timothy 4:14

##### Do not neglect the gift that is in you

Paul speaks of Timothy as if he were a container that could hold God's gifts. This can be stated in positive form. Alternate translation: "Do not neglect your spiritual gift"

##### Do not neglect

This can be stated in positive form. Alternate translation: "Be sure to use"

##### which was given to you through prophecy

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "which you received when leaders of the church spoke God's word"

##### laying on of the hands of the elders

This was a ceremony in which the church leaders put their hands on Timothy and prayed that God would enable him to do the work he had commanded him to do.

#### 1 Timothy 4:15

##### Care for these things. Be in them

Paul speaks of God's gifts to Timothy as if he could physically be in them. Alternate translation: "Do all these things and live according to them"

##### so that your progress may be evident to all people

Paul speaks of Timothy's increasing ability to serve God as if it were a physical object that others could look at. Alternate translation: "so other people will know that you are serving God better and better"

#### 1 Timothy 4:16

##### Give careful attention to yourself and to the teaching

"Conduct yourself carefully and give attention to the teaching" or "Control your own behavior and give attention to the teaching"

##### Continue in these things

"Continue to do these things"

##### you will save yourself and those who listen to you

Possible meanings are 1) Timothy will save himself and those who hear him from God's judgment or 2) Timothy will save himself and those who hear him from the influence of false teachers.

## Chapter 5

# 1 Timothy 5 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Honor and respect

Paul encourages younger Christians to honor and respect older Christians. Cultures honor and respect older people in different ways.

#### Widows

In the ancient Near East, it was important to care for widows, because they could not provide for themselves.

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 5:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 1 Timothy 5:1

##### General Information:

Paul was giving these commands to one person, Timothy. Languages that have different forms of "you" or different forms for commands would use the singular form here.

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul continues to tell Timothy how to treat the men, women, widows, and younger women in the church.

##### Do not rebuke an older man

"Do not speak harshly to an older man"

##### Instead, exhort him

"Instead, encourage him"

##### as if he were a father ... as brothers

Paul uses these similes to tell Timothy that he should treat fellow believers with sincere love and respect.

#### 1 Timothy 5:2

##### older women ... younger women

You can state clearly the understood information. Alternate translation: "exhort older women ... exhort younger women" or "encourage older women ... encourage younger women"

##### in all purity

"with pure thoughts and actions" or "in a holy way"

#### 1 Timothy 5:3

##### Honor widows

"Respect and provide for widows"

##### the real widows

"widows with no one to provide for them"

#### 1 Timothy 5:4

##### let them first learn

"first of all they should learn" or "let them make it a priority to learn"

##### in their own household

"to their own family" or "to those living in their homes"

##### Let them repay their parents

"Let them do good to their parents in return for the good things their parents have given them"

#### 1 Timothy 5:5

##### But she who is a real widow, who is left all alone

"But one who is truly a widow, who has no family"

##### has set her hope in God

The widow confidently expected that God would do what he promised to do. Alternate translation: "confidently expects that God will do what he promised to do" or "fully trusts in God"

##### continues in offering earnest appeals and prayers

"continues to make requests and prayers"

##### offering earnest appeals and prayers

These two phrases mean basically the same thing. Paul uses them together to emphasize how much these widows pray.

##### night and day

The words "night" and "day" are used together to mean "at all times." Alternate translation: "all the time"

#### 1 Timothy 5:6

##### is dead

Paul speaks about people who do not seek to please God as if they were dead. Alternate translation: "is like a dead person; she does not respond to God"

##### she lives

This refers to physical life.

#### 1 Timothy 5:7

##### Instruct them in these things

"Teach them these things, too" or "Command them to do these things, too"

##### so that they may be blameless

"so that no one can find fault with them." Possible meanings of "they" are 1) "these widows and their families" or 2) "the believers." It might be best to leave the subject as "they."

#### 1 Timothy 5:8

##### does not provide for his own relatives, especially for those of his own household

"does not help with his relatives' needs, especially for those family members living in his home"

##### he has denied the faith

"he has acted contrary to the truth we believe"

##### is worse than an unbeliever

"is worse than those who do not believe in Jesus." Paul means this person is worse than an unbeliever because even unbelievers take care of their relatives. Therefore, a believer should certainly take care of his relatives.

#### 1 Timothy 5:9

##### be enrolled as a widow

There seems to have been a list, written or not, of widows. The church members met these women's needs for shelter, clothing, and food, and these women were expected to devote their lives to serving the Christian community.

##### who is not younger than sixty

As Paul will explain in 5:11-16, widows who were younger than 60 years old might get married again. Therefore the Christian community was to care only for widows who were older than 60.

##### a wife of one husband

Possible meanings are 1) she was always faithful to her husband or 2) she had not divorced her husband and then married another man.

#### 1 Timothy 5:10

##### She must have a reputation for doing good deeds

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "People must be able to tell others about her good deeds"

##### has been hospitable to strangers

"has welcomed strangers into her home"

##### has washed the feet of God's holy people

Washing the dirty feet of people who have been walking in the dirt and mud is one way of meeting other people's needs and making life more enjoyable for them. This probably means she did humble work in general. Alternate translation: "has done common work to help other believers"

##### God's holy people

Some versions translate this word as "the believers" or "saints." The essential idea is to refer to Christian believers.

##### has relieved the afflicted

Here "the afflicted" is a nominal adjective that can be stated as an adjective. Alternate translation: "has helped those who are suffering"

##### has been devoted to every good work

"has given herself to doing all kinds of good deeds"

#### 1 Timothy 5:11

##### But as for younger widows, refuse to enroll them in the list

"But do not include younger widows in the list." The list was of widows aged 60 years and older whom the Christian community would help.

##### For when they give in to bodily desires against Christ, they want to marry

"For when they prefer to fulfill their sensual desires and get married, they go against their promise to serve Christ as widows"

#### 1 Timothy 5:12

##### set aside their first commitment

"do not keep their prior commitment" or "do not do what they promised before to do"

##### commitment

The commitment of the widows was their agreement to serve the Christian community for the rest of their lives if the community would supply the widows' needs.

#### 1 Timothy 5:13

##### learn to be lazy

"get into the habit of doing nothing"

##### talk nonsense and are busybodies, saying things they should not say

These three phrases are probably three ways of speaking of the same activity. These people should not be looking into other people's private lives and telling about them to others who are no better off after hearing.

##### nonsense

words that do not help those who hear them

##### busybodies

people who look into other people's private lives for their own good and not for the good of the other people

#### 1 Timothy 5:14

##### to manage the household

"to take care of everyone in her house"

##### the enemy

These words could refer to 1) Satan or 2) unbelievers who are hostile to Christians.

##### to slander us

Here "us" refers to the entire Christian community, including Timothy.

#### 1 Timothy 5:15

##### turned aside after Satan

Paul speaks of living in faithfulness to Christ as if it were a path to be followed. This means the women stopped obeying Jesus and started obeying Satan. Alternate translation: "left the path of Christ to follow Satan" or "decided to obey Satan instead of Christ"

#### 1 Timothy 5:16

##### any believing woman

"any Christian woman" or "any woman who believes in Christ"

##### has widows

"has widows among her relatives"

##### so that the church will not be burdened

Paul speaks of the community having to help more people than they are able as if they were carrying too much weight on their backs. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "so that the church will not have more work to do than they can" or "so that the Christian community will not have to help widows whose families could provide for them"

##### real widows

"those women who have no one to provide for them"

#### 1 Timothy 5:17

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul again talks of how elders (overseers) should be treated and then gives Timothy some personal instructions.

##### Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "All believers should think of the elders who are good leaders as worthy"

##### double honor

Possible meanings are 1) "respect and payment" or 2) "more respect than others receive"

##### those who labor with the word and in teaching

Paul speaks about the word as if it is an object that a person can work with. Alternate translation: "those who work hard preaching and those who teach God's word"

#### 1 Timothy 5:18

##### For the scripture says

This is personification that means that this is what someone has written in the scriptures. Alternate translation: "For we read in the scriptures that"

##### You must not put a muzzle on an ox while it threshes the grain

Paul is using this quotation as a metaphor meaning that church leaders deserve to receive payment from the Christian community for their work.

##### muzzle

place a sleeve over an animal's snout and mouth to prevent it from eating

##### threshes the grain

An ox "threshes the grain" when it walks on or pulls a heavy object over the cut grain to separate the grain from the stalks. The ox was allowed to eat some of the grain as it worked.

##### is worthy of

"deserves"

#### 1 Timothy 5:19

##### Do not receive an accusation

Paul speaks of accusations as if they were objects that could be physically accepted by people. Alternate translation: "Do not accept as true any accusation that someone speaks"

##### two or three

"at least two" or "two or more"

#### 1 Timothy 5:20

##### sinners

This refers to anyone doing anything that disobeys or displeases God, even things that other people do not know about.

##### before all

"where everyone can see"

##### so that the rest may be afraid

"so that others will be afraid to sin"

#### 1 Timothy 5:21

##### the chosen angels

This means the angels whom God and Jesus have chosen to serve them in a special way.

##### to keep these commands without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism

The words "partiality" and "favoritism" mean basically the same thing. Paul is emphasizing that Timothy must judge honestly and be fair to everyone. Alternate translation: "to keep these rules without being partial or showing favor to anyone"

##### these commands

The phrase "these commands" could refer to 1) the rules Paul just told Timothy or 2) the rules Paul is about to tell Timothy.

#### 1 Timothy 5:22

##### Place hands

The placing of hands was a ceremony in which one or more church leaders would place their hands on people and pray that God would enable those people to serve the church in a way that would please God. Timothy was to wait until the person had shown good character for a long time before officially setting that person apart to serve the Christian community.

##### Do not share in the sins of another person

Paul speaks of someone's sin as if it were an object that could be shared with others. Alternate translation: "do not join in another person's sin" or "do not participate when another person sins"

##### Do not share in the sins of another person

Possible meanings are 1) if Timothy chose someone who was guilty of sin to be a church worker, God would hold Timothy responsible for that person's sin or 2) Timothy should not commit sins he saw others committing.

#### 1 Timothy 5:23

##### You should no longer drink water

It is implied that Timothy should not drink only water. Paul is telling Timothy to use wine as medicine. The water in that area often caused sickness.

##### for the stomach and your frequent sicknesses

"because of your stomach and your frequent sicknesses" or "to help your stomach and to stop your frequent illnesses"

#### 1 Timothy 5:24

##### The sins of some people are openly known

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The sins of some people are very obvious"

##### they go before them into judgment

"their sins go before those people into judgment." Paul speaks of sins as if they were moving. Possible meanings are 1) Their sins are so obvious that everyone will know they are guilty even before anyone testifies against them or 2) Their sins are evident, and God judges them now.

##### But some sins follow later

"But some sins follow people later." Paul speaks of sins as if they were moving. Possible meanings are 1) Timothy and the Christian community will not know about certain sins until later or 2) God will not judge some sins until the final judgment.

#### 1 Timothy 5:25

##### some good works are openly known

"some good works are obvious"

##### good works

The works are considered "good" because they fit with God's character, purposes, and will.

##### but even the others cannot be hidden

Paul speaks of good works as if they were objects that someone cannot hide. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "but people will later find out about even the good deeds that are not obvious"

## Chapter 6

# 1 Timothy 6 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Slavery

Paul does not write in this chapter about whether slavery is good or bad. Paul teaches about honoring, respecting, and diligently serving masters. Paul teaches all believers to be godly and content in every situation.

## Links:

* [1 Timothy 6:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 1 Timothy 6:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul gives some specific instructions to slaves and masters and then continues with instructions on living in a godly way.

##### Let all who are under the yoke as slaves

Paul speaks of people working as slaves as if they are oxen carrying a yoke. Alternate translation: "Let all who are working as slaves"

##### Let all who are

It is implied that Paul is speaking about believers. Alternate translation: "Let all who are believers"

##### the name of God and the teaching might not be blasphemed

This can be stated in active and positive form. Alternate translation: "the unbelievers might always speak respectfully about the name of God and the teaching"

##### the name of God

Here "name" refers to God's nature or character. Alternate translation: "the character of God" or "God"

##### the teaching

"the faith" or "the gospel"

#### 1 Timothy 6:2

##### The slaves who have believing masters should not show them disrespect because they are brothers

Possible meanings are 1) it is because the believing masters are brothers that their slaves should not show them disrespect or 2) slaves should not think that because their masters are believers they can therefore show them disrespect.

##### they are brothers

Here "brothers" means "fellow believers."

##### those who receive the benefit

You may need to add the words omitted by the ellipsis. Alternate translation: "the masters whom the slaves help with their good work"

##### and beloved

This can be stated in active form. Possible meanings are 1) "and the slaves should love them" or 2) "whom God loves"

#### 1 Timothy 6:3

##### the truthful words of our Lord Jesus Christ

The word "truthful" is a figure of speech from the Greek word for "healthy."

##### truthful words

The word translated as "truthful" comes from the term "healthy" here, and it is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. See how you translated the word "healthy" in [1 Timothy 1:10]

#### 1 Timothy 6:4

##### he is proud ... He has an unhealthy interest

Here "he" refers to anyone in general that teaches what is not correct. To make this clear, you can translate "he" as "they."

##### understands nothing

"understands nothing about God's truth"

##### He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments

Paul speaks of people who feel compelled to engage in useless arguments as if they were ill. Such people greatly desire to argue, and they do not really want to find a way to agree. Alternate translation: "All he wants to do is argue" or "He craves arguments"

##### controversies and arguments about words that result in envy

"controversies and arguments about words, and these controversies and arguments result in envy"

##### about words

"about the meanings of words"

##### strife

arguments, fights

##### insults

bad things that people falsely say about each other

##### evil suspicions

evil beliefs that innocent people have done something wrong or are planning on doing something wrong

#### 1 Timothy 6:5

##### morally corrupt minds

"wicked minds"

##### They have lost the truth

Here the word "They" refers to anyone who teaches anything that does not agree with the teaching of Jesus. The phrase "have lost the truth" represents ignoring it or forgetting it. Alternate translation: "They have ignored the truth" or "They have forgotten the truth"

#### 1 Timothy 6:6

##### Now

This marks a break in the teaching. Here Paul begins to contrast the kind of riches the wicked people seek through godliness (1 Timothy 6:5) and the true kind of gain people receive through godliness. Alternate translation: "Of course"

##### godliness with contentment is great gain

The words "godliness" and "contentment" are abstract nouns. Alternate translation: "it is great gain for people to do what is godly and to be content with what they have"

##### is great gain

"provides great benefits" or "does many good things for us"

#### 1 Timothy 6:7

##### we brought nothing into the world

"we brought nothing into the world when we were born"

##### we can take nothing out of it

"we can take nothing out of the world when we die"

#### 1 Timothy 6:8

##### let us

"we should"

#### 1 Timothy 6:9

##### Now

This word marks a break in the teaching. Here Paul returns to the topic about those who think being godly will make them wealthy (1 Timothy 6:5).

##### to become wealthy fall into temptation, into a trap

Paul speaks about those who let the temptation of money cause them to sin as if they were animals that fall into holes that hunters use as traps. Alternate translation: "to become wealthy will encounter more temptation than they can resist, and they will be like an animal in a trap"

##### They fall into many foolish and harmful desires, and into whatever else sinks

Paul continues the trap metaphor and speaks of people who give in to their foolish and harmful desires and do evil as if they were animals who fall into a trap. Alternate translation: "They desire many foolish and harmful things and then do things that sink"

##### harmful desires

These are probably desires to do things that will harm those who do them as much as or more than they will harm other people.

##### into whatever else sinks people into ruin and destruction

Paul speaks about people who suffer because of their sins as if sin were a person who had put them under water or in mud. Alternate translation: "into other kinds of evil that ruin and destroy people"

#### 1 Timothy 6:10

##### For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil

Paul speaks of the love of money as if it were the root of a plant whose fruit is all kinds of evil. Alternate translation: "This happens because loving money is a cause of all kinds of evil"

##### who desire it

"who desire money"

##### have been misled away from the faith

Paul speaks of wrong desires as if they were evil guides who intentionally guide people down the wrong path. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "have let their desires lead them away from the truth" or "have stopped believing the truth"

##### have pierced themselves with much grief

Paul speaks about grief as if it were swords that people have used to stab themselves. Alternate translation: "have caused themselves to be very sorrowful"

#### 1 Timothy 6:11

##### But you

Here "you" is singular and refers to Timothy.

##### man of God

"servant of God" or "person who belongs to God"

##### flee from these things

Paul speaks of these temptations and sins as if they were things that a person could physically run away from. Alternate translation: "completely avoid these things"

##### these things

Possible meanings of "these things" are 1) the "love of money" or 2) the different teachings, pride, arguments, and the love of money.

##### Pursue righteousness

"Run after righteousness" or "Chase righteousness." Paul speaks of righteousness and other good qualities as if they were things that a person could run after. This metaphor is the opposite of "flee from." It means to try your best to obtain something. Alternate translation: "Seek to gain" or "Do your best to act in"

#### 1 Timothy 6:12

##### Fight the good fight of faith

Here Paul speaks about a person continuing in faith as if he were an athlete fighting to win a contest or a warrior fighting a battle. Alternate translation: "Try your hardest to obey Christ's teachings with as much energy as an athlete uses in a contest"

##### Take hold of the everlasting life

This continues the metaphor. Paul speaks about a person receiving eternal life as if he were a victorious athlete or warrior taking their prize. Alternate translation: "Take eternal life as your reward as a victorious athlete takes his prize"

##### to which you were called

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "to which God has called you"

##### you gave the good confession

"you confessed what is good" or "you confessed the truth"

##### before many witnesses

Paul expresses the idea of location in order to signal the idea of the people to whom Timothy was speaking. Alternate translation: "to many witnesses"

#### 1 Timothy 6:13

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul talks of Christ's coming, gives specific instructions to the rich, and lastly closes with a special message to Timothy.

##### I give these orders to you

"This is what I command you"

##### before God, who gives life to all things

"in the presence of God, who causes all things to live." It is implied that Paul as asking God to be his witness. Alternate translation: "with God, who causes all things to live, as my witness"

##### and before Christ Jesus, who testified before Pontius Pilate

"in the presence of Christ Jesus, who spoke ... Pilate." It is implied that Paul is asking Jesus to be his witness. Alternate translation: "with Christ Jesus, who spoke ... Pilate, as my witness"

#### 1 Timothy 6:14

##### without spot or blame

The phrase "without spot" is a metaphor for being without moral fault. Possible meanings are 1) Jesus will not find fault with Timothy or blame him for doing wrong or 2) other people will not find fault with Timothy or blame him for doing wrong.

##### until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ

"until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again"

#### 1 Timothy 6:15

##### God will reveal Christ's appearing

It is implied that God will reveal Jesus. Alternate translation: "God will reveal Jesus"

##### the blessed and only Sovereign

"the One worthy of praise who rules over the world"

#### 1 Timothy 6:16

##### Only he has immortality

"Only he has the power to live forever"

##### dwells in inapproachable light

"dwells in a light so bright that no one can approach him"

#### 1 Timothy 6:17

##### Instruct the rich in this world

Here "rich" is a nominal adjective. It can be stated as an adjective. Alternate translation: "Solemnly charge those who are rich in this world"

##### not to hope in riches, which are uncertain

Paul tells rich people not to confidently expect that their wealth will always provide what they need. Alternate translation: "not to confidently expect that they will always have what they need, because it is uncertain how long they may have their many possession"

##### they should hope in God

Paul tells rich people that they should confidently expect God to do what he has promised to do. Alternate translation: "they should confidently expect that God will do what he has promised to do" or "they should fully trust in God"

##### all the true riches

"all the things that will make us truly happy." The reference here may include physical objects, but it more likely refers to states like love, joy, and peace that people try to obtain by means of physical objects.

#### 1 Timothy 6:18

##### be rich in good works

Paul speaks of spiritual blessings as if they were earthly wealth. Alternate translation: "serve and help others in many ways"

#### 1 Timothy 6:19

##### they will store up for themselves a good foundation for what is to come

Here Paul speaks about the blessings that God gives in heaven as if they were riches that a person is storing away for later use. Also, the certainty of these blessings that people will never lose is spoken of as if it were the foundation of a building. Alternate translation: "it will be as though they were storing up for themselves many things that God will give them"

##### take hold of real life

This recalls the sports metaphor of 1 Timothy 6:12, where the prize is something that the winner can actually hold in his hands. Here the "prize" is "real" life.

#### 1 Timothy 6:20

##### protect what was given to you

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "faithfully proclaim the true message that Jesus has given to you"

##### Avoid the profane and empty talk

"Do not pay attention to the ungodly and useless talk"

##### of what is falsely called knowledge

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "of what some people falsely call knowledge"

#### 1 Timothy 6:21

##### they have gone astray from the faith

Paul speaks of those who stop obeying Christ as if they were children or animals who have gone away from where they belong and are safe. Alternate translation: "they have stopped believing the truth"

##### May grace be with you

"May God give grace to all of you." The "you" is plural and refers to the whole Christian community.

## Chapter 1

# 2 Timothy 1 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Paul formally introduces this letter in verses 1-2. Writers often began letters in this way in the ancient Near East.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Spiritual children

Paul discipled Timothy as a Christian and a church leader. Paul may also have led him to believe in Christ. Therefore, Paul calls Timothy "beloved child." (See: disciple and spirit)

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Persecution

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. Paul encourages Timothy to be willing to suffer for the gospel.

## Links:

* [2 Timothy 1:1 Notes](./01.md)
* [2 Timothy intro](../front/intro.md)

#### 2 Timothy 1:1

##### General Information:

In this book, unless otherwise noted, the word "our" refers to Paul and Timothy

##### Paul

Your language may have a particular way of introducing the author of a letter. Also, immediately after introducing the author, you may need to tell to whom the letter is written, as in the UDB.

##### through the will of God

"because of God's will" or "because God wanted it." Paul became an apostle because God wanted him to be an apostle and not because a human being chose him.

##### according to

Possible meanings are 1) "for the purpose of." This means that God appointed Paul to tell others about God's promise of life in Jesus or 2) "in keeping with." This means that just as God promises that Jesus gives life, he has made Paul an apostle.

##### of the life that is in Christ Jesus

Paul speaks of "the life" as if it were an object inside of Jesus. This refers to the life people receive as a result of belonging to Christ Jesus. Alternate translation: "of the life that we receive as a result of belonging to Christ Jesus"

#### 2 Timothy 1:2

##### to Timothy

Your language may have a particular way of introducing the person who receives a letter. Also, immediately after introducing the author, you may need to tell to whom the letter is written.

##### beloved child

"dear child" or "child whom I love."" Here "child" is a term of great love and approval. It is also likely that Timothy was converted to Christ by Paul, and so this is why Paul considered him like his own child. Alternate translation: "who is like my beloved child"

##### Grace, mercy, and peace from

"May grace, mercy, and peace be yours from" or "May you experience kindness, mercy, and peace within from"

##### God the Father and

"God, who is our Father, and." This is an important title for God.

##### Christ Jesus our Lord

"Christ Jesus, who is our Lord"

#### 2 Timothy 1:3

##### whom I serve from my forefathers

"whom I serve as my ancestors did"

##### with a clean conscience

Paul speaks of his conscience as if it could be physically clean. This means that a person does not feel guilty because he has always tried to do what was right. Alternate translation: "knowing I have tried my hardest to do what is right"

##### as I constantly remember you

"when I remember you continually" or "while I remember you all the time"

##### night and day

Here "night and day" are used together to mean "always." Alternate translation: "always" or "constantly"

#### 2 Timothy 1:4

##### I long to see you

"I want very much to see you"

##### I may be filled with joy

Paul speaks of himself as if he were a container that someone could fill. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "I may be full of joy" or "I may have complete joy"

##### I remember your tears

Here "tears" represents crying. Alternate translation: "I remember how you cried for me"

#### 2 Timothy 1:5

##### I have been reminded of your

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "I also remember your" or "I also recall your"

##### your genuine faith

"your faith that is real" or "your faith that is sincere"

##### faith, which lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it lives in you also

Paul is speaking of their faith as if it were something that is alive and lives in them. Paul means they have the same sort of faith. This can be stated as a new sentence. Alternate translation: "faith. Lois, your grandmother, and Eunice, your mother, first had genuine faith, and I am confident that you have genuine faith as well"

##### Lois ... Eunice

These are names of women.

#### 2 Timothy 1:6

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul encourages Timothy to live in power, love, and discipline and not to be ashamed because of Paul's suffering in prison because of his (Paul's) faith in Christ.

##### This is the reason I am

"For this reason I am" or "Because of your sincere faith in Jesus, I am"

##### to rekindle the gift

Paul speaks about Timothy's need to start using his gift again as if he were restarting a fire. Alternate translation: "to start using again the gift"

##### the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands

"the gift of God that you received when I laid my hands on you." This refers to a ceremony in which Paul placed his hands on Timothy and prayed that God would enable him to do the work he had commanded him to do.

#### 2 Timothy 1:7

##### God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline

Possible meanings are 1) "spirit" refers to the "Holy Spirit." Alternate translation: "God's Holy Spirit does not cause us to be afraid. He causes us to have power and love and discipline" or 2) "spirit" refers to a characteristic. Alternate translation: "God does not cause us to be afraid but to have power and love and discipline"

##### discipline

Possible meanings are 1) the power to control ourselves or 2) the power to correct other people who are doing wrong.

#### 2 Timothy 1:8

##### of the testimony

"of testifying" or "of telling others"

##### his prisoner

"a prisoner for his sake" or "a prisoner because I testify about the Lord"

##### share in suffering for the gospel

Paul speaks of suffering as if it were an object that could be shared or distributed among people. Alternate translation: "suffer with me for the gospel"

##### gospel according to the power of God

"gospel, allowing God to make you strong"

#### 2 Timothy 1:9

##### with a holy calling

"with a calling that set us apart as his people" or "to be his holy people"

##### He did this

"He saved and called us"

##### not according to our works

"not because we did anything to deserve it"

##### but according to his own plan and grace

"but because he planned to show us kindness"

##### in Christ Jesus

"through our relationship to Christ Jesus"

##### before times ever began

"before the world began" or "before time began"

#### 2 Timothy 1:10

##### God's salvation has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus

Paul speaks of salvation as if it were an object that could uncovered and shown to people. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God has shown how he will save us by sending our Savior Christ Jesus"

##### who put an end to death

Paul speaks of death as if it were an independent process instead of the event of people dying. Alternate translation: "who destroyed death" or "who made it possible for people not to remain dead forever"

##### brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

Paul speaks of teaching about eternal life as if it were an object that could be brought from darkness into light so that people could see it. Alternate translation: "taught what life that never ends is by preaching the gospel"

#### 2 Timothy 1:11

##### I was appointed a herald

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God chose me to be a herald"

##### a herald

a person who proclaims important or official messages

#### 2 Timothy 1:12

##### For this cause

"Because I am an apostle"

##### I also suffer these things

Paul is referring to being a prisoner.

##### to keep that which I have entrusted to him

Paul is using a metaphor of a person leaving something with another person who is supposed to protect it until he gives it back to the first person. Possible meanings are 1) Paul is trusting Jesus to help him remain faithful, or 2) Paul is trusting that Jesus will ensure that people continue spreading the gospel message.

##### I am convinced

"I am certain" or "I know for sure"

##### that day

This refers to the day when God judges all people.

#### 2 Timothy 1:13

##### Keep the example of the truthful words that you heard from me

"Keep teaching the correct ideas I have taught you" or "Use how I taught you as a pattern for what and how you should teach"

##### truthful words

The Greek word translated "truthful, is a word meaning "healthy" and here is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "trustworthy words"

##### with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus

"as you trust in Jesus Christ and love him"

#### 2 Timothy 1:14

##### The good thing

This refers to the work of proclaiming the gospel correctly.

##### guard it

Timothy needs to be alert because people will oppose his work, try to make him stop, and distort what he says.

##### through the Holy Spirit

"with the power of the Holy Spirit"

#### 2 Timothy 1:15

##### turned away from me

This is a metaphor that means they stopped helping Paul. They abandoned Paul because the authorities had thrown him into prison. Alternate translation: "have stopped helping me"

##### Phygelus and Hermogenes

These are names of men.

#### 2 Timothy 1:16

##### Onesiphorus

This is the name of a man.

##### to the household

"to the family"

##### was not ashamed of my chain

Here "chain" is a metonym for being in prison. Onesiphorus was not ashamed that Paul was in prison but came to visit him frequently. Alternate translation: "was not ashamed that I was in prison"

#### 2 Timothy 1:17

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 2 Timothy 1:18

##### May the Lord grant to him to find mercy from him

"May Onesiphorus receive mercy from the Lord" or "May the Lord show him mercy"

##### to find mercy from him

Paul speaks of mercy as if it were an object that could be found.

##### on that day

This refers to the day when God will judge all people.

## Chapter 2

# 2 Timothy 2 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set words farther to the right on the page than the rest of the text. The ULB does this with verses 11-13. Paul may be quoting a poem or hymn in these verses.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### We will reign with him

Faithful Christians will reign with Christ in the future. (See: faithful)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Analogies

In this chapter, Paul makes several analogies to teach about living as a Christian. He uses analogies of soldiers, athletes, and farmers. Later in the chapter, he uses the analogy of different kinds of containers in a house.

## Links:

* [2 Timothy 2:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 2 Timothy 2:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul pictures Timothy's Christian life as a soldier's life, as a farmer's life, and as an athlete's life.

##### my child

Here "child" is a term of great love and approval. It is also likely that Timothy was converted to Christ by Paul, and so this is why Paul considered him like his own child. Alternate translation: "who is like my child"

##### be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus

Paul speaks about the motivation and determination that God's grace allows believers to have. Alternate translation: "let God use the grace he gave you through your relationship to Christ Jesus to make you strong"

#### 2 Timothy 2:2

##### among many witnesses

"with many witnesses there to agree that what I said is true"

##### entrust them to faithful people

Paul speaks of his instructions to Timothy as if they were objects that Timothy could give to other people and trust them to use correctly. Alternate translation: "commit them" or "teach them"

#### 2 Timothy 2:3

##### Suffer hardship with me

Possible meanings are 1) "Endure suffering as I do" or 2) "Share in my suffering"

##### as a good soldier of Christ Jesus

Paul compares suffering for Christ Jesus to the suffering that a good soldier endures.

#### 2 Timothy 2:4

##### No soldier serves while entangled in the affairs of this life

"No soldier serves when he is involved in the everyday business of this life" or "When soldiers are serving, they do not get distracted by the ordinary things that people do." Christ's servants should not allow everyday life to keep them from working for Christ.

##### while entangled

Paul speaks of this distraction as if it were a net that tripped people up as they were walking.

##### his superior officer

"his leader" or "the one who commands him"

#### 2 Timothy 2:5

##### as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes by the rules

Paul is implicitly speaking of Christ's servants as if they were athletes.

##### he is not crowned unless he competes by the rules

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "they will crown him as winner only if he competes by the rules"

##### he is not crowned

"he does not win the prize." Athletes in Paul's time were crowned with wreaths made from the leaves of plants when they won competitions.

##### competes by the rules

"competes according to the rules" or "strictly obeys the rules"

#### 2 Timothy 2:6

##### It is necessary that the hard-working farmer receive his share of the crops first

This is the third metaphor Paul gives Timothy about working. The reader should understand that Christ's servants need to work hard.

#### 2 Timothy 2:7

##### Think about what I am saying

Paul gave Timothy word pictures, but he did not completely explain their meanings. He expected Timothy to figure out what he was saying about Christ's servants.

##### in everything

"about everything"

#### 2 Timothy 2:8

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul gives Timothy instructions on how to live for Christ, how to suffer for Christ, and how to teach others to live for Christ.

##### who was raised from the dead

Here to raise up is an idiom for causing someone who has died to become alive again. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "whom God caused to live again" or "whom God raised from the dead"

##### according to my gospel message

Paul speaks of the gospel message as if it were especially his. He means that this is the gospel message that he proclaims. Alternate translation: "according to the gospel message that I preach"

#### 2 Timothy 2:9

##### to the point of being bound with chains as a criminal

Here "being chained" represents being a prisoner. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "to the point of wearing chains as a criminal in prison"

##### the word of God is not bound

Here "bound" speaks of what happens to a prisoner, and the phrase is a metaphor that means no one can stop God's message. This can be translated in active form. Alternate translation: "no one can put the word of God in prison" or "no one can stop the word of God"

#### 2 Timothy 2:10

##### for those who are chosen

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "for the people whom God has chosen"

##### may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus

Paul speaks of salvation as if it were an object that could be physically grasped. Alternate translation: "will receive salvation from Christ Jesus"

##### with eternal glory

"and that they will be forever with him in the glorious place where he is"

#### 2 Timothy 2:11

##### This is a trustworthy saying

"These are words you can trust"

##### If we have died with him, we will also live with him

This is most likely the beginning of a song or poem that Paul is quoting. If your language has a way of indicating that this is poetry, you could use it here. If not, you could translate this as regular prose rather than poetry.

##### died with him

Paul uses this expression to mean that people share in Christ's death when they trust in him, deny their own wants, and obey him.

#### 2 Timothy 2:12

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 2 Timothy 2:13

##### if we are unfaithful ... he cannot deny himself

This is most likely the end of a song or poem that Paul is quoting. If your language has a way of indicating that this is poetry you could use it here. If not, you could translate this as regular prose rather than poetry.

##### if we are unfaithful

"even if we fail God" or "even if we do not do what we believe God wants us to do"

##### he cannot deny himself

"he must always act according to his character" or "he cannot act in ways that are the opposite of his real character"

#### 2 Timothy 2:14

##### General Information:

The word "them" may refer to "the teachers" or "the people of the church"

##### before God

Paul speaks of God's awareness of Paul as if he is in God's physical presence. This implies that God will be Timothy's witness. Alternate translation: "in God's presence" or "with God as your witness"

##### not to quarrel about words

Possible meanings are 1) "not to argue about foolish things that people say" or 2) "not to quarrel about what words mean"

##### it is of no value

"this does not benefit anyone"

#### 2 Timothy 2:15

##### to present yourself to God as one approved, a laborer who has no reason to be ashamed

"to present yourself to God as a person who has proven to be worthy and has no cause for shame"

##### a laborer

Paul presents the idea of Timothy correctly explaining God's word as if he were a skilled workman. Alternate translation: "like a workman" or "like a worker"

##### accurately teaches the word of truth

Possible meanings are 1) "explains the message about the truth correctly" or 2) "explains the true message correctly."

#### 2 Timothy 2:16

##### Avoid profane and empty talk

"Do not pay attention to ungodly and useless talk"

##### which leads to more and more godlessness

Paul speaks of this kind of talk as if it were something that could physically move to another location, and he speaks of godlessness as if it were that new location. Alternate translation: "which causes people to become more and more ungodly"

#### 2 Timothy 2:17

##### Their talk will spread like cancer

Cancer quickly spreads in a person's body and destroys it. This is a metaphor that means what those people were saying would spread from person to person and harm the faith of those who heard it. Alternate translation: "What they say will spread like an infectious disease" or "Their talk will spread quickly and cause destruction like cancer"

##### Hymenaeus and Philetus

These are names of men.

#### 2 Timothy 2:18

##### who have gone astray from the truth

Here "gone astray from the truth" is a metaphor for no longer believing or teaching what is true. Alternate translation: "who have started saying things that are not true"

##### the resurrection has already happened

"God has already raised dead believers to eternal life"

##### they destroy the faith of some

"they cause some people to stop believing"

#### 2 Timothy 2:19

##### General Information:

Just as precious and common containers can be used for honorable ways in a wealthy house, any person who turns to God can be used by God in honorable ways in doing good works.

##### the firm foundation of God stands

Possible meanings are 1) "God's truth is like a firm foundation" or 2) "God has established his people like a building on a firm foundation" or 3) "God's faithfulness is like a firm foundation." In any case, Paul speaks of this idea as if it were a building's foundation laid in the ground.

##### this inscription

Possible meanings of "inscription" are 1) words written into stone with a chisel or 2) words impressed in wax by a king's ring.

##### who names the name of the Lord

"who calls on the name of the Lord." Here "name of the Lord" refers to the Lord himself. Alternate translation: "who calls on the Lord" or "who says he is a believer in Christ"

##### depart from unrighteousness

Paul speaks of unrighteousness as if it were a place from which one could leave. Alternate translation: "stop being evil" or "stop doing wrong things"

#### 2 Timothy 2:20

##### containers of gold and silver ... containers of wood and clay

Here "containers" is a general word for bowls, plates, and pots, which people put food or drink into or on. If your language does not have a general word, use the word for "bowls" or "pots." Paul is using this as a metaphor to describe different types of people.

##### honorable use ... dishonorable

Possible meanings are 1) "special occasions ... ordinary times" or 2) "the kinds of activities people do in public ... the kinds of activities people do in private."

#### 2 Timothy 2:21

##### cleans himself from dishonorable use

Possible meanings are 1) "separates himself from dishonorable people" or 2) "makes himself pure." In any case, Paul speaks of this process as if it were a person washing himself.

##### he is an honorable container

Paul speaks about this person as if he were an honorable container. Alternate translation: "he is like the container that is useful for special occasions" or "he is like the container that is useful for activities good people do in public"

##### He is set apart, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The Master sets him apart, and he is ready for the Master to use him for every good work"

##### He is set apart

He is not set apart physically or in the sense of location, but instead to fulfill a purpose. Some versions translate this "sanctified," but the text signals the essential idea of being set apart.

#### 2 Timothy 2:22

##### Flee youthful lusts

Paul speaks about youthful lusts as if they were a dangerous person or animal that Timothy should run away from. Alternate translation: "Completely avoid youthful lusts" or "Absolutely refuse to do the wrong things that young people strongly desire to do"

##### Pursue righteousness

Here "Pursue" means the opposite of "Flee." Paul speaks of righteousness as if it were an object that Timothy should run towards because it will do him good. Alternate translation: "Try your best to obtain righteousness" or "Seek after righteousness"

##### with those

Possible meanings are 1) Paul wants Timothy to join with other believers in pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace, or 2) Paul wants Timothy to be at peace and not argue with other believers.

##### those who call on the Lord

Here "call on the Lord" is an idiom that means to trust and worship the Lord. Alternate translation: "those who worship the Lord"

##### out of a clean heart

Here "clean" is a metaphor for something pure or sincere. And, "heart" here is a metonym for "thoughts" or "emotions." Alternate translation: "with a sincere mind" or "with sincerity"

#### 2 Timothy 2:23

##### refuse foolish and ignorant questions

"refuse to answer foolish and ignorant questions." Paul means that the people who ask such questions are foolish and ignorant. Alternate translation: "refuse to answer the questions that foolish people who do not want to know the truth ask"

##### they give birth to quarrels

Paul speaks of ignorant questions as if they were women giving birth to children. Alternate translation: "they cause arguments"

#### 2 Timothy 2:24

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 2 Timothy 2:25

##### correcting his opponents with gentleness

"gently correcting those who oppose him"

##### his opponents

"people who say that what he teaches is not true"

##### Perhaps God may give them repentance

Paul speaks of repentance as if it were an object that God could give people. Alternate translation: "God may give them the opportunity to repent"

##### for the knowledge of the truth

"so that they will know the truth"

#### 2 Timothy 2:26

##### They may become sober again

Paul speaks of sinners learning to think correctly about God as if they were drunk people becoming sober again. Alternate translation: "They may think correctly again"

##### leave the devil's trap

Paul speaks of the devil's ability to convince Christians to sin as if it were a trap. Alternate translation: "stop doing what the devil wants"

##### after they have been captured by him for his will

Convincing Christians to sin is spoken of as if the devil had physically captured them and made them his slaves. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "after he has deceived them into obeying his will"

## Chapter 3

# 2 Timothy 3 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

The "last days" could mean in the future just before Jesus returns. If so, Paul is prophesying in verses 1-9 and 13 about those days. The "last days" could also mean the Christian age, including Paul's time. If so, what Paul teaches about being persecuted applies to all Christians. (See: prophet and lastday)

## Links:

* [2 Timothy 3:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 2 Timothy 3:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul lets Timothy know that in the future people will stop believing the truth, but he should continue trusting God's word even when he is persecuted.

##### In the last days

Possible meanings are 1) this is a time later than Paul's time. Alternate translation: "in the future just before Jesus returns" or 2) this refers to the Christian age, including Paul's time. Alternate translation: "during this period of time before the end"

##### difficult times

These will be days, months, or even years when Christians will endure suffering and danger.

#### 2 Timothy 3:2

##### lovers of themselves

Here "lovers" refers to brotherly love or love for a friend or family member, a natural human love between friends or relatives. This is not the kind of love that comes from God. Alternate translation: "self-centered"

#### 2 Timothy 3:3

##### without natural affection

"unloving even to their own families"

##### unable to reconcile

"unwilling to live peacefully with others"

##### not lovers of good

This can be stated in positive form. Alternate translation: "haters of good"

#### 2 Timothy 3:4

##### reckless

doing things either without thinking about what bad things could happen or without even knowing that bad things could happen

##### prideful

thinking they are better than other people

#### 2 Timothy 3:5

##### They will have a shape of godliness, but they will deny its power

Paul speaks of godliness, the habit of honoring God, as if it were a physical object that had a shape and had physical power. Alternate translation: "They will appear to honor God, but they way they act will show that they do not really believe in God's power"

##### have a shape of godliness

"appear to have godliness" or "appear to honor God"

##### Turn away from these people

"Turn away" here is a metaphor for avoiding someone. Alternate translation: "Avoid these people"

#### 2 Timothy 3:6

##### enter into households and captivate

"enter into houses and greatly influence"

##### foolish women

"women who are spiritually weak." These women may be spiritually weak because they fail to work at becoming godly or because they are idle and have many sins.

##### who are loaded up with sins

Paul speaks of the attraction of sin as if sin were loaded on the backs of these women. Possible meanings are 1) "who sin often" or 2) "who feel terrible guilt because they continue to sin." The idea is that these men can easily influence these women because the women are unable to stop sinning.

##### are led away by various desires

Paul speaks about these various desires as if they could lead another person away. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "they desire to sin in various ways rather than obey Christ"

#### 2 Timothy 3:7

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 2 Timothy 3:8

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul gives an example of two false teachers from the time of Moses—men who are not mentioned in the Old Testament—and applies it to the way people will be. Paul encourages Timothy to follow his own example and stay in God's word.

##### Jannes and Jambres

These are names of men.

##### stood against

Paul speaks of those who argued against Moses as if they had stood against him. Alternate translation: "opposed"

##### stand against the truth

"oppose the gospel of Jesus"

##### They are men corrupt in mind

"Their minds are corrupt" or "They cannot think rightly"

##### and with regard to the faith they are rejected

Possible meanings are 1) here "the faith" represents the false teachers' personal faith in God. Alternate translation: "and they have shown that their faith is not sincere" or 2) here "the faith" represents the true Christian teachings about God. Alternate translation: "and, according to the true teachings of the Christian faith, God has rejected them"

#### 2 Timothy 3:9

##### they will not advance very far

Paul uses an expression about physical movement to mean that the false teachers will not have much success among the believers. Alternate translation: "they will not have much success"

##### obvious to all

"easily seen by all" or "something everyone will see"

##### of those men

"of Jannes and Jambres"

#### 2 Timothy 3:10

##### you have followed my teaching

Paul speaks of giving close attention to these things as if one were physically following them as they moved. Alternate translation: "you have observed my teaching" or "you have paid close attention to my teaching"

##### my teaching

"what I have taught you to do"

##### conduct

the way a person lives his life

##### longsuffering

one person being patient with those people who do things of which he does not approve

#### 2 Timothy 3:11

##### Out of them all, the Lord rescued me

Paul speaks of God having stopped him from suffering these hardships and dangers as if God had carried him out of a physical location.

#### 2 Timothy 3:12

##### to live in a godly manner in Christ Jesus

"to live godly lives as followers of Jesus"

##### will be persecuted

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "will certainly have to endure persecution"

#### 2 Timothy 3:13

##### impostors

An imposter is a person who wants other people to think he is someone other, usually more important, than who he is.

##### will go from bad to worse

"will become even more evil"

##### leading others astray and being led astray

Here, to lead someone astray is a metaphor for persuading someone to believe something that is not true. Alternate translation: "deceiving and being deceived" or "teaching lies and believing lies"

#### 2 Timothy 3:14

##### remain in the things that you have learned

Paul speaks of biblical instruction as if it were a place that Timothy could stay in. Alternate translation: "do not forget what you learned" or "continue doing what you have learned"

#### 2 Timothy 3:15

##### the sacred writings. These are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

Paul speaks of the message contained in the sacred writings as if it were the writings themselves and of those writings as if they were a person whose words could make a person wise. Alternate translation: "what is in the sacred writings. When you read the word of God, you can become wise so as to receive salvation from Christ Jesus by faith"

#### 2 Timothy 3:16

##### All scripture has been inspired by God

Some Bibles translate this as "All scripture is God-breathed." This means God produced the scripture through his Spirit by telling people what to write. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God has spoken all scripture by his Spirit"

##### It is profitable

"It is useful" or "It is beneficial"

##### for conviction

"for pointing out errors"

##### for correction

"for fixing errors"

##### for training in righteousness

"for training people to be righteous"

#### 2 Timothy 3:17

##### the man of God

This means any believer in God whether male or female. Alternate translation: "all believers"

##### may be competent, equipped

"may be completely prepared"

## Chapter 4

# 2 Timothy 4 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

#### "I give this solemn command"

Paul begins to give personal instructions to Timothy.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Crown

Scripture uses different kinds of crowns as images for different things. It appears Christ will award the crown in this chapter to believers as a reward for living rightly.

## Links:

* [2 Timothy 4:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### 2 Timothy 4:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul continues to remind Timothy to be faithful and that he, Paul, is ready to die.

##### this solemn command before God and Christ Jesus

"this solemn command in the presence of God and Christ Jesus." It is implied that God and Jesus will be Paul's witnesses. Alternate translation: "this solemn command, having as my witnesses God and Christ Jesus"

##### solemn command

"serious command"

##### the living and the dead

Here "the living" and "the dead" are used together to mean all people. Alternate translation: "all people who have ever lived"

##### the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom

Here "kingdom" stands for Christ's rule as king. Alternate translation: "the dead when he returns to rule as king"

#### 2 Timothy 4:2

##### the word

"Word" here is a metonym for "message." Alternate translation: "the message about Christ"

##### when it is not

Here the word "convenient" is understood. Alternate translation: "when it is not convenient"

##### Reprove

tell someone he is guilty of doing wrong

##### exhort, with all patience and teaching

"exhort, and teach the people, and always be patient with them"

#### 2 Timothy 4:3

##### For the time will come when

"Because at some time in the future"

##### people

The context indicates that these will be people who are a part of the community of believers.

##### will not endure sound teaching

"will no longer want to listen to true teaching" or "will not want to listen to reliable teaching"

##### they will heap up for themselves teachers according to their own desires

Paul speaks of people obtaining many teachers as if they were putting them into a heap or pile. Alternate translation: "they will listen to many teachers who assure them that there is nothing wrong with their sinful desires"

##### who say what their itching ears want to hear

Paul speaks of people strongly wanting to hear something as if their ears itched and could only be satisfied if teachers taught them what they wanted to hear. Alternate translation: "who say only what they want so much to hear"

#### 2 Timothy 4:4

##### They will turn their hearing away from the truth

Paul speaks about people no longer paying attention as if they were physically turning away so they cannot hear. Alternate translation: "They will no longer pay attention to the truth"

##### they will turn aside to myths

Paul speaks about people starting to pay attention to myths as if they were physically turning towards them to listen. Alternate translation: "they will pay attention to teachings that are not true"

#### 2 Timothy 4:5

##### be sober-minded

Paul wants Timothy to think correctly about everything, and he speaks about him as if he wanted him to be sober, that is, not drunk with wine. Alternate translation: "think clearly"

##### the work of an evangelist

This means to tell people about who Jesus is, what he did for them, and how they are to live for him.

#### 2 Timothy 4:6

##### I am already being poured out

Paul speaks of his readiness to die as if he were a cup of wine being poured out as a sacrifice to God.

##### The time of my departure has come

Here "departure" is a polite way of referring to death. Alternate translation: "Soon I will die and leave this world"

#### 2 Timothy 4:7

##### I have fought the good fight

Paul speaks of his hard work as if he had been an athlete competing for a prize. Alternate translation: "I have done my best"

##### I have finished the race

Paul speaks of his life of service to God as if he had been running a race on foot. Alternate translation: "I have completed what I needed to do"

##### I have kept the faith

Paul speaks of his trust in Christ and his obedience to God as if they were a valuable object that he kept in his possession. Possible meanings are 1) "I have been faithful in doing my ministry" or 2) "I have kept the teachings about what we believe from any error"

#### 2 Timothy 4:8

##### The crown of righteousness has been reserved for me

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God has reserved the crown of righteousness for me"

##### crown of righteousness

Possible meanings are 1) the crown is the prize that God gives to people who have lived the right way or 2) the crown is a metaphor for righteousness. Just as the judge of a race gives a crown to the winner, when Paul finishes his life, God will declare that Paul is righteous.

##### crown

a wreath made of laurel tree leaves that was given to winners of athletic contests

##### on that day

"on the day when the Lord comes again" or "on the day when God judges people"

##### but also to all those who have loved his appearing

Paul speaks about this event as if it has already happened. It can be stated as a future event. Alternate translation: "but also he will give it to those who are eagerly waiting for him to return"

#### 2 Timothy 4:9

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul talks of specific people and how they behaved, of God's work for and to him, and then closes with greetings to and from certain people.

##### come ... quickly

"come ... as soon as possible"

#### 2 Timothy 4:10

##### Demas ... Crescens ... Titus

These are names of men.

##### He loves this present world

Here "world" refers to worldly things as opposed to the things of God. Possible meanings are 1) he loves the temporary comforts of this world or 2) he is afraid he will die if he remains with Paul.

##### Crescens went ... and Titus went

These two men had left Paul, but Paul is not saying that they also "love this present world" like Demas.

##### Dalmatia

This is the name of a land region.

#### 2 Timothy 4:11

##### he is useful to me in the service

Possible meanings are 1) "he can help me in the ministry" or 2) "he can help me by serving me."

#### 2 Timothy 4:12

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### 2 Timothy 4:13

##### cloak

a heavy garment worn over clothes

##### Carpus

This is the name of a man.

##### the books

This refers to scrolls. A scroll was a type of book made of one long sheet of papyrus or leather. After writing on a scroll or reading it, people rolled it up using rods on the ends

##### especially the parchments

This may refer to a specific type of scroll. Alternate translation: "especially those made from animal skins"

#### 2 Timothy 4:14

##### Alexander the coppersmith displayed

"Alexander, who works with metal, displayed"

##### Alexander

This is the name of a man.

##### displayed many evil deeds against me

Paul speaks of doing evil deeds as if they were put on display. Alternate translation: "did many evil things to me"

##### The Lord will repay him according to his deeds

Paul speaks of punishment as if it were payment. Alternate translation: "The Lord will punish him for what he has done"

##### him ... his

Alexander

#### 2 Timothy 4:15

##### him ... he

Alexander.

##### opposed our words

Here "words" refers to a message or teaching. Alternate translation: "opposed the message that we teach"

#### 2 Timothy 4:16

##### At my first defense

"When I first appeared in court and explained my actions"

##### no one stood with me

"no one stayed with me and helped me"

##### May it not be counted against them

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "May God not count it against them" or "I pray that God does not punish those believers for leaving me"

#### 2 Timothy 4:17

##### the Lord stood by me

Paul is speaking as if the Lord had physically stood with him. Alternate translation: "the Lord helped me"

##### so that, through me, the proclamation of the message might be fully accomplished ... the Gentiles might hear

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "so that I was able to speak all of the Lord's message ... the Gentiles heard"

##### I was rescued out of the lion's mouth

Paul is speaking about danger as if he had been threatened by a lion. This danger could have been physical, spiritual, or both. Alternate translation: "I was rescued from great danger"

#### 2 Timothy 4:18

##### General Information:

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#### 2 Timothy 4:19

##### house of Onesiphorus

Here "house" stands for the people who live there. Alternate translation: "family of Onesiphorus"

##### Priscilla

This is the name of a woman.

##### Aquila

This is the name of a man.

##### Onesiphorus

This is the name of a man. See how you translated this name in 2 Timothy 1:16.

#### 2 Timothy 4:20

##### Erastus ... Trophimus

These are names of men.

##### Miletus

This is the name of a city to the south of Ephesus.

#### 2 Timothy 4:21

##### Eubulus ... Pudens, Linus

These are all names of men.

##### Do your best to come

"Try hard to come"

##### before winter

"before the cold season"

##### greets you, also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers

This can be translated as a new sentence. Alternate translation: "greets you. Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers also greet you"

##### Claudia

This is a female name.

##### all the brothers

Here "brothers" means all believers whether male or female. Alternate translation: "all the believers here"

#### 2 Timothy 4:22

##### May the Lord be with your spirit

"I pray that the Lord makes your spirit strong." Here "you" is singular and refers to Timothy.

##### May grace be with you

"I pray that the Lord shows his grace to all of you there." Here "you" is plural and refers to all the believers there with Timothy.

## Chapter 1

# Titus 1 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Paul formally introduces this letter in verses 1-4. Writers often began letters in this way in the ancient Near East.

In verses 6-9, Paul lists several qualities that a man must have if he is to be an elder in the church. Paul gives a similar list in 1 Timothy 3.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Elders

The church has used different titles for church leaders. Some titles include overseer, elder, pastor, and bishop.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Should, may, must

The ULB uses different words that indicate requirements or obligations. These verbs have different levels of force associated with them. The subtle differences may be difficult to translate. The UDB translates these verbs in a more general way.

## Links:

* [Titus 1:1 Notes](./01.md)
* [Titus intro](../front/intro.md)

#### Titus 1:1

##### for the faith of

to strengthen the faith of

##### that agrees with godliness

"that is suitable for honoring God"

#### Titus 1:2

##### with the hope of everlasting life

Here "hope" means "a confident expectation." Alternate translation: "with the confidence of receiving everlasting life"

##### before all the ages of time

"before time began"

#### Titus 1:3

##### At the right time

"At the proper time"

##### he revealed his word

Paul speaks of God's message as if it were an object that could be visibly shown to people. Alternate translation: "He caused people to understand his message"

##### with which I have been entrusted

This can be translated in active form, and what God trusted Paul to do can be stated explicitly. Alternate translation: "that he trusted me to deliver"

##### God our Savior

"God, who saves us"

#### Titus 1:4

##### a true son

Though Titus was not Paul's biological son, they share a common faith in Christ. Thus, in Christ, Paul considers Titus as his own son. Alternate translation: "you who are like a son to me"

##### our common faith

Paul expresses the same faith in Christ that they both share. Alternate translation: "the teachings that we both believe"

##### Grace and peace

This was a common greeting Paul used. You can state clearly the understood information. Alternate translation: "May you experience kindness and peace within"

##### Christ Jesus our Savior

"Christ Jesus who is our Savior"

#### Titus 1:5

##### For this purpose I left you in Crete, that you might set

"This is the reason I left you in Crete: I wanted you to set"

##### I left you in Crete

"I told you to stay in Crete"

##### set in order things not yet complete

"finish arranging things that needed to be done"

##### ordain elders

"appoint elders" or "designate elders"

##### elders

In the early Christian churches, Christian elders gave spiritual leadership to the assemblies of believers.

#### Titus 1:6

##### Connecting Statement:

Having told Titus to ordain elders in every city on the island of Crete, Paul gives the requirements for elders.

##### An elder must be blameless, the husband

To be "blameless" is to be known as a person who does not do bad things. Alternate translation: "An elder must not have a bad reputation and must be the husband"

##### the husband of one wife

This means that he has only one wife, that is, he does not have any other wives or concubines. It may also imply that he does not commit adultery and that he has not divorced a previous wife. Alternate translation: "a man who has only one woman" or "a man who is faithful to his wife"

##### faithful children

Possible meanings are 1) children who believe in Jesus or 2) children who are trustworthy.

#### Titus 1:7

##### overseer

This is another name for the same position of spiritual leadership that Paul referred to as "elder" in 1:6.

##### a manager of the household of God

Paul speaks of the church as if it were God's household and the overseer as if he were a servant in charge of managing the household.

##### not addicted to wine

"not an alcoholic" or "not one who drinks much wine"

##### not a brawler

"not one who is violent" or "not one who likes to fight"

#### Titus 1:8

##### Instead

Paul is changing his argument from what an elder is not to be to what an elder is to be.

#### Titus 1:9

##### hold tightly to

Paul speaks of devotion to the Christian faith as if it were grasping the faith with one's hands. Alternate translation: "be devoted to" or "know well"

##### truthful teaching

The Greek word translated "truthful" is a word meaning "healthy" and here is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "trustworthy words"

#### Titus 1:10

##### Connecting Statement:

Because of those that would oppose God's word, Paul gives Titus reasons to preach God's word and warns him about false teachers.

##### rebellious people

These are rebellious people who oppose Paul's gospel message.

##### empty talkers and deceivers

This phrase describes the rebellious people mentioned in the previous phrase. Here "empty" is a metaphor for useless, and "empty talkers" are people who say useless or foolish things. Alternate translation: "people who say useless things and deceive others"

##### those of the circumcision

This refers to the Christian Jews who taught that men must be circumcised in order to follow Christ.

#### Titus 1:11

##### It is necessary to stop them

"They must be prevented from spreading their teachings" or "They must be stopped from influencing others by their words"

##### what they should not teach

These are things that are not proper to teach regarding Christ and the Law because they are not true.

##### for disgraceful profit

This refers to profit that people make by doing things that are not honorable.

##### are upsetting whole families

"are ruining whole families." The issue was that they were upsetting families by destroying their faith. This may have caused the members of the families to argue with one another.

#### Titus 1:12

##### One of their own prophets

"A prophet from Crete itself" or "A Cretan that they themselves consider to be a prophet"

##### Cretans are always liars

"Cretans lie all the time." This is an exaggeration that means that many Cretans lie often.

##### evil beasts

This metaphor compares the Cretans to dangerous wild animals.

#### Titus 1:13

##### Therefore, correct them severely

"You must use strong language that the Cretans will understand when you correct them"

##### so that they may be truthful in the faith

The Greek word translated "truthful" is a word meaning "healthy" and here is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "trustworthy words"

#### Titus 1:14

##### Jewish myths

This refers to the false teaching of the Jews.

##### turn away from the truth

Paul speaks of the truth as if it were an object that one could turn away from or avoid. Alternate translation: "reject the truth"

#### Titus 1:15

##### To those who are pure, all things are pure

"If people are pure on the inside, everything they do will be pure"

##### To those who are pure

"To those who are acceptable to God"

##### to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure

Paul speaks of sinners as if they were physically dirty. Alternate translation: "if people are morally defiled and do not believe, they cannot do anything pure"

#### Titus 1:16

##### they deny him by their actions

"how they live proves that they do not know him"

##### They are detestable

"They are disgusting"

## Chapter 2

# Titus 2 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Gender roles

Scholars are divided over how to understand this passage in its historical and cultural context. Some scholars believe men and women are perfectly equal in all things. Other scholars believe God created men and women to serve in distinctly different roles in marriage and the church. Translators should be careful not to let how they understand this issue affect how they translate this passage.

#### Slavery

Paul does not write in this chapter about whether slavery is good or bad. Paul teaches slaves to faithfully serve their masters. He teaches all believers to be godly and live rightly in every situation.

## Links:

* [Titus 2:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Titus 2:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul continues giving Titus reasons to preach God's word, and explains how the older men, older women, young men, and slaves or servants should live as believers.

##### But you, speak what fits

Paul implies what is in contrast. Alternate translation: "But you, Titus, in contrast with the false teachers, be sure to say those things that fit"

##### truthful instruction

The Greek word translated "truthful" is a word meaning "healthy" and here is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "trustworthy words"

#### Titus 2:2

##### to be temperate

"to be sober-minded" or "to be self-controlled"

##### temperate, dignified, sensible

"temperate and dignified, to control their desires

##### and sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance

The word "sound" means to be firm and unwavering. The abstract nouns "faith," "love," and "perseverance" can be stated as verbs. Alternate translation: "and they must firmly believe the true teachings about God, truly love others, and continually serve God even when things are difficult"

#### Titus 2:3

##### slanderers

This word refers to people who say bad things about other people whether they are true or not.

##### or being slaves to much wine

People who cannot control themselves and who drink too much wine are spoken of as if they were slaves to the wine. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "and not drinking too much wine" or "and not addicted to wine"

#### Titus 2:4

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Titus 2:5

##### so that God's word may not be spoken of as evil

"Word" here is a metonym for "message," which in turn is a metonym for God himself. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "so that no one insults God's word" or "so that no one insults God by saying bad things about his message"

#### Titus 2:6

##### In the same way, encourage

"Also be sure to encourage"

#### Titus 2:7

##### present yourself as

"show yourself to be"

##### an example of good works

"an example of one who does right and proper things"

#### Titus 2:8

##### a truthful message

The Greek word translated "truthful, is a word meaning "healthy" and here is a dead metaphor for true, trustworthy, and morally good. Alternate translation: "trustworthy words"

#### Titus 2:9

##### their masters

"their own masters"

##### in everything

"in every situation" or "always"

##### please them

"make their masters happy" or "satisfy their masters"

#### Titus 2:10

##### demonstrate all good faith

"show that they are worthy of their masters' trust"

##### in every way

"in everything they do"

##### they may bring credit to the teaching about God our Savior

"they may make the teaching about God our Savior attractive" or "they may cause people to understand that the teaching about God our Savior is good"

##### God our Savior

"our God who saves us"

#### Titus 2:11

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul encourages Titus to look for Jesus's coming and remember his authority through Jesus.

##### the grace of God has appeared

Paul speaks of the grace of God as if it were a person who goes to other people.

#### Titus 2:12

##### trains us

Paul speaks of the grace of God

##### trains us to reject godlessness

"teaches us not to dishonor God"

##### worldly desires

"strong desires for the things of this world" or "strong desires for sinful pleasures"

##### in this age

"as we live in this world" or "during this time"

#### Titus 2:13

##### we look forward to receiving

"we eagerly wait to receive" or "we eagerly wait to welcome"

##### our blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

Here "glory" represents Jesus himself, who will appear gloriously. Here "hope" means "confidently expectation." Alternate translation: "the good thing for which we confidently wait, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"

#### Titus 2:14

##### gave himself for us

This refers to Jesus dying willingly. Alternate translation: "gave himself to die for us"

##### to redeem us from all lawlessness

Paul speaks of Jesus as if he were setting slaves free from their evil master.

##### a special people

A group of people that he treasures.

##### are eager

"have a strong desire"

#### Titus 2:15

##### give correction with all authority

This statement can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "correct with all authority those people who do not do these things"

##### Let no one

"Do not allow anyone to"

##### disregard you

This statement can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "refuse to listen to your words" or "refuse to respect you"

## Chapter 3

# Titus 3 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Paul gives Titus personal instructions in this chapter.

Verse 15 formally concludes this letter. This is a common way of ending a letter in the ancient Near East.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Genealogies

Genealogies are lists that record a person's ancestors or descendants. Jews used genealogies to choose the right man to become king. They did this because only a son of a king could normally become king. They also showed from what tribe and family they came. For example, priests came from the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron.

## Links:

* [Titus 3:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Titus 3:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul continues giving Titus instructions on how to teach the elders and people under his care in Crete.

##### Remind them to submit

"Tell our people again what they already know, to submit" or "Keep reminding them to submit"

##### submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them

"do as the political rulers and government authorities say by obeying them"

##### rulers and authorities

These words have similar meanings and are used together to include everyone who holds authority in the government.

##### be ready for every good work

"be ready to do good whenever there is opportunity"

#### Titus 3:2

##### to insult no one

"to speak evil of no one"

#### Titus 3:3

##### For once we ourselves

"This is because we ourselves were once"

##### once

"formerly" or "at some time" or "previously"

##### we ourselves

"even we" or "we also"

##### were thoughtless

"were foolish" or "were unwise"

##### We were led astray and enslaved by various desires and pleasures

Desires and pleasures are spoken of as if they were masters over people and had made those people into slaves by lying to them. This can be translated in active form. Alternate translation: "Various desires and pleasures had lied to us and so led us astray" or "We had allowed ourselves to believe the lie that various desires and pleasures could make us happy, and then we were unable to control our feelings or stop doing things we thought would give us pleasure"

##### We lived in evil and envy

"We were always doing evil things and not wanting others to have good things"

##### We were detestable

"We caused others to hate us"

#### Titus 3:4

##### when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared

Paul speaks of God's kindness and love as if they were people that came into our sight.

#### Titus 3:5

##### by his mercy

"because he had mercy on us"

##### washing of new birth

Paul is probably speaking of God's forgiveness for sinners as if God were physically washing them. He is also speaking of sinners who become responsive to God as if they had been born again.

#### Titus 3:6

##### whom God richly poured on us

It is common for New Testament writers to speak of the Holy Spirit as a liquid that God can pour out in large amounts. Alternate translation: "whom God gave to us generously"

##### through our Savior Jesus Christ

"when Jesus saved us"

#### Titus 3:7

##### having been justified

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "since God has declared us to be without sin"

##### we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life

The people to whom God has made promises are spoken of as if they were heirs, inheriting property and wealth from a family member. Here "hope" means "a confident expectation." Alternate translation: "we might become like God's heirs, confidently waiting to inherit eternal life" or "we might have the confident expectation that God will cause us to live forever"

#### Titus 3:8

##### This message

This refers to God giving the believers the Holy Spirit through Jesus in Titus 3:7.

##### may be careful to engage themselves in good works

"may seek to do good works"

#### Titus 3:9

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul explains what Titus should avoid.

##### But avoid

"So avoid" or "Therefore, avoid"

##### foolish debates

"arguments concerning unimportant matters"

##### genealogies

This is the study of family kinship relationships.

##### strife

arguments or fights

##### the law

"the law of Moses"

#### Titus 3:10

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul explains how Titus should treat those who cause contention among the believers.

##### Reject anyone

"Have everyone stay away from anyone"

##### after one or two warnings

"after you have warned that person once or twice"

#### Titus 3:11

##### such a person

"a person like that"

##### has turned from the right way

Paul speaks of someone who has rejected the truth as if he had left the correct path on which he had been walking.

##### condemns himself

"brings judgment on himself"

#### Titus 3:12

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul closes the letter by telling Titus what to do after he appoints elders in Crete and by giving greetings from those with him.

##### When I send

"After I send"

##### Artemas ... Tychicus

These are men's names.

##### hurry and come

"come quickly"

##### spend the winter

"stay until winter has ended"

#### Titus 3:13

##### Zenas ... Apollos

These are men's names.

#### Titus 3:14

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul explains why it is important to provide for Zenas and Apollos.

##### Our people

Paul is referring to the believers in Crete.

##### that provide for urgent needs

"that help people who need important things immediately"

##### needs, and so not be unfruitful

Paul speaks of people doing good work as if they were trees bearing good fruit. This double negative means they should be fruitful or productive. Alternate translation: "needs; in this way they will be fruitful" or "needs, and so they will do good works"

#### Titus 3:15

##### General Information:

Paul ends his letter to Titus.

##### All those

"All the people"

##### those who love us in faith

Possible meanings are 1) "the believers who love us" or 2) "the believers who love us because we share the same belief."

##### Grace be with all of you

This was a common Christian greeting. Alternate translation: "May God's grace be with you" or "I ask that God will be gracious to all of you"

## Chapter 1

#### Philemon 1:1

##### General Information:

Three times Paul identifies himself as the author of this letter. Evidently Timothy was with him and probably wrote the words down as Paul said them. Paul greets others who meet for church at Philemon's house. All instances of "I," "me," and "my" refer to Paul. Philemon is the main person to whom this letter is written. All instances of "you" and "your" refer to him and are singular unless otherwise noted.

##### Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy, to Philemon

Your language may have a particular way of introducing the authors of a letter. Alternate translation: "I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, our brother, are writing this letter to Philemon"

##### a prisoner of Christ Jesus

"a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus." People who opposed Paul's preaching had punished him by putting him into prison.

##### brother

Here this means a fellow Christian.

##### our dear friend

The word "our" here refers to Paul and those with him but not to the reader.

##### and fellow worker

"who, like us, works to spread the gospel"

#### Philemon 1:2

##### our sister ... our fellow soldier

The word "our" here refers to Paul and those with him but not to the reader.

##### Apphia our sister

Here "sister" means she was a believer, and not a relative. Alternate translation: "Apphia our fellow believer" or "Apphia our spiritual sister"

##### Archippus our fellow soldier

Paul speaks here of Archippus as if they were both soldiers in an army. He means that Archippus works hard, as Paul himself works hard, to spread the gospel. Alternate translation: "Archippus our fellow spiritual warrior" or "Archippus, who also fights the spiritual battle with us"

##### Archippus

This is the name of a man in the church with Philemon.

#### Philemon 1:3

##### May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

"May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace." This is a blessing.

##### God our Father

The word "our" here refers to Paul, those with him, and the reader.

##### our Father

This is an important title for God.

#### Philemon 1:4

##### General Information:

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#### Philemon 1:5

##### General Information:

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#### Philemon 1:6

##### the sharing of your faith may be effective

Possible meanings are 1) "the way you tell others what you believe may cause them to believe also" or 2) "the way you believe the same way we do will cause good things to happen."

##### be effective, so you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have

"have a good result, and you will completely understand all the good things we have"

##### in Christ

"because of Christ" or "because we are Christ's people"

#### Philemon 1:7

##### the hearts of God's holy people have been refreshed by you

Here "hearts" is a metonym for a person's emotions or inner being. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "you have encouraged believers" or "you have helped the believers"

##### you, brother

"you, dear brother" or "you, dear friend." Paul called Philemon "brother" because they were both believers and he was emphasizing their friendship.

#### Philemon 1:8

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul begins his plea and the reason for his letter.

##### all the boldness in Christ

Possible meanings are 1) "authority because of Christ" or 2) "courage because of Christ." Alternate translation: "courage because Christ has given me authority"

#### Philemon 1:9

##### yet because of love

Possible meanings: 1) "because I know that you love God's people" 2) "because you love me" or 3) "because I love you"

#### Philemon 1:10

##### General Information:

Onesimus is the name of a man. He was apparently Philemon's slave and had stolen something and run away.

##### my child Onesimus

"my son Onesimus." Paul speaks of the way he is friends with Onesimus as if it were the way a father and his son love each other. Onesimus was not Paul's actual son, but he received spiritual life when Paul taught him about Jesus, and Paul loved him. Alternate translation: "my spiritual son Onesimus"

##### Onesimus

The name "Onesimus" means "profitable" or "useful."

##### whom I have fathered in my chains

Here "fathered" is a metaphor that means Paul converted Onesimus to Christ. Alternate translation: "who became my spiritual son when I taught him about Christ and he received new life while I was in my chains" or "who became like a son to me while I was in my chains"

##### in my chains

Prisoners were often bound in chains. Paul was in prison when he taught Onesimus and was still in prison when he wrote this letter. Alternate translation: "while I have been in prison" or "while I was in prison"

#### Philemon 1:11

##### General Information:

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#### Philemon 1:12

##### I have sent him back to you

Paul was probably sending Onesimus with another believer who carried this letter.

##### who is my very heart

Here "heart" is a metonym for a person's emotions. The phrase "who is my very heart" is a metaphor for someone whom the speaker loves dearly. Paul was saying this about Onesimus. Alternate translation: "whom I love dearly"

#### Philemon 1:13

##### so he could serve me for you

"so that, since you cannot be here, he might help me" or "so that he could help me in your place"

##### while I am in chains

Prisoners were often bound in chains. Paul was in prison when he taught Onesimus and was still in prison when he wrote this letter. Alternate translation: "while I am in prison"

##### for the sake of the gospel

Paul was in prison because he preached the gospel publicly. This can be stated explicitly. Alternate translation: "because I preach the gospel"

#### Philemon 1:14

##### But I did not want to do anything without your consent

Paul states a double negative to mean the opposite. Alternate translation: "But I wanted to make sure that you approved of everything I did"

##### I did not want your good deed to be from necessity but from good will

"I did not want you to do this good deed because I commanded you to do it, but because you wanted to do it"

##### but from good will

"but because you freely chose to do the right thing"

#### Philemon 1:15

##### Perhaps for this he was separated from you for a time, so that

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Perhaps the reason God took Onesimus away from you for a time was so that"

##### for a time

"during this time"

#### Philemon 1:16

##### better than a slave

"more valuable than a slave"

##### a beloved brother

"a dear brother" or "a precious brother in Christ"

##### much more so to you

"he means even more to you"

##### in both the flesh

"both as a man." Paul is referring to Onesimus' being a trustworthy servant.

##### in the Lord

"as a brother in the Lord" or "because he belongs to the Lord"

#### Philemon 1:17

##### if you have me as a partner

"if you think of me as a fellow worker for Christ"

#### Philemon 1:18

##### charge that to me

"say that I am the one who owes you"

#### Philemon 1:19

##### I, Paul, write this with my own hand

"I, Paul, write this myself." Paul wrote this part with his own hand so that Philemon would know that the words were really from Paul. Paul really would pay him.

##### not to mention

"I do not need to remind you" or "You already know." Paul says he does not need to tell Philemon this, but then continues to tell him anyway. This emphasizes the truth of what Paul is telling him.

##### you owe me your own self

"you owe me your own life." Paul was implying that Philemon should not say that Onesimus or Paul owed him anything because Philemon owed Paul even more. The reason Philemon owed Paul his life can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "you owe me much because I saved your life" or "you owe me your own life because what I told you saved your life"

#### Philemon 1:20

##### refresh my heart in Christ

Here "refresh" is a metaphor for comfort or encourage. Here "heart" is a metonym for a person's feelings, thoughts, or inner being. How Paul wanted Philemon to refresh his heart can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "encourage me in Christ" or "comfort me in Christ" or "refresh my heart in Christ by accepting Onesimus kindly"

#### Philemon 1:21

##### General Information:

Here the words "your" and "you" are singular and refer to Philemon.

##### Connecting Statement:

Paul closes his letter and speaks a blessing on Philemon and the believers that meet for church in Philemon's house.

##### Confident about your obedience

"Because I am sure that you will do what I ask"

#### Philemon 1:22

##### At the same time

"Also"

##### prepare a guest room for me

"make a room in your house ready for me." Paul is addressing Philemon here, so the word "prepare" is singular.

##### for I hope that through your prayers I will be returned to you

Paul is confident that he will return to Philemon and the other Christians there. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "for I confidently expect that God will answer your prayers and send me back to you"

##### your ... you

These words are plural and refer to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and the other Christians that meet in their home.

#### Philemon 1:23

##### Epaphras

This man is a fellow believer and prisoner with Paul.

##### my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus

"who is in prison with me because he serves Christ Jesus"

#### Philemon 1:24

##### So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers

"Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers, also greet you"

##### Mark ... Aristarchus ... Demas ... Luke

These are names of men.

##### my fellow workers

"the men who work with me" or "who all work with me."

#### Philemon 1:25

##### The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit

The word "your" here refers to Philemon and all who met in his house and so is plural. The words "your spirit" are a synecdoche and represent the people themselves. Alternate translation: "May our Lord Jesus Christ be kind to you"