



The 1st letter of Paul to
Timothy

- 02** How to use this Workbook?
- 03** What is the Goal of this Workbook?
- 04** Introduction
- 06** Chapter 1
- 07** Chapters 2 & 3
- 08** Chapter 4
- 10** Chapters 5 & 6
- 12** Conclusion

How to use this Workbook?

Videotext

Bible verses
quoted in the
text

Bonus
explanation

Thematic
questions

To recognize the heavenly things 1:1-11

For example, he does not start the letter with the usual "Apostle Paul", but instead with "Paul and Timothy" – why is that? 

There are three reasons:

1. Because he didn't need to use authority, but wanted to warm their hearts.
2. Since he would be writing about humility, he also wanted to show this in his writing.
3. Because he wanted to show **unity** with another servant, even though he was the main writer. 

Then after this, he writes down his prayer. A bit strange, isn't it? But it's deliberate, because he wants to teach them something from this prayer.

First of all, to show them how much fellowship and service with them means to him. This is in relation to **unity**. 

Secondly, he didn't want them to have mere blind devotion, but an intelligent affection, that is based on an enlarged understanding of **heavenly realities**. And this relates to the truth of **HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP**.² 

HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

He prays, that the Philippians can recognize the EXCELLENT, or the DECISIVE, that they can recognize the heavenly things. And they would be able to do that by having that intelligent affection among each other, by having a love that is based on the understanding of the love of Christ.

¹"Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ." ¹¹

²"And it is **my prayer** that your love may abound more and more, with **knowledge** [...] so that you may approve what is excellent." ¹⁰

Question

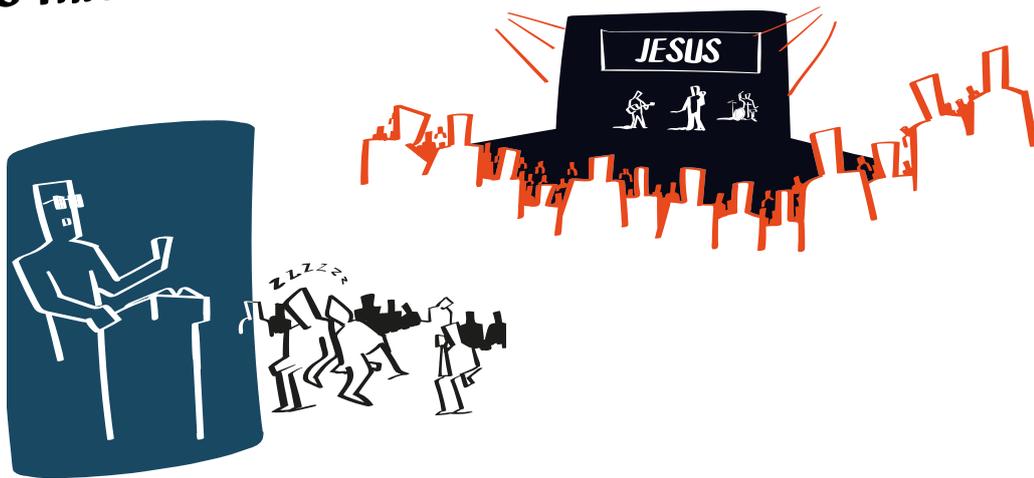
Paul is showing his love for them and is setting an example.
Are you praying for every member in your local church?

14

FEEL FREE TO USE THE MARGINS TO TAKE NOTES. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE THERE FOR!

What is the Goal of this Workbook?

DOES THIS SEEM FAMILIAR?



Timothy observes the condition of the church and asks himself: "What should I do?"

- What are the characteristics of a church that's in a good condition?
- And what should be done if it doesn't correspond to reality?

This is the main theme of the letter Paul is writing to Timothy. You will find this out too with the help of this workbook.

But first, read the letter for yourself and take a look at the corresponding videos. This will provide you with a great overview.

Introduction

It always moves spectators to see a father cheer on his son in a competition.

¹ "To Timothy, my true **child** in the faith" **1:2**

1 Timothy is precisely this. A spiritual father, Paul, encouraging his son, Timothy¹, to run the race for the kingdom of God even though times are difficult.

Timothy came to Christ when he was a young child. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was Greek.

² **Acts 16:1-4**

During his second missionary trip, Paul met Timothy in Lystra and they clicked². Although they were complete opposites in character³, Timothy became Paul's main travel companion.

³ "When Timothy comes, see that you put him **at ease** among you" **1 Corinthians 16:10**

But sometimes they needed to work on different fronts, and then Paul would communicate with Timothy through letters.

"For God gave us a spirit not of **fear** [...] Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony about our Lord" **2 Timothy 1:6-8**

The House of God

⁴ "As I urged you [...] remain at **Ephesus**..." **1:3**

1 Timothy was written to Timothy, while he was working in Ephesus⁴. Ephesus...Ephesians...Yes exactly. It's the same city as Ephesians was addressed to. That's why they also have things in common. Namely, that both letters speak about the house of God.

Ephesians shows us the counsel of God...like the big picture; And Timothy shows us how to actually work it out locally. If you want to add Corinthians into the mix, you could say that while 1 Corinthians shows the internal order, ...or maybe disorder would be more appropriate, 1 Timothy shows the external order: How to behave in the house of God.

THE HOUSE OF GOD

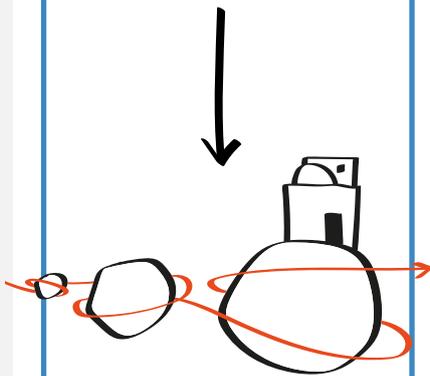
God always had a desire to live among his people. In the times of the Old Testament, God dwelled in the tabernacle and later in the temple in Jerusalem. But these are just a picture of the things he would do with the believers of our time. We find this in the New Testament:

The House of God

Ephesians

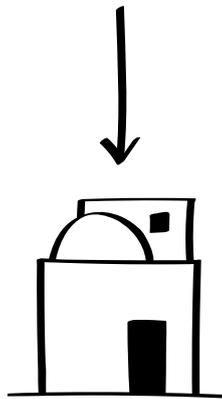
Here we see **God's counsel**. The things he had planned before the creation of the world (*Eph. 1:4*).

This letter answers, among other things, the following question: Who lives in this house? How was this house established? Who is part of this building? (*Eph. 2:22*)



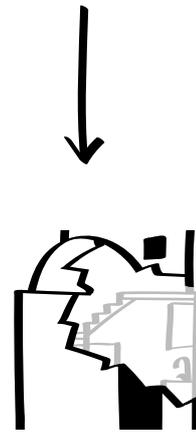
1 Timothy

This letter talks about the **structural organization**, that is the external order of the house of God. Which elements need to be implemented in order for a local church to be in a good condition? How should you behave in the house of God? (*3:15*)



1 Corinthians

In this letter you will find the moral character of the house of God. Or rather, of those who are the house of God (*1. Cor. 3:16*). So, the internal order.



Chapter 1

WHAT DOES THE LAW MEAN FOR US TODAY?

From the moment you start to think that any kind of external restrictions will make God accept us is when you start to fall into lawfulness.

Why?

Because that's when you start to fall into a system of "quid pro quo". When I do something, I will get something in return from God. Your life will be founded on merit instead of God's mercy.

¹ "The law is not laid down for the just" 1:9

ATTACK AGAINST THE DOCTRINE

Satan will attack the church using the Word of God, just like he did with the Lord in the wilderness.

(Mat. 4:1-10). And that's exactly what the Judaizers did by trying to lead the people back under the law and get them to hold on to earthly things (genealogy, family, the law).

In the first chapter Paul reminds Timothy of the overall mission: He left him in Ephesus, because he was afraid that the Judaizers would come in and preach false doctrine to these new converts. He reminds him again what the purpose of the **LAW** was:

- To convict unbelievers¹ of sin and lead them to the savior.
- He urges Timothy to keep this in mind, using himself as an example.

So, a church needs good **DOCTRINE**.



Question

According to the following sections, what is the purpose of the law? 1. **Timothy 1:9-11; Romans 3:20+7:7; Galatians 3:19,23-24**

Answer on page 13

Chapters 2 & 3



But knowledge without a prayer life is like salad without dressing. Dry and tasteless. So, Chapter 2 is all about the way **PRAYER** should be conducted in the church.

Furthermore, he addresses the right position of men and women in the church.

In Chapter 3 he speaks about two very important offices in a local church. Overseers and deacons.

In every system that God established there is leadership: Creation, Family, Humans...and also the Church.



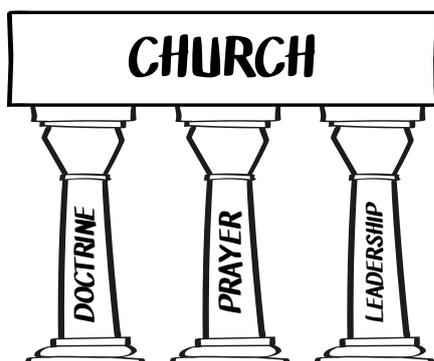
The Lord Jesus is the head of the Church, the great shepherd and therefore, he established overseers in the local church to watch out for the flock. These positions are not voted upon, because authority in the Bible never comes from underneath, but from above. From the head.

However, this does not mean that there is no leadership. The Holy Spirit directs the believers and works in the hearts of some holy men to aspire to such a work.¹

Now, the problem is: Even unholy men could step forward and say: "I want to act as an elder". That's why 1 Timothy 3 includes a **CHECKLIST** that would be impossible to live by without the Holy Spirit.

So, if someone engages in the work of an elder and shows the qualities described in this list, the others are called to recognize such men. They have a great responsibility as they will have to give account for the souls of their congregation before the Lord, the head of the Church himself.²

Doctrine, prayer and leadership. These are the 3 fundamental pillars of a local church. And how Timothy himself is to behave, we will see in the next chapters.



PRAYER

God wants us to pray:

1. **With holy hands**
This means that we separate ourselves from evil.
2. **Without anger**
Without unresolved issues among brothers and sisters in faith
3. **Without quarreling**
By letting the Spirit work, without speaking empty words that have no life, for instance (**Mat. 6:7**).

¹ "If anyone **aspires** to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task." 3:1

CHECKLIST

This list can be supplemented with what Paul is writing in his letter to Titus (**Titus 1:6-9**).

² "...the **head**, into Christ" **Eph. 4:15**

"... he is the **head** of the body, the church." **Col. 1:18**

Chapter 4 - a good teacher

We saw the 3 fundamental pillars of a local church:

1. Doctrine
2. Prayer
3. Leadership

But what happens when things get messed up? When your local church is a mess?

How should I personally live things out?

In theory, everything seems to be going well, but Paul knows that in later days some will depart from the faith, because they will listen to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons¹.

Now we might think: "Whoa, doctrine about demons and Satan... in the church?" Well...it's not as freakish as you think: They will tell you not to get married and they will tell you not to eat this or that food.

That sounds **FAMILIAR**, doesn't it?

So, Paul tells Timothy how to be a good teacher (Chapter 4) and how to be a good counsellor (Chapter 5-6).

If you want to be **a good teacher**, you need to focus on **2** things:



Knowing your Bible

"Knowing your Bible" includes:

1. Knowing the great biblical themes that appear throughout the entire bible (God, sin, salvation, etc.). You need to have an overview.
2. Diligently studying the Christian doctrine (4:6). This means to expect important details in each verse in order to withstand wrong teachings.

Keep your life in check

Knowledge without practice disqualifies a teacher.

Timothy was supposed to:

1. Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (4:12).
2. Make progress that all should see (4:15).

The Lord also spoke about acting first and then teaching (Mat. 5:19).

¹ "the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and **teachings of demons**" 4:1-2

FAMILIAR

Paul mentions two points that are not necessarily unbiblical:

1. Being single
2. Fasting

This shows, like we already saw on page 6, that Satan does not necessarily approach with a direct attack. Instead, he will deceitfully take a thought, one you can find in the Word, blow it out of proportion and make a law out of it. If it's being taught that you have to do these things in order to become spiritual, then it's against the Word. That's the movement (Gnosticism) that led the priests in the catholic church to celibacy.

Details matter in the last days. Not just a quick bible reading and then it's all about organising the next pajama party. That's exactly how Timothy would ruin a church and make young people leave as soon as the lights go out in Christian Disneyland.

Timothy shouldn't care about silly **PSEUDO-CHRISTIAN** stuff and extra-biblical stories.

Instead of doing **CROSSFIT** for the whole day, he should train himself in Godliness. To love God instead of lust, greed and self-worship.

Question

Read 2 Corinthians 11:3-4+13-14: What do you learn from the tactics of Satan when he attacks the church? And what strategies should you apply to withstand his attack?

Answer on page 13

CHRISTIAN FABLES

This type of literature is especially dangerous, because it conveys a false image of God, a false view of what we truly are in Christ.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Timothy was a Greek, and young Greeks (age 16-18) played a lot of sports. Their performances were very admirable. The context back then seems to be very similar to our situation today.

Don't forget:

1. Physical exercise is useful!
Your body needs to be able to be an instrument for the service of God.
2. Godliness is useful for everything.

¹ "Let no one despise you for your youth." **4:12**

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Two thoughts about the fear of the Lord:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." (**Pro. 1:7**)

"The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil." (**Pro. 8:13**)

If you want to understand the Word of God, then you need to separate yourself from evil; and if you want to separate yourself from evil, fear the Lord.

In order for you to understand these basic topics better, take a look at our Fear of the Lord series!



click or scan the QR code.

SLANDER

The Greek word that sometimes gets translated as slander is "diabolos" (**3:11; 2 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 2:3**). It's the same term that's also used for "devil". It corresponds to the character of the devil, to slander and to accuse.

He should also avoid being too childish in his behavior or reasoning so that people would not have reason to reject him because of his youth¹.

So, he should:

1. Have **GOD-FEARING** behavior
2. Place the Word front and center.

...because in doing this, Timothy will save both himself and those who hear him.

Chapters 5 & 6 a good counselor

This would then be his foundation to have a clear view on pastoral questions relating to different groups that are in the church:

- 1 Older and younger folks
- 2 Widows (and there were a lot because a caring church is an excellent insurance system for old women who have no breadwinner)
- 3 Elders - they are the backbone of a local church and should receive **double honor**:



Money

So that their financial situation does not cease the work in the Word (and they don't become entangled in worldly affairs)

Protection

So that nobody **SLANDERS** them and ruins their reputation.

Chapter 6 addresses the professional world. Today we would call them “employees” instead of “slaves”. Employees should respect their masters irrespective of whether they are Christians or not.

Paul then addresses the destructive force in a local church: **MONEY**.

He urges Timothy to personally stay away from the love of money and to keep the rich people in check so that they don't misuse it or put their trust in money.

Question

*In which areas should a young man, according to **1 Timothy 4:12-13** and **Titus 2:7-8**, set an example in his local church?*

Answer on page 13

MONEY

3 remarks about money:

1. Timothy was supposed to be careful not to get influenced by money. A preacher can easily slightly reduce the truth of the Word of God because a great donor is in the audience.
2. Our life (**Col. 3:1-3**) and our treasure (**Mat. 6:20**) are in heaven. If we use our money exclusively for this earth, our life will go right past us (**6:2+19**). Don't forget that money can become an idol (**Mat. 6:24**) and that you can only serve one master.
3. Conclusion: “flee these things” (**6:11**).

Conclusion

So, we looked at what your responsibilities are if you want your church to be in a good condition, make sure that:

- 1** **Good doctrine** is being preached. Study the bible for yourself and walk in the fear of the Lord.
- 2** A spirit of **prayer** prevails in the local church. Set a good example and pray for each brother and sister in the church.
- 3** **Leadership** is being carried out correctly. Make sure that the elders, the teachers have enough money to live, and do not criticize them.

My question to you is:

Are you a Timothy?

**Do you preserve the treasure that was
given to you?**



***“DONT TELL ME THAT YOU’RE CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CHURCH
WHEN YOU SPEND HOURS IN FRONT OF THE
TV OR IN THE INTERNET.”***

D.W

Annexes

Answers to the questions

Question P.6

*The law (Greek: nomos) is not the life principal of a Christian, and it never had a function other than to show us our sinful condition and to make it clear to us that we cannot reach God's standard. In **Matthew 5:21-48** Jesus explains to the Pharisees what the real standard of God is, and shows them that it's impossible to please God through the law. He ends with the statement: "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." **Mat. 5:48***

Question P.9

*Satan knows the Bible better than you. In **Luke 4:10** he quotes a passage to Jesus. But he quotes it a bit wrong (he applies a general promise to a specific case). It is always important to understand what a person is really trying to say. Create your own picture, meaning an overview of the bible (like Paul will advise Timothy in his 2nd letter) and study the details in the Bible.*

Question P.11

*Words and behavior are mentioned in both passages. The Lord showed again and again that what comes out of our bodies shows what is in our hearts (**Luke 6:45; Mat. 7:16-20**).*

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