



This series examines Paul's advice to Timothy, an up-and-coming leader in the early church. Timothy was young, perhaps a bit timid, but he was also gifted. Paul's personal letter to him details the essentials every Christian must master. We invite you to become Paul's apprentice as we explore the message of 1st Timothy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Timothy 1:1-20](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. How do you distinguish between true and false spirituality?
3. In [verses 3-5](#), how does Paul describe Timothy's job?
4. Finding hidden meanings in the Old Testament was big business in 1st century religion. False teachers tried to mix these "secret teachings" with the gospel. What results were the false teachers getting for their efforts (Hint: [read verses 4-6](#))?
5. Re-read [verses 8-11](#). From what Paul says about the proper use of the law, how does it seem that the false teachers use it?
6. Remembering [verses 12-17](#), in what ways was Paul himself like the false teachers before his conversion?
7. How can the kind of faith Paul shows in [verse 15](#) help you face your own issues of conscience?
8. Close in prayer by putting your own name in place of the general word sinners in [1st Timothy 1:15](#). Now read [verses 16-17](#) as your own prayer of thanks to God.

MOVING FORWARD

As in Paul's day, Christians can wander into groups that make unusual claims and demands. They may have impressive features, but engage in certain practices and pressures which make members feel uneasy. A lot of energy goes into keeping faith and conscience apart in these groups. Are you involved with some "spiritual" activities which bother your own conscience? Be as honest as possible, ask God to help you do what is *Biblically* right!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,”](#)

[1st Timothy 1:18-19](#)