


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.


Paul's Instructions to the Enslaved

¹ All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.

Q1. If we interpret “yoke of slavery” to mean a true slave (who is someone’s property), how does Paul want the believing slave to act?

Q2. What is the desired outcome from the slave’s reaction?

Q3. Slavery is evil. Since Paul did not suggest that the slave is to overthrow their oppressor, what is Paul’s primary concern? And why?

 Slavery: (noun) [Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994 . . . 2014]

1. (Law) the state or condition of being a slave; a civil relationship whereby one person has absolute power over another and controls his life, liberty, and fortune
2. the subjection of a person to another person, esp in being forced into work
3. the condition of being subject to some influence or habit
4. (Industrial Relations & HR Terms) work done in harsh conditions for low pay


Q4. As you consider the definitions above, can you name any present-day examples of slavery?

Ephesians 6:9 [J.B. Phillips New Testament]

And as for you employers, be as conscientious and responsible towards those who serve you as you expect them to be towards you, neither misusing the power over others that has been put in your hands, nor forgetting that you are responsible yourselves to a heavenly employer who makes no distinction between master and man.

Colossians 4:1 [J.B. Phillips New Testament]

Remember, then, you employers, that your responsibility is to be fair and just towards those whom you employ, never forgetting that you yourselves have a heavenly employer.

 In John 13:16-17 Jesus had just performed a true act (as an example) of servanthood to His disciples – He washed their feet – which is an honor and sign of respect that a master never gave a slave.

John 13:16-17 [Jesus continued His teaching:]


¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

^{2a} Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them.

Q5. What might be *normal* human behavior in a master/slave relationship, when both are Believers?


Q6. Why does Paul state that the believing slave should serve their master “even better”?

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

False Teachings, Contentment, and Lust for Money

^{2b} These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

 Verse-2 is split into two parts: 2a and 2b. Way back in the early history of the Christian Church, when verse numbers were assigned to Scripture, scribes thought that verse 2b was the summary of Paul’s teaching ending with verses 1&2a and belonged together as a single verse 2. Translators have examined the original text and concluded that Paul’s summary sentence (verse 2b) actually introduces this next section of teaching and that resulted in the split of verse 2 in modern Biblical versions.

³ If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ^{4a} he is conceited and understands nothing.

Q7. How can we – mere lay-people – identify “false doctrines”?

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Q8. Do we, today, have to worry about people preaching or teaching false doctrines?

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2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Q9. If we hear someone spewing a false doctrine, what should we as Believers do?

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Day 3

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^{4b} He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

Q10. What might motivate a person to spread controversies and instigate quarrels?

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Q11. Is this person striving for unity or disunity? Why?

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Q12. Who is this person serving?

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Q13. The phrase “godliness is a means to financial gain” may refer to the “prosperity gospel” or it may mean good health or a comfortable life. Are we, who believe, promised wealth, health, and comfort?

Yes Why?
No

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.....

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Q14. Why does Paul consider “contentment . . . great gain”? What does contentment imply?

Great gain?

Imply?

.....

.....

⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Q15. Is verse-7 true?


Birth?

Death?

.....

.....

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Q16. Are you content with your position in life?

Matthew 6:24-34 [Jesus taught:]

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?


²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?




³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.




 Jesus is teaching that He will provide. His provision is not dependent on our efforts – that is, if we just pray hard enough or long enough or with certain words. We must pray – yes – but then we must put our faith into action. We are God's hands, feet, and voice in this world to this world. And this action includes providing and caring for ourselves and those to whom God has entrusted to our care. Even though Jesus taught that the "heavenly Father feeds [the birds]", birds know that they must seek and peck (i.e., work) for food. In Genesis 3 – after the 'Fall' – God said to Adam, "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground". Adam made a choice and it has affected all of mankind throughout history. We work. We play. We choose. Even in marriage when we choose a marriage partner, our choice affects our children and then all future generations. Choices. Our lives are made up of choices. To God be the praise for His love and care. Thank You Lord for loving me! I love You!

Commentary: Why does God let bad things happen to good people?

-  Why does God let bad things happen to good people? Choice. People in this world have been given free-choice: the choice to love God; the choice to deny God; the choice to love myself above all else; the choice to pick-and-choose that which I think is best for me; to choose that which makes me happy, to dull my pain with drink or pills, to be selfish, to be charitable, to respect others, to disrespect the rights of others, to place my selfish ambitions over that of people who work for me, to squish those who get in the way of my selfishness, to serve others, to demand others to serve me, to be legal not ethical, to force myself on another because they are physically weaker or wrongly submissive, to force my views on another because of my perceived righteousness, to love, to hate . . . and the list seems endless.
-  What choices have you made for yourself? What personal choices have you made that are imposed upon others, and do these choices serve others . . . or yourself? Does your example of daily living prove that you love your neighbor as yourself?
-  The Believer (the Christian) is set apart from those who embrace the world in that the true Believer allows their example to speak for themselves and through their example the world sees Jesus as you "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

-  God wants what is best for each of us, Believers and non-believers, alike; He wants us to grow in our faith and our reliance upon Him. He will not force Himself upon us. We have free-will to choose. Free-will to accept Jesus' redemption for us through His sacrifice. Free-will to deny His existence.
-  When we find ourselves in an uncomfortable trial, how do we resolve it? Do we attempt to fight through the trial by our own efforts or do we surrender to God and seek His wisdom?
-  In God's planning for our lives, He will at times allow us to experience trials and troubles for at least three reasons: (1) to demonstrate His agapé love for us as He brings us through the fires of the trial; (2) to teach us how we can rely upon the graciousness of our Lord; and (3) to give other Believers the opportunity to come alongside of us, to minister to us, and to obediently put their faith into action, all of which serves to increase their faith in our Lord. Most of the time we are givers – and we owe no one! Then, there are times when God wants us to learn a greater humility, to receive aid from other Believers (and non-believers, too), and to demonstrate God's grace, which you have received, to observers who are watching you: how do you react to your trial; how do you accept those who are attempting to minister to you. Through your humble grace those observers may themselves be drawn to the love of God and to His Son Christ Jesus.

9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Q17. Why does Paul teach that the desire to get rich is a “temptation and a trap”? (Is ‘greed’ an issue?)

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Q18. What is judgment? Do we, who believe, need to fear judgment? Could “ruin and destruction” be the consequence from judgment?

Judgment defined?

Fear judgment? Yes Why?
 No

Is “ruin and destruction” Yes Why?
a judgment? No

Q19. Do we see evidence of the wealthy and powerful plunging into “ruin and destruction”? Does “ruin and destruction” apply to a person’s ‘downfall’ in this world? Or might this apply to a person’s salvation and ultimate Heavenly promise?

Evidence?

Apply to ‘downfall’ Yes Why?
in this world? No

Apply to Yes Why?
salvation? No

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Q20. Paul writes that money is “a root of all kinds of evil.” Is money itself sinful?

Yes Why?
No

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Q21. Is the “love of money” sinful?


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.....

Q22. Can the “love of money” become a person’s idol?

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.....

Q23. If a person is a Believer, how might they “wander . . . from the faith”?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Final Instructions to Timothy


¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.


Q24. Who else was known as a “man of God”?

Deuteronomy 33:1

The Blessing

This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death.

 Other great prophets from the Old Testament were also called a “man from God,” including Shemaiah (1st Kings 12:22), Elijah (2nd Kings 1:9), and David (Nehemiah 12:24).

 While Paul was not suggesting that Timothy was equal with Moses, Paul acknowledged that Timothy was anchored in his belief of the Gospel of Christ Jesus and he willingly shared it with all who would listen. Paul through his letters to Timothy also wanted to encourage (everyone needs encouragement from time-to-time) Timothy as he performed the Lord’s work in tirelessly proclaiming the True Gospel, relentlessly preaching repentance, and to remain undeterred by other prophets, preachers, and Judaizers who advocated a false gospel. Timothy was a “man of God”!


Q25. Paul counseled Timothy to “flee from all this.” From what was Timothy to “flee”?

Q26. In verse 11, Paul provides a list of attributes that Timothy is to pursue and those attributes appear similar to the “fruit of the Spirit” that Paul listed in his letter to the Galatians. Will you list the attributes from both 1st Timothy 6:11 (↑) and Galatians 5:22 (↓)? What words are similar?

1st Timothy 6:11									
Galatians 5:22									
Similar words?									

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

 Paul provided a list of attributes to Timothy (in verse 11), to the Galatians (5:22), and thereby to Believers throughout history. These attributes – the Fruit of the Spirit – provide us Believers with words that we can use to guide our behavior as we interact with other Believers and non-believers, alike. We can look in the ‘mirror’ of Scripture and compare our behavior against these attributes. After all, Jesus taught us “to love your enemies”! In these moments of self-examination, the question we should prayerfully ask ourselves is, “How can I improve?”

Matthew 5:43-47 [The Message (MSG)]

[Jesus taught:] “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best — the sun to warm and the rain to nourish — to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. . . .”

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.


Q27. Paul uses a curious metaphor and seems to equate our faith journey to a fight. How would you explain, “Fight the good fight of the faith”?

Q28. What is Paul referencing when he wrote, “made your good confession”?

Romans 10:8-11

⁸ But what does it [the 1st five books of the Old Testament: the Pentateuch] say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with

your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

 In this lesson we have discussed free-choice. Arguably, the tenets written in Romans 10:8-11 (↑) are the most critical of choices that we must choose to embrace salvation. God does not want an automaton, a robot. He does NOT make us to choose Him. He does want us – flesh-and-blood humans – to accept Him and to choose His sacrifice on the cross, His agapé love, His mercy, and eternity with Him in Paradise.

Q29. In Romans 10:8-11 (↑) specifically verse-9, Paul lists two things that a future Believer must perform to be saved. What are the two?

(1)


(2)

¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own Time -- God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Q30. Have you "confess[ed] with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and [do you] believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead"?

Yes

No

 In verse 13, Paul wrote that Christ Jesus "made the good confession" – and acknowledged that He was the "King of the Jews". See the following passage from the Gospel of John, in which the Apostle John shared the exchange between Jesus and the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate.

John 18:33-38a [an excerpt from the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion]

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews [i.e., The Christ (Greek), The Messiah (Hebrew)]?"

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"


³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

^{38a} "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Q31. Do you put your “hope in [this world’s] wealth? Or have you “put [your] hope in God”?

Q32. Would you list 2-3 items that God has provided you?

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Q33. Paul asks Timothy to “command them to do good”; to whom does “them” refer?

Q34. How would you explain “life that is truly life”?

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

Q35. What has been entrusted to Timothy’s care?

Q36. What might comprise “godless chatter”?

Q37. Why should we, too, guard against “opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge”?

Q38. Thinking back over our study of 1st Timothy, are there any passages that were especially meaningful to you? And why?

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