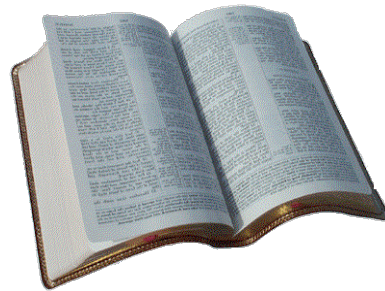


Bible Studies

Syllabus 2010



Join us in the life-study of a great warrior passing on the charge to a younger man. The two pastoral letters to Timothy offer many passages whose meaning is quite clear, the task being to apply them personally. Feel free to write about any insights on this challenge, as well as addressing the detailed topics inside, and those that appear in the monthly headings. It is important, of course that leaders of discussions for all the assembly select only those topics that offer most spiritual food.

You will see that we plan not to publish an issue for August.

Editors: M. Archibald, R.B. Fullarton, J.T. Needham, G.K. Schleyer

SYLLABUS 2010 THE LETTERS TO TIMOTHY

There is, of course, much more to study than appears in the suggested topics. Please, however, select from your own topics or those below only two or three to write about, to avoid overlap with others. Questions welcome as before.

January Timothy the co-worker Acts 16:1-5; 17:14-15; 18:5; 2 Cor. 1:19 Acts 19:22; 20:4; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10; Phil. 2: 19-22; 1 Thes. 3:2,6

- What may we learn in Acts about identifying and training a full-time worker?
- What was Timothy's character by nature?
- Which spiritual gifts became evident in him?
- What connection is there between care and outreach? (Phil. 2:19f.)

February Conscience, forgiveness and faith 1 Timothy

- In what sense was Timothy a 'true son in the faith'?
- Comment on the dangers of wrong forms of focus on law.
- Was Paul exaggerating in saying he was the worst of sinners?
- Why does this letter emphasise a good conscience? Cp. Heb. 9:14, 10:22.

March Saved for a holy life of service 1 Timothy 2; cp. 4:10

- If God wishes all to be saved, and Christ died for all, why are all not saved?
- Show from Scripture that verses 11-12 were not for that culture only.
- Explain verse 15 on child-bearing.

April The noble task of oversight and deaconhood

1 Timothy 3

- How can a young man aim to be deacon or overseer without presumption?
- How does a saint acquire a good reputation among people not with us?
- Do all deacons need to be 'deacons of the word'? (Cp. Luke 1:2; 1 Tim. 5:17; Ps. 1:2)
- How is the mystery of godliness related to what goes before in this passage?

May Ministering to the needs of the last times

1 Timothy 4

- How should we identify and deal with demonic influence today?
- How can we set about training in godliness?
- What is important in public reading of the Scriptures?
- The blend of attributes in vv. 11-16 as equipment for the believer

June Widows, elders, workers and managers 1 Timothy 5; 6:1-2

- Why are women such a focus here, since all these points could be relevant to men also?
- Reconcile verses 11 and 14 on marrying again.
- Do vv. 17-18 suggest that some in office in the church were paid?

July Godliness with contentment and the good fight

1 Timothy 6: 3-21

- Is becoming rich a temptation in itself? (Cp. Mat. 19:23.)
- What was 'the good confession' (vv. 12-13)?
- Comment on the effect on Paul of his thoughts turning to the coming of the Lord, as seen in vv. 14-15.

September Faithfulness to the pattern of sound teaching

2 Timothy 1

- How faith and gift are nourished
- The power of grace and faith (cp. 2:1-2)
- Grace and truth in speaking of failure (vv. 15-18)

October Contending for the faith 2 Timothy 2; cp. Jude vv.1-4

- The rules of spiritual engagement
- What is implied in all of verse 8—'Remember Jesus Christ'?
- The importance of pure teaching and true church fellowship
- How is verse 21 to be worked out in practice?
- Dealing with opposition

November How to cope with 'the last days' 2 Timothy 3; cp. 1 Tim. 4:1-4

- Is there no way to deal with the people in vv. 1-9 except to shun them?
- How might we reconcile 3:9 with Acts 20:29-30?
- Coping with persecution and error
- If all Scripture is useful, how do we profit from lists of names, the curses in the Psalms, and parts that seem to deal only with features of past times?

December Preaching the Word to the end 2 Timothy 4

- Is verse 2 purely about giving public addresses?
- Describe the work of an evangelist.
- Explain verse 6—'already being poured out like a drink offering'.
- The value of crowns
- Why would Paul, who excelled in spiritual life and gift (e.g. Acts 28:8), have to leave a man sick? Cp. 1 Timothy 5:23.
- Explain Paul's confidence in the face of all those difficulties.

NOTES

1 Paper-writers, please note that a shorter article focused on one or two sub-topics is most helpful. Articles covering all the passages for the month may have sections removed by Editors, so as to make the magazine a more efficient tool for those who consult it.

2 Papers should not exceed 500 words.

3 Papers should be written in the current Bible Studies format, i.e. beginning with From Ourtown:, with wide margins, and on one side of A4 paper. If typewritten they should use double spacing. Scriptures should be written with the book titles abbreviated, a colon used to separate the chapter from the verses, and a hyphen to indicate consecutive verses or a passage. E.g.. Romans chapter 9, verses 14,15 and 19 to 23 would be written Rom. 9:14-15,19-23.

4 Editorial practice is to use the names of Biblical books in full when they form part of a sentence, but when given as a reference to use the Revised Version abbreviations. References to other works should include at least the title and the author, with preferably the publisher, place and date, with page number.

5 Contributors are asked to indicate the version of Scripture they are using; this greatly eases the task of checking quotations.

6 Papers on the monthly subject should be sent to:

P. Whitehouse, 1 Orchid Drive, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8UU, e-mail whitehouses@1orchid.fsnet.co.uk, and should reach him NOT

LATER than the 28th day of the third month prior to the date of publication; i.e. January's paper should arrive by October 28th. It is most important that this should be observed; late arrival of scripts causes serious difficulties in the production of the magazine, and may result in their being omitted.

7 Special articles of a study nature will be welcomed. These and other correspondence should be sent to: M. Archibald, 49 Kinpurnie Road, Oldhall, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 3HG e-mail m-archibald@talktalk.net

Where it is possible, we prefer contributions to be sent by e-mail.

Attachments in Microsoft Word .doc format are preferred, but most formats can be read.