**1 Timothy 4-6**

Today’s Summary: Gosh, Timothy was so young and yet so trusted by a pillar of the faith, Paul, to carry out all that is commanded of him in this letter. How remarkable a brother in Christ, a true saint was Timothy? So amazing, he seems so close to Jesus and how Jesus would want us all to live. It’s humbling to think of all that Paul was putting on him to do, in such a hostile environment. But you know what guys? This is exactly what Jesus is putting on us – how are you doing in obeying these commands? Take some time to read over and write in your journal and make sure you are heeding the command and staying blameless and strong and bold and living like Paul is commanding Timothy to live. It is my life goal. Hope it is yours too. Jesus is worth it and the Church desperately needs us to be Timothys.

**4**The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

**6**If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. **7**Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. **8**For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. **9**This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. **10**That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

**11**Command and teach these things. **12Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.** **13**Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. **14**Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

**15**Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **16Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

Widows, Elders and Slaves

**5**Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, **2**older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

**3**Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. **4**But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. **5**The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. **6**But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. **7**Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. **8**Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**9**No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, **10**and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord’s people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

**11**As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. **12**Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. **13**Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. **14**So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. **15**Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

**16**If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

**17The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”**

**19Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.**

**21I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.**

**22Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.**

**23Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.**

**24**The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. **25**In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden forever.

**6**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. **2**Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves.

False Teachers and the Love of Money

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. **3**If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, **4**they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions **5**and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

**6But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For 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.**

Final Charge to Timothy

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

**17Command 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. 18Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19In 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.**

**20Timothy, 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 departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.