

Letters for Leaders

Answer Key

Lesson 1

Philemon

Lesson in Review

1. How are Paul's four letters that are the focus of this study unique from Paul's other writings in scripture?

The letters that are a focus of this study (Philemon, Titus, 1 & 2 Timothy) were personal, written to individuals in leadership roles rather than to churches as a whole.

2. Give a brief description of each of the people below mentioned in Paul's letter to Philemon

Philemon: A slave owner who also hosted a church in his home in Colossae

Onesimus: A slave of Philemon who robbed his master and ran away, making his way to Rome where he became a Christian after meeting Paul.

Apphia: Philemon's wife

Archippus: Another leader in the church at Colossae

3. State four observations Paul made *before* he made a difficult request of Philemon.

- "I pray for you consistently and thank God for you" (v. 4)
- "I know you are a real Christian, and I hear this from others" v. 5)
- "I pray that your efforts are effective in reaching the lost" (v. 6)
- "I know that your ministry is a real blessing to the church" (v. 7)

4. Name three reasons that Paul "sent" Onesimus back to Philemon:

Paul "sent" Onesimus back to Philemon (1:12) because (1) it was right in the eyes of the law, and because (2) he wanted Philemon's decision to be voluntary rather than compulsory. Mostly, however, (3) Paul wanted to see reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus as brothers in Christ.

5. Paul was confident that Philemon would do “more than I say”. Why is it important to do more than the minimum?

Doing more than the minimum is the hallmark of a mature Christian, and certainly a necessary quality in any leader.

Lesson 2

Titus

Lesson in Review

1. For what purpose did Paul leave Titus on the island of Crete?

Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete in order to “set in order” the local assemblies and ordain elders (presbyteros) in every city.

2. What were the qualifications for an elder that Paul wrote to Titus?

Blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, holding fast the faithful Word

3. What was Paul’s main concern in building a leadership team in Crete?

The character and conduct of the leadership team.

4. What did Paul mean by the phrase “Unto the pure all things are pure”?

Paul was talking specifically about the way these false teachers were using the Old Testament law to put people in bondage (“Jewish fables” – 1:14). They said things like, “If you eat these kinds of foods you will be defiled, but if you refuse them you will be more holy than other people.”

5. How is our modern day culture similar to Crete in the time of Titus & Paul?

Like Crete, we live in a culture that resists and questions all forms of authority.

Lesson 3

Titus (Part II)

Lesson in Review

1. What was the one word of exhortation to young men that Paul gave to Titus?

To be sober minded (disciplined, self-controlled)

2. Paul instructed Titus to teach aged men, aged women, and young men. Why did he not instruct Titus to teach young women?

Young women were to be taught by aged women, so Titus could avoid temptation, or any hit of immorality

3. What was Paul's main concern in building a leadership team in Crete?

The character and conduct of the leadership team.

4. How can a Christian employee "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things"?

By being obedient to their masters; please them well in all things (do more than what you are asked); not answering again (don't talk back); not purloining (don't steal); fidelity (being consistent with outward actions matching inward convictions).

5. Describe the difference between legalism and grace.

Legalism says, "What we do leads to who we are". Grace says, "Who we are leads to what we do."

Lesson 4

First Timothy (Part I)

Lesson in Review

Mark the following statements as being true or false.

1. **T** Timothy was the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek (Gentile) father
2. **F** Paul demanded that both Timothy and Titus be circumcised before joining his missionary team.
3. **T** Timothy became pastor of the church in Ephesus
4. **T** Paul refers to Timothy as his own son in the faith.
5. **F** Paul warned Timothy that the Old Testament Law was no longer relevant
6. **T** As Paul's ministry progressed, he viewed himself as being smaller and more conscious of his weaknesses
7. **F** "Supplication" is a type of prayer that means literally to "stand in the gap"
8. **T** Paul writes that there are different areas of challenge for men and women concerning holiness.
9. **F** Women generally stand out more than men for their dedication to holiness.
10. **T** A man's primary problem areas with holiness are Appetite, Anger, and Apathy
11. **F** Paul does not address how women are to adorn themselves with apparel.
12. **T** The greatest reason for a godly woman to assume a spiritual posture of submission is simply God's order of creation.
13. **F** Paul instructs Timothy to pray for those who are in authority only if they are ruling righteously
14. **T** One-third of the New Testament was either written to Timothy, or was from Paul and Timothy.
15. **T** While both men and women can be qualified as leaders, they don't lead in the same manner.

Lesson 5

First Timothy (Part II)

Lesson in Review

1. In listing the qualifications for being a church leader in 1 Tim 3, what does Paul mean by saying “no striker”?

A leader must not be “contentious” or “looking for a fight”. Not hitting back when others attack you.

2. Which of the qualifications of a bishop underscores the main responsibility of a church leader?

Apt to teach. Teaching the Word of God is one of the main responsibilities of church leaders.

3. How would you counsel a church leader on his responsibility regarding drinking wine?

There is a difference between non-alcoholic wine in Bible times and today’s alcohol. Following the admonition of I Thessalonians 5:22, leaders should avoid even the appearance of evil. So a directive of not drinking wine or even being near wine would be prudent for today’s church leaders.

4. What is the role of a deacon in church leadership?

The English word *deacon* is from the Greek word *diakonos* which means “servant”. Deacons were first appointed in Acts 6 to assist the apostles with more menial tasks of ministry. The role of a deacon is a secondary position of leadership in the church to assist the pastor, or overseer, with church responsibilities.

5. How does I Tim 3:16 affirm the Oneness of God doctrine?

I Tim 3:16 speaks about God “being manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”. All of these characteristics are fulfilled uniquely by Jesus Christ, affirming that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh.

Lesson 6

First Timothy (Part III)

Lesson in Review

1. When Paul instructs Timothy about the proper relationship between a servant and his master, how do these principles apply to us today?

Since we have neither slaves nor masters today, these principles apply in the workplace, where we have *employees* and *employers*.

2. How should you treat people who try to circumvent the authority of church leadership by contending for their own interpretation of Scripture?

Paul says to withdraw from such people.

3. Is seeking material gain wrong? If not, when does it become a problem for the Christian?

Earning money (seeking material gain) is necessary to live in society and is not wrong in and of itself. It becomes a problem when we are never satisfied with what we have and are envious of the blessings of others. The love of money is the root of all evil. So the lust for money can replace the desire to please God in our lives.

4. Why is the topic of money important for young ministers?

Money has the greatest potential to replace God in our lives. The way that leaders handle money either qualifies or disqualifies them.

5. List 4 practical commands that Paul gives to those who are rich in this world.

- (1) Do good (Use money to accomplish something for God's kingdom)
- (2) Be rich in good works
- (3) Ready to distribute (have a plan to give for the sake of others)
- (4) Willing to communicate (be a sharer)

Lesson 7

Second Timothy (Part I)

Lesson in Review

1. Why is II Timothy referred to as Paul's Last Will and Testament"?

Paul didn't know if he would survive until Timothy could visit him in Rome. He knew that Timothy was about to move into a season of his ministry where he would not have the apostle Paul to guide him. The words of this epistle were Paul's parting instructions to his son in the Gospel, Timothy.

2. What did Paul mean when he wrote "He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"?

He was saying, "God is able to guard the work I have been doing until the day of my death or His return, because He gave me this commission, and I have done everything through His power." This is not my church; this is God's church.

3. What is the significance of Onesiphorus in Paul's letter to Timothy?

Many Christians had deserted Paul in his hour of need. That's why the kindness of Onesiphorus was so refreshing (1:16). He not only helped Paul in Ephesus; he sought him out in the Roman prison and was "not ashamed" of being associated with a prisoner (1:16). We know little about this man, but he will have a great reward "in that day" (1:18). Paul appreciates those who are "loyal to God's servant."

Lesson 8

Second Timothy (Part II)

Lesson in Review

1. How does Paul compare being a leader in the church to being an athlete?

Leaders are to strive for masteries just as athletes do but they must “strive lawfully”. Just as athletes must play by the rules, Church leaders must work according to God’s principles. Leaders must be ethical.

2. State two ways that leaders must be “first partaker of the fruits”.

(1) Receiving financial support for full-time leaders; and (2) setting an example for others to follow in the way their lives are conducted

3. Explain how Paul’s command to “study to shew thyself approved unto God” goes beyond just book study.

The word *study* (*spoudazo* = “make effort, be diligent, be earnest”) doesn’t refer to books, but to behavior. A workman needs to work hard so he won’t be ashamed when his work is inspected.

4. How can you identify false teaching that crosses a threshold into what Paul calls “profane and vain babblings”?

This kind of false teaching allows ungodliness to increase and it eats like a canker. Lifestyle is a primary indicator of false doctrine – if it leads people further from a biblical lifestyle, it is false teaching.

5. How does Paul’s admonition to Timothy in II Timothy 2:22 encourage separation without isolation?

Paul admonishes Timothy to flee youthful lusts to separate himself from temptations of the flesh; and he charges Timothy to follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of pure heart. We are to join with other believers in our pursuit of righteousness, not isolate ourselves from our brothers and sisters.

Lesson 9

Second Timothy (Part III)

Lesson in Review

1. In describing evil people in the last days, Paul says they will be lovers of what 5 things?

Lovers of (1) their own selves; (2) money (covetous); (3) status (boasters, proud, heady, high minded); (4) immorality (unholy, without natural affection, incontinent); and (5) pleasures

2. Who are Jannes and Jambres that Paul names in his letter to Timothy.

Jannes and Jambres are the magicians of Pharaoh who opposed Moses in Exodus 7-9 during the time of the ten plagues.

3. The Word of God is profitable in what 4 areas; and how do each address either our beliefs or our behavior?

- (1) Doctrine – addresses what we believe
- (2) Reproof – addresses what not to believe
- (3) Correction – addresses how not to behave
- (4) Instruction in Righteousness – addresses how to behave

4. How does Paul show his humanity in his last writings to Timothy?

Paul urged Timothy to hurry to visit him before winter. He asked for Timothy to bring him his cloak, his books, and his parchments. Paul also expressed his disappointment in people who had either forsaken him or had done him wrong.

5. How would you write the epitaph for Paul's life

He fought a good fight. He finished his course. He kept the faith. He has received the crown of righteousness from the Lord, whom Paul served and loved.