



# First Timothy

# Be Careful

**In Everything**

**I Timothy 5:21-25**

**Lesson Twenty-Six**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*



# First Timothy

## A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

### Be Careful

This lesson is about some very helpful advice that Paul gave Timothy. It is personal advice that we might find helpful ourselves. Read I Timothy 5:21-25.

Paul has given instructions on how to treat several groups of people. He has written about church leaders three times already. He has written about widows. He has written about how women should be a witness for Jesus. He has given good advice as to how they should be treated. Now, Paul wants to tell Timothy how important all this is. So, he made a list of witnesses who were watching how Timothy carried out his work. He started with God who is over all things. He then listed Jesus, because God has assigned Jesus the responsibility to judge humans. He then listed angels. We know that the angels watch over us. The angels can be called on at any time to tell what they know about us. That means that if Timothy or any of us do not take God's instructions very seriously, the angels will give testimony.

We can be sure that if someone doesn't respect God's instructions, that person is not very smart. Paul said that there are a lot of witnesses who not only see what we do, but know even what we think. If we do something with the wrong purpose in our mind, we might as well not even do it.

Then Paul said that not only was Timothy to do what Paul had said, but he was to do it without partiality. In other words, when Timothy did as he was instructed, he was not to favor anyone over someone else. That is very hard to do. Some people are our friends or relatives, or richer, or smarter, or stronger, or some other thing that makes us feel better about them than someone else. That means that we must be very careful not to favor them when we carry out God's work. Certain widows should not be treated better than others. Elders who did the wrong thing were to be treated the same, one and all.

God treats **all** sinners alike. **All** sinners will be judged, and judged fairly. And, God sent Jesus for **all** sinners. Jesus came to save anyone who would accept Him as their Savior. God does not have favorites.

We also find here that Timothy was to be careful not to judge someone before the facts were all in. Jumping to conclusions before everything has been made clear is a bad thing at all times.

Now, verse twenty-two has a lot in it. First he tells Timothy to be very careful about who he recommends. The laying on of hands was, and still is in most cases, a sign of approval. We ran into this in chapter four, verse fourteen. Timothy received the approval of the elders when his gift from God was recognized.



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Second, he also tells Timothy that he shouldn't join in when others are doing the wrong thing. Sometimes it is hard not to be part of the crowd. It is very difficult to say, "I'm not going to do that even when everyone else is doing it."

Third, Paul said to "Keep yourself pure." Did Paul mean that it would be possible for Timothy to never sin? No. His attitude is expressed well in Romans 12:18. He was talking about not taking revenge and doing what is right. He said, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Paul knows what is possible. He said to Timothy here that purity was the goal and following the crowd doesn't get you there.

In the twenty-third verse, Paul told Timothy not to drink only water, but to use a little wine. This advice has been argued over and over, and many have tried to use it for both sides of the debate about drinking alcoholic beverages. We will not get into that argument. What we can be sure of is that Paul is talking about the "little wine" as a medicine. He goes on to remind Timothy of his frequent stomach problems. *Pepto Bismol* had not been invented then, and wine was used as a healing medication. Obviously, Timothy had trouble with upset stomach and it could be that the water which was, for the most part, unpurified was part of the cause of his troubles. Paul is just giving him some fatherly advice to keep him up and going.

The last verses in our study for today tell us about how God sees sin and how sin affects us. Paul said be careful how you treat people who you see as sinners. He said that there are some whose sin is so easy to see that by the time they should be judged, they are already judged. Then, he said that some cover their sin so well that it is not seen until the judgment, but we can be sure that when the judgment happens, they will have to answer for all their sin. The reason that we should be careful is that we might treat someone differently if their sins are easy for all to see, but treat someone well, even "lay hands on them," if their sins are not obvious. God sees and knows, we don't see everything, and that should make us much more careful.

And finally, some good deeds are easily seen. That doesn't mean that people are bragging, it is simply that the good things they do are out in the open. But Paul says that even those that are not done in public, will sooner or later be made public.

These verses are about how we understand people and honor them, but also about judgment...God's judgment...and how God will see that everything is known and judged as it should be.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to treat ministers fairly.

**Scripture Memory:** "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure." I Timothy 5:22

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## Student Worksheet—Following Through

### Be Careful—I Timothy 5:21-25

>Who did Paul list as witnesses who were watching Timothy in his work?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

>A person who doesn't respect God's instructions is not very \_\_\_\_\_.

>What kinds of people do we tend to feel better about (favor) than others?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

>God treats \_\_\_\_\_ sinners alike. \_\_\_\_\_ sinners will be judged, and judged fairly. And, God sent Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_ sinners.

>What three things did Paul tell Timothy in the twenty-second verse?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

>We can be sure of is that Paul is talking about the "little wine" as a \_\_\_\_\_.

**For Memory: "Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure." I Timothy 5:22**

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.