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The 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY



LESSON ONE

1 Timothy 1:1–11



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

There is nothing quite like a personal handwritten letter from someone you look up to, love, and respect! This is, no doubt, how Timothy felt when he received two epistles (letters) from his mentor and father in the faith, Paul.

The relationship Paul had with Timothy was stronger than a mere apprenticeship. Timothy was like a beloved son to the aging apostle. Paul commended Timothy to the Philippians as one who was *like-minded* and would *sincerely care for your estate*, a man of *proven character*, and who served with Paul in the gospel as *a son with his father*.

In Timothy, Paul found a young man who shared his passion for Jesus, the gospel, and believers. Timothy had become the pastor of the church in Ephesus. It was a great undertaking because Ephesus was a large city heavily influenced by idolatry, the occult, and commerce. Though many had been saved during Paul's time of ministry there (Acts 19), opposition and persecution arose from the silversmiths who created idols.

Timothy not only had to deal with opposition, but he also had to choose and raise up leadership, protect the fellowship from bad doctrine, safeguard believers from false teachers, set an example, and continue to establish the congregants in the Word of God. The task was enormous, especially considering Timothy's youth. So Paul wrote Timothy a very personal and instructional epistle on how to lead the church in Ephesus.

As we study these epistles from Paul to Timothy, we will learn how to effectively pray for our church leadership, as well as become active participants in all God is doing in the church and the world today. Paul's charge to Timothy is applicable to all of us as we endeavor to serve the Lord Jesus in the specific callings He has given us.

Ask God to show you wondrous things in His Word as you study the epistles to Timothy.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:1–2

1. From 1 Timothy 1:1, highlight what Paul says about:
 - a. Himself

 - b. His call

 - c. God

 - d. Jesus

2. Use 1 Timothy 1:2a to comment on Paul's relationship with Timothy.

SECOND DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 1:1–2

3. Remark on Paul's blessing to Timothy by commenting on the following:
 - a. *Grace*

 - b. *Mercy*

 - c. *Peace*

 - i. Why is this a blessing you would like to receive?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:1–2?

THIRD DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 1:3–4

3. How would you describe *godly edification*?
 - a. Why do you think faith is an important part of this, especially in regard to the issues that Paul mentioned?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:3–4?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:5–7

1. Use the following phrases from 1 Timothy 1:5 to remark *on the purpose of the commandment*:
 - a. *Love from a pure heart*
 - b. *Good conscience*
 - c. *Sincere faith*
2. From 1 Timothy 1:6–7, explain the plight of those who have *strayed* from these things.
3. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:5–7?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:8–11

1. According to 1 Timothy 1:8, what is necessary for the law to be *good*?

2. Use the list found in 1 Timothy 1:9–10 to describe the type of people that the law was intended for.

3. From 1 Timothy 1:11, answer the following questions:
 - a. How does Paul describe the *gospel*?

 - b. How would you describe the *gospel*?

 - c. Why do you think the *gospel* is good news for those described in 1 Timothy 1:9–10?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:8–11?

LESSON TWO

1 Timothy 1:12–20



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Has God truly forgiven me of my past? Does God truly want to use my life for His glory? Paul answered both of these questions with a resounding, *Yes!* God saved Paul, entrusted him with the gospel, and enabled him to minister, so certainly God is willing and able to save, entrust with the gospel, and empower anyone! *But God had mercy on me [Paul] so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners* (1 Timothy 1:16 NLT).

Paul used his own testimony as a means to encourage Timothy. As a minister to the church of Ephesus, Timothy had been tasked with a huge undertaking. No doubt, without Paul's guiding presence, Timothy was feeling under-qualified, intimidated, and unworthy. Paul was reminding Timothy that it is God who saves, entrusts, equips, and enables.

Have you felt under-qualified, intimidated, or unworthy to serve God? Think again! Even as God greatly used Paul to minister His gospel, He wants to use you! It is God who will enable you and equip you with His power for service.

Ask God to enable you to serve Him.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:12–13

1. Use the following phrases from 1 Timothy 1:12 to comment on what Christ Jesus had done for Paul:
 - a. *Enabled me*

 - b. *Counted me faithful*

 - c. *Putting me into the ministry*

 - i. Why are these great reasons for Paul to be thankful?

2. Remark on Paul's former condition. 1 Timothy 1:13a

SECOND DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 1:12–13

3. How would you describe the mercy shown to Paul? 1 Timothy 1:13b
 - a. How would you describe the mercy God has shown to you?

4. According to Paul, what was the cause for his former behavior? 1 Timothy 1:13c

5. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:12–13?

THIRD DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:14

1. What is your understanding of *grace*?

2. Explore the following adjectives used by Paul in 1 Timothy 1:14 to describe God's *grace* toward him:
 - a. *Exceedingly abundant*

 - b. *Faith*

 - c. *Love*

 - d. *In Christ Jesus*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:14?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 1:15–17

1. Write the *faithful saying* found in 1 Timothy 1:15.
 - a. Why do you think this saying is *worthy of all acceptance*?
 - b. What did Paul disclose about himself?
2. Use 1 Timothy 1:16 to explain the reason Paul gave for God's *mercy* toward him.
3. Write a definition for each of the attributes of God that Paul lists in 1 Timothy 1:17:
 - a. *King*
 - b. *Eternal*

FOURTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15–17

c. *Immortal*

d. *Invisible*

e. *Who alone is wise*

f. *Deserving of honor and glory forever and ever*

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 1:15–17?

LESSON THREE

1 Timothy 2



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

How are believers to react to ungodly political leaders? What should the response of the church be toward non-believers? What is the proper conduct for a godly woman in today's culture? Such relevant questions were answered over a millennium ago by the apostle Paul in his first letter to Timothy.

Two men, Hymenaeus and Alexander, had caused shipwreck to many people in the church in Ephesus. Paul charged Timothy to correct the damage caused by these men concerning the church's perspective on: government officials, the unsaved, and the roles of men and women in the fellowship.

To fully understand this chapter, it is important to be aware of the context in which it was written and the issues that Paul was addressing. The Roman Empire allowed the Jews to pray to God in their synagogues, providing that they also prayed for the emperor's health and welfare. However, many zealots and legalists were forbidding intercessory prayer for anyone serving in such a pagan government. The topic of prayer for government officials had become so controversial that the church began to divide over it. Rather than prayer, the legalists advocated for rebellion and violence against Roman authorities. Paul reminded Timothy that the weapon of the church is prayer.

These same legalists taught that Gentiles could not be saved without first converting to Judaism and observing the law. They went so far as to say that God did not want certain men and women to be saved. Paul answered this false assertion by declaring the fact that God *desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*.

FIRST DAY CONT.

INTRODUCTION

In Roman times, with very few exceptions, the majority of women were illiterate. Women were also exploited; society viewed a woman's worth by her beauty, sexual appeal, and ornamentation. Furthermore, most women were excluded from education of any form. Yet, Paul appealed to Timothy to let the women learn quietly, without drawing attention to their presence. The concept of a woman being given the opportunity to learn would have been highly controversial and would have caused many men to be threatened by such an outrageous notion. Paul lessened the shock by saying that he was not advocating for women to become pastors or overseers in the church, but rather that they be allowed to learn about their Savior.

These issues continue to be hot topics today. It is imperative that we do not allow them to cause shipwreck in the church. Rather, if we put God's grace at the center of these issues and then put these issues in the context of the whole of Scripture, the controversy disappears, and we are left with a loving God who wills that all men and women alike come to salvation and into a deep and vital relationship with Him.

Ask God to make prayer your first and greatest response to every controversy.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

1. Supply a definition for the following terms found in 1 Timothy 2:1:
 - a. *Supplications*

 - b. *Prayers*

 - c. *Intercessions*

 - d. *Giving of thanks*

2. From 1 Timothy 2:1b-2a, list those for whom these actions are taken.

3. Use the following verses to remark on Paul's reasons for praying in this manner for all those in government:
 - a. 1 Timothy 2:2b

SECOND DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

b. 1 Timothy 2:3

4. According to 1 Timothy 2:4, what is God's desire for *all men*?

a. Share how this:

i. Convicts you

ii. Inspires you

5. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 2:1-4?

THIRD DAY

1 TIMOTHY 2:5-7

1. Remark on what the following verses reveal about Jesus:
 - a. Verse 5

 - b. Verse 6

2. Using 1 Timothy 2:7, comment on what God *appointed* Paul to be:
 - a. *Preacher*

 - b. *Apostle*

 - c. *Teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 2:5-7?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 2:8–10

1. From 1 Timothy 2:8, note and comment on how Paul desired every man to pray:
 - a. *Everywhere*

 - b. *Lifting up holy hands*

 - c. *Without wrath and doubting*

2. Use 1 Timothy 2:9–10 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What does the phrase in *like manner* convey to you about what women are to do?

 - b. How are godly women to *adorn themselves*?

 - c. What are godly women *not* to put their confidence in?

FOURTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 2:8-10

3. What is *proper* (fitting) for a woman professing *godliness*?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 2:8-10?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 2:11–15

1. Paul, continuing with his directives to the church, stated that a woman should be free to learn. In Paul's time, the idea of women being given opportunity to learn was revolutionary, unconventional, and controversial. With this in mind, what guidelines did Paul give for godly women in the church? 1 Timothy 2:11–12

2. Use 1 Timothy 2:13–14 to highlight Paul's commentary on the following:
 - a. Adam

 - b. Eve

3. Paul's line of reasoning hinged on Genesis 3, where Eve was deceived by Satan and fell under a curse. In 1 Timothy 2:15, Paul referred to salvation from the curse through the divine child, the Son of God. Remark on four evidences of this salvation that godly women should continue in.
 - a. *Faith*

 - b. *Love*

FIFTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 2:11–15

c. *Holiness*

d. *Self-control*

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 2:11–15?

LESSON FOUR

1 Timothy 3



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Too often we underestimate the great value of the church to God. We compare, criticize, neglect, and even disrespect it at times. In doing so, we fail to realize that the church is God's creation, *purchased with His blood* (Acts 20:28), and *is the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth*. God instituted the church to be a witness to the world and a sanctuary where believers could be built up, edified, and equipped for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11–12). As such, it is imperative for us as His children to love, appreciate, and be participants in His church.

In writing his first letter to Timothy, Paul reminded him of the great value of the church. Timothy, as a pastor (overseer), needed to look for and choose men and women of integrity to be elders and deacons. Paul listed the qualities and priorities essential in those who would represent the house of God to the world, and who would exemplify the life of Jesus to believers.

When we consider the church, we need to recognize the great value God places on it. It would behoove us to pray for the pastor, leadership, and congregation, that the church might be all that God intends it to be—a light to the world and a blessing to believers!

Ask God to give you a deeper appreciation for His church and guide you to be an active participant.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 3:1–7

1. This is the second time that Paul refers to a *faithful saying*. Use 1 Timothy 3:1b to comment on this *faithful saying*.

2. Observe the following requirements in 1 Timothy 3:2–4 and give a brief reason why you think they are essential for church leaders:
 - a. *Blameless*

 - b. *Husband of one wife*

 - c. *Temperate*

 - d. *Sober-minded*

 - e. *Of good behavior*

 - f. *Hospitable*

 - g. *Able to teach*

 - h. *Not given to wine*

 - i. *Not violent*

SECOND DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1–7

- j. *Not greedy for money*
 - k. *Gentle*
 - l. *Not quarrelsome*
 - m. *Not covetous*
 - n. *Rules his own house well*
3. Use 1 Timothy 3:5–7 to comment on Paul’s reasons for insisting on integrity in church leaders:
- a. Verse 5
 - b. Verse 6
 - c. Verse 7
4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 3:1–7?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 3:14–15

1. What were Paul's plans? 1 Timothy 3:14

2. From 1 Timothy 3:15a, remark on Paul's reason for writing to Timothy.

3. Use the following phrases from 1 Timothy 3:15b to comment on Paul's description of the church:
 - a. *House of God*

 - b. *Church of the living God*

 - c. *The pillar and ground of the truth*

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 3:14–15?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

1. The word *mystery* in 1 Timothy 3:16 is better translated *revelation*. What did Paul reveal about godliness in 1 Timothy 3:16a?

2. Use the following phrases to comment on the revelation of what God has done.
 - a. *God was manifested in the flesh*

 - b. *Justified in the Spirit*

 - c. *Seen by angels*

 - d. *Preached among the Gentiles*

 - e. *Believed on in the world*

 - f. *Received up in glory*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 3:16?

LESSON FIVE

1 Timothy 4



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Too often we, as believers, become preoccupied and distracted by all the evil that is going on in the world today. Jesus said, *It is impossible that no offenses should come* (Luke 17:1a). Unfortunately, evil and evil events are part and parcel of the climate of the fallen world in which we live. So, how are we as believers to live in an atmosphere permeated with apostasy, deception, hypocrisy, and lies? We do this by heeding the specific instructions Paul gave to Timothy in the fourth chapter of his first epistle. Paul instructed Timothy on what pitfalls to avoid and what activities and attitudes to pursue.

These evil times, in which we find ourselves living, are not a time to hide from the world, but to endeavor to:

- Be filled with the Spirit
- Walk in obedience
- Be an example

Paul's instructions to Timothy, written over two millennia ago, still bear just as much relevance today. God desires to use each of us in these dark times to shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15). First Timothy 4 will give us instructions on how to shine even brighter!

Ask God to help you shine in this dark world.

THIRD DAY

1 TIMOTHY 4:4–5

1. Use 1 Timothy 4:4–5 to remark on what Paul says about:
 - a. *Every creature of God*

 - b. *Thanksgiving*

 - c. *Sanctified*

2. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 4:4–5?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-10

1. Use 1 Timothy 4:6 to comment on the following objectives:
 - a. *Instruct the brethren*

 - b. *Good minister*

 - c. *Nourished in the words of faith*

 - d. *Good doctrine*

 - e. *Carefully followed*

2. According to 1 Timothy 4:7:
 - a. What was Timothy to *reject*?

 - b. What was Timothy to do?

FOURTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 4:6–10

3. From 1 Timothy 4:8 contrast the following:
 - a. *Bodily exercise*

 - b. *Godliness*

4. Use 1 Timothy 4:9–10 to comment on Paul's third *faithful saying*:
 - a. Verse 9

 - b. Verse 10

5. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 4:6–10?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 4:11–16

1. Using what you have studied in 1 Timothy 4, list a few of the things that Timothy was to *command and teach*. 1 Timothy 4:11

2. From 1 Timothy 4:12, note the example Timothy was to set for the believers by commenting on:
 - a. *Word*

 - b. *Conduct*

 - c. *Love*

 - d. *Spirit*

 - e. *Faith*

 - f. *Purity*

FIFTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 4:11–16

- i. How do you think this would keep other believers from despising his youth?

3. Summarize Paul's instructions to Timothy from the following verses:
 - a. Verse 13

 - b. Verse 14

 - c. Verse 15

 - d. Verse 16

- i. Which of Paul's instructions to Timothy resonates with you the most?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 4:11–16?

LESSON SIX

1 Timothy 5



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

In his epistle to the Philippians, Paul prayed for them that their *love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment* (Philippians 1:9). God desires that His church abound still more and more in love, but love must be discretionary. Unfortunately, even in the church there are those who take advantage of love and seek to exploit it to their own exaltation and self-aggrandizement. Therefore, the servants of Christ must *be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves* (Matthew 10:16).

In 1 Timothy 5, Paul gave Pastor Timothy specific instructions on how the church is to be like a family, with respect, love, and discernment. These instructions to the church are still relevant today to those of us who seek to *abound still more and more* in love. There is a special, respectful, and discerning regard that we as believers are to have and exercise toward one another.

As you read Paul's instructions, pray for yourself and the church to increase in love with all knowledge and all discernment.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 5:1–8

1. Use 1 Timothy 5:1–3 to highlight Paul's practical advice to Timothy concerning his interaction in the church with:
 - a. Older men

 - b. Younger men

 - c. Older women

 - d. Younger women

 - e. Widows

2. From 1 Timothy 5:4–6 contrast the difference between:
 - a. Godly widows

 - b. Ungodly widows

SECOND DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 5:1–8

3. Note why Timothy wanted them to command these things. 1 Timothy 5:7

4. Why is it important for believers to *provide* for their *own*? 1 Timothy 5:8

5. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 5:1–8?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 5:21–25

1. Use Timothy 5:21 to underscore the seriousness of Paul's *charge* to Timothy.
 - a. What does Paul *charge* Timothy to do?

 - b. Why do you think this is an important *charge* for any church leader?

2. Write a brief comment on Paul's practical advice in:
 - a. Verse 22

 - b. Verse 23

3. From 1 Timothy 5:24–25, write your insights concerning:
 - a. Some men's sins

FIFTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 5:21–25

b. Other men's sins

c. Good works

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 5:21–25?

LESSON SEVEN

1 Timothy 6:1–10



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Those who serve Jesus have a different perspective, motivation, and manner of life than those without Christ. Jesus highlighted these differences in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, *For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you* (Matthew 6:32–33). Therefore, as the servants of the Lord, we seek to bless Jesus in every occupation, pursue the things that bless Him, and live in ways that please Him. Paul ended his first epistle to Timothy by reminding him of the unique posture, perspective, and pursuits that believers are to hold and exemplify before the world. Once again, Paul warned Timothy that there will be conflict and confrontation with certain people who do *not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

It is crucial, as servants of Jesus, to remember that we live and think differently than others. This will bring us into conflict at times. First Timothy 6:1–10 emphasizes the contrast between the servants of Christ and those who serve themselves.

Ask the Lord to help you to seek the kingdom of God first and foremost.

SECOND DAY

1 TIMOTHY 6:1–2

1. Remark on how *bondservants* (the modern-day equivalent of employees) are to behave toward:
 - a. Unbelieving masters (Verse 1)
 - i. Why?
 - a. Believing masters (Verse 2)
 - ii. Why?
2. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:1–2?

THIRD DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-5

3. According to 1 Timothy 6:5b, what is the best course of action for Timothy to take with the proud?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:3-5?

FIFTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 6:9–10

1. Use 1 Timothy 6:9 to elaborate on the issues that accompany the *desire to be rich*.

2. In order to fully grasp Paul's warning, comment on the following phrases from 1 Timothy 6:10:
 - a. *Love of money*

 - b. *Root of all kinds of evil*

 - c. *Strayed from the faith*

 - d. *Greediness*

 - e. *Pierced themselves through with many sorrows*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:9–10?

LESSON EIGHT

1 Timothy 6:11–21



THE 1 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

One day every person ever born on earth will stand before the only Potentate, *the King of kings and Lord of lords*. Therefore, it is essential that on earth we prepare for the priorities of eternity.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned, *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Matthew 6:19–21).

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul reminded Timothy of the coming day when all men will give an account to Jesus Christ. In light of this certainty, Paul instructed his young protégé on the practical ways to pursue, fight, and keep heavenly ideals in a materialistic culture.

This same warning and practical advice is valid for every believer, in every age, living on earth. We live by a different set of values, knowing that our true Sovereign is the *Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light*.

Ask the Lord to help you set your affections on eternal realities.

THIRD DAY

1 TIMOTHY 6:12

1. Use 1 Timothy 6:12 to comment on the following phrases:
 - a. *Fight*
 - b. *Good fight of faith*
 - c. *Lay hold on eternal life*
 - d. *Called*
 - e. *Good confession*
2. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:12?

FOURTH DAY

1 TIMOTHY 6:13–16

1. What does 1 Timothy 6:13 say about:
 - a. God

 - b. Christ Jesus

2. According to 1 Timothy 6:14, what was Paul's final charge to Timothy?

3. Use phrases from 1 Timothy 6:15 to remark on the greatness of Jesus:
 - a. *(What) He will manifest in His own time*

 - b. *Blessed*

 - c. *Only Potentate*

 - d. *King of kings*

FOURTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 6:13–16

e. *Lord of lords*

f. *Who alone has immortality*

g. *Dwelling in unapproachable light*

h. *No man has seen*

i. *Honor and everlasting power*

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:13–16?

FIFTH DAY CONT.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17–21

3. What is the danger of not avoiding these things? 1 Timothy 6:21

4. Considering all that Paul instructed, wrote, and charged Timothy with, why do you think Timothy would need God's *grace*?
 - a. Why do you desire to have God's *grace* with you?

5. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Timothy 6:17–21?

The 1 Timothy Challenge
by Cheryl Brodersen

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