

# GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

## 1 TIMOTHY

rockypc SERIES COMPANION

TERM 2, 2022



# GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

## THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

### 1 TIMOTHY

TERM 2, 2022

From the very first words of the Bible, we see God turn chaos into order, as he goes about his work of creating, shaping and filling the world by his commands (Genesis 1). An underlying premise throughout the Bible is that God has made the world with an order that brings about our flourishing when we live within it, and our demise when we spurn it. And it is no different with the people that God saves for himself, through Jesus. 1 Timothy shows that we are to think of church as God's household, his family. And this family has an order that reflects and displays the glorious gospel by which we're saved. Faith in the good news of Jesus means living out God's ordering as a community and family together.

### 1 TIMOTHY'S THEMES

Here are a couple of big themes to look out for:

1. Paul's 'trustworthy sayings' and sound doctrine which he is passing on. This is in contrast with false teaching that causes controversy and strife.
2. False or true teaching is always reflected in the teacher's life. So we should examine these in ourselves (if we're teachers) and choose leaders who set a good example in word and action.
3. Family relationships within the church are how we care for each other and they speak volumes to non-believers. Notice also, how Paul pays attention to the way we function differently, as men and women, in God's household.
4. The precious gospel gems which are sprinkled throughout the letter, e.g. God's immense patience shown to the worst of sinners (1v16); Jesus the mediator who gave his life as a ransom for us (2v5-6); and, Jesus' appearing and ascension (3v16)

### WHO WAS PAUL?

Paul was a Pharisee, a teacher of the Hebrew Scriptures, who is first mentioned in the Bible when he witnesses and approves of the killing of Stephen, a Christian martyr (Acts 7v58-8v1). Paul goes on to threaten murder and imprison other Christians, before he is confronted by the risen Jesus (Acts 9). After seeing Jesus, Paul has a complete change of heart and life as he becomes a missionary around the Roman world, starting and strengthening churches (Acts 13-28). He wrote many letters to these churches, which now form much of our New Testament. 1 Timothy is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy, while Timothy was pastoring a church in Ephesus. However, the letter also contains lots of teachings that are for the wider church.

### WHO WAS TIMOTHY?

Timothy heard the gospel from his mother and grandmother (2 Tim 1v5). But Paul considered him a son in the faith (1 Tim 1v2). They first met in Lystra in Acts 16. Timothy then began to travel extensively with Paul and also to visit churches on his behalf. Many of Paul's letters are written with Timothy. The book of 1 Timothy is written from mentor to student, so that if Paul was delayed in his trip to Ephesus, Timothy would 'know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God.' (3v14-15).

### WHEN DID PAUL WRITE THIS FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY?

1 Timothy was probably written in the early-mid 60s AD. It is unclear where Paul was when he wrote to Timothy, but possibly during his travels of Acts 20.

## **WHAT WAS EPHESUS LIKE?**

Ephesus was a prominent, wealthy, Greek seaport. The predominant religion was worship of the goddess Artemis (see Acts 19). When Paul travelled there, many believed his message and honoured Jesus, while others opposed him and incited riots. Paul also made a last visit to the Ephesian elders on his way to certain imprisonment in Jerusalem (Acts 20). And he wrote this church the letter we know as 'Ephesians', during his later imprisonment in Rome.

## **HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION**

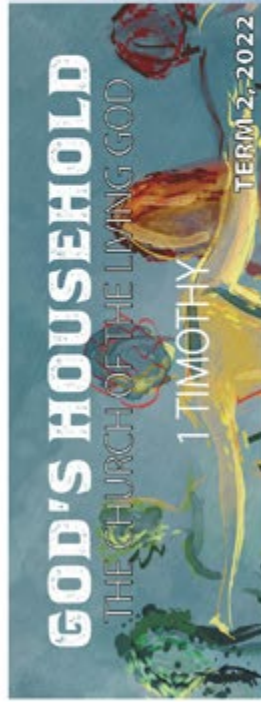
**ON YOUR OWN**—Take your time reading through the passage. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

**WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP**—As you talk through the questions, see how the gospel shapes our relationship within God's household, as we hold onto its truth by faith.

**ON SUNDAY**—Make sure you bring your series companion along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.

# rockypc TERM 2 planner



	MAY							JUNE							AUGUST						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		2	3	4	5	6	7					2	3	4					4	5	6
		9	10	11	12	13	14		6	7		9	10	11		13	14		11	12	13
		16	17	18	19	20	21		20	21		16	17	18		23	24		18	19	20
		23	24	25	26	27	28		27	28		23	24	25		30	31		25	26	27
		30	31						27	28		30							30		
						1	2		1	2		4	5	6					4	5	6
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9		11	12	13	7	8	9		11	12	13
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16		18	19	20	14	15	16		18	19	20
		18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23		25	26	27	21	22	23		25	26	27
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31				29	30	31				

COME TO OUR NEXT

## WELCOME LUNCH

Are you new to rockypc?  
We'd love you to join us at a WELCOME LUNCH to hear more about GROWING DISCIPLES.

Sunday 1 May (Term 2) or Sunday 17 July (Term 3)  
Talk to Margie for details — 0467 480 004



At rockypc, we want to take the big questions in life seriously, so we want to invite you and your friends to CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER. Share your stories and think about these questions with us.

CTM runs on Wednesdays @ SOUTHSIDE, 7-9pm  
SCAN THE CTM QR CODE TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!

- 25 May What is the meaning of life?
- 1 June Does god exist?
- 8 June Do all religions lead to God?
- 15 June Why is there evil?
- 22 June Is there life after death?



After CTM, you're invited to investigate the good life with Jesus because we want everyone to turn to him.

LIFE runs on Wednesdays @ SOUTHSIDE starting on 20 July  
SCAN THE LIFE QR CODE TO REGISTER

**OTHER KEY DATES/EVENTS IN TERM 2**  
SERVE SIGN-UP SUNDAY — Sunday 29 May

- God's Household, 1 Timothy — begins Sunday 24 April
- Guarding The Good Deposit, 2 Timothy — begins Sunday 5 June
- EQUIP Women's Conference — Saturday 18 June
- Prayer & Praise Nights — Last Sunday each month, 6.30pm
- Lord's Supper @ GRACEMERE & SOUTHSIDE — 5 June

# SAVING SINNERS

1 TIMOTHY 1v1-17

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

Are you a patient person? Would your family/colleagues agree? When are you most impatient?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 1v1-2**

1. Describe the relationships between Paul, Timothy, God the Father and Christ Jesus.

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v14-15**

2. Skipping ahead for a moment, why is Paul writing this letter to Timothy?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 1v3-11**

3. What role has Paul given Timothy in the church in Ephesus?

4. How are some boastful teachers misunderstanding the role of the Jewish law (Genesis to Deuteronomy)?

5. What motivates Paul to correct these errors? (v4-5, 10b-11)

Paul is concerned that 'God's work', which is understood by faith, is advanced. This term (oikonomia theou) is less about carrying out specific actions, such as proclaiming the gospel, and more about understanding the way that God has ordered the world. God created the world by bringing order out of chaos and darkness (Genesis 1). This demonstrates something essential about the world, ie that God has made it with an underlying structure, plan and purpose. We see this even more clearly in the gospel (eg Acts 2v22-24). God's fundamental structuring of the world (oikonomia theou) is the reason that God's church is similarly structured as his household (oikos theou - 3v15). By faith in the gospel of Jesus, God's household can understand and live according to God's ordering. False teachers in Ephesus are departing from this gospel order (even though we can't exactly be clear what their teachings were).



## PRAYER IDEAS

- Honour God our King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the one and only.
- Praise Jesus for coming into the world to save sinners.
- Thank him that his grace to sinners is abundant and his patience with us, immense.
- Thank him that no matter how sinful we are, we are not beyond the reach of his mercy.
- Pray that we wouldn't follow teachers who depart from this gospel, and that in whatever ways we are teachers, that we would teach others lovingly and truthfully.
- Pray for the elders and leaders of **rockypc**, that they would teach sound doctrine and refute error.



# GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

## 1 TIMOTHY 1v18-2v15

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

Do you want the quiet life? What would it look like for you?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 2v1-7**

1. Why should we pray for secular governments?
2. How does Christ Jesus provide the salvation that God wants?
3. Why are we able to trust Paul's words on Jesus' behalf?

Paul tells us that he is proclaiming Jesus' salvation that leads to godliness and holiness. And that leads him into talking about how this will look different for men and women in God's household (remember his purpose in writing in 3v14-15).

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 2v8**

4. What is men's tendency for sin here? What will holiness and godliness look like instead?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 2v9-10**

5. What is women's tendency for sin here? What will holiness and godliness look like instead?

The last four verses of this chapter often provoke strong feelings in us - they are controversial, angering or at least puzzling. In Australia, we have been breathing the air of feminism for 60 years now. And while there have been benefits to this way of thought, it has also taught us to view God's word suspiciously when it talks about gendered roles within the household of God. We need to acknowledge this cultural lens, and remind ourselves again that God's word is always good for us (2 Timothy 3v14-16). Just as we trust God's goodness in saving us through Jesus in v5-6, we can trust his goodness in showing us what godliness and holiness looks like in God's household, for both men and women. So we need to read these next Bible verses to critique our culture, not the other way around.



Verse 15 can be confusing, as we ask what childbearing has to do with salvation. Paul is clear that salvation is through the one mediator and ransom — Jesus Christ (v5-6). He is using the word 'save' in v15 in a similar way to 4v16, where he encourages Timothy to persevere in sound doctrine for that is where salvation is found. Which leaves us with 2 main options for what Paul may mean by childbearing:

1. God promised Eve that her offspring would ultimately crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3v15) and we know that comes true with Jesus (Colossians 2v13-15). Eve was saved through childbearing that led to Jesus, and therefore to salvation for us all.
2. Childbearing may be shorthand for the differences between men and women, as it is a uniquely female privilege. Women can embrace their God-given responsibilities rather than assuming the responsibilities of leadership over men, as Eve did in error (see also 1 Timothy 5v9-10, 14; Titus 2v3-5). Women hold to their salvation in Jesus by continuing in these roles with all holiness. This doesn't mean that all women must have children to be saved, but regardless of marital or motherhood status, they can live within God's good patterns of relationships.

Whichever option we choose, we can see how verse 15 adds to Paul's point about male and female relationships within God's household.

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Do the sinful tendencies of v8 or v9 describe you? How does the gift of Christ Jesus, our mediator and ransom, lead you into holiness in these areas?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Consider ways that **rockypc** can reflect God's good order in his household, as men and women:  
How can we promote opportunities for women to learn in quietness?  
How can we value their voices and ministries?  
How can we equip and encourage men into leadership and teaching roles?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

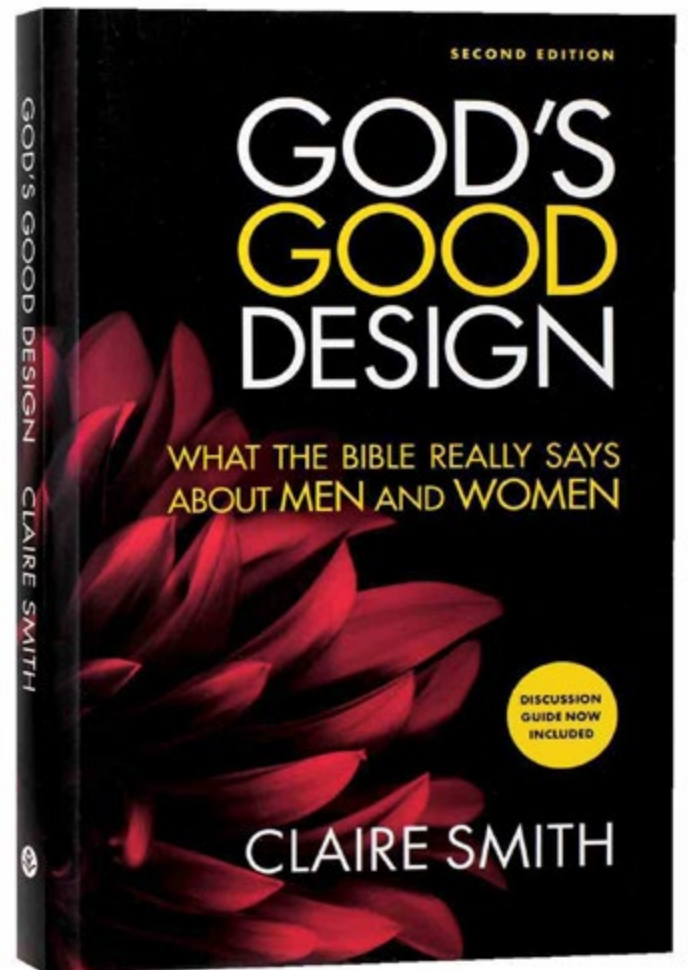
How can you be praying for our government, and that more people might come to a knowledge of the truth?

## PRAYER IDEAS

- Spend some time praying for our government - that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.
- Thank God for giving us our only mediator and ransom, Christ Jesus, who saves us and brings us to a knowledge of the truth.
- Confess any sin of anger or over-concern with outward appearance. Pray for one another to grow in holiness, prayer and good deeds that are in line with the God we worship.
- Praise God that his word is true and is always good to us. Thank him for the good order he has made within his household. Ask for his help to live out this pattern in faith, love and holiness.

For further reading on passages relating to men and women, grab a copy of God's Good Design by Claire Smith.

You can buy a copy [here](#)



# A NOBLE TASK

1 TIMOTHY 3v1-15

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

If you could use one word to describe your household, what would it be?

In this section, Paul describes what leaders in God's household should be like and why. He talks about 3 groups of leaders - overseers, male deacons and female deacons (or perhaps deacons' wives). Each of these groups should demonstrate similar characteristics, as we will see when we get into the passage. But we have limited information about what the differences in role are between deacons and overseers. It seems as though overseers may have had a governance and teaching role (v2), while deacons assisted in some way by serving (the word 'deacon' means 'servant'). Regardless of the particular roles, Paul is clear that churches should have a leadership structure, as God's household.

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v1-7

1. Why do you think being an overseer is a noble task?
2. Why do you think the characteristics in v2-3 are important? What goes wrong in churches where leaders don't have these qualities?
3. How should we view the public and private areas of leaders' lives? Why?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v8-10; 12-13

4. What do you notice about the qualities of deacons'?
5. What gain is there for those who serve well?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v11

6. What do you notice about female leaders?

## READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v14-15

7. Why do we need godly, trustworthy leaders?

### *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

#### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

As churches, how are we tempted to overlook, downplay or ignore the private life of leaders/potential leaders? How can we heed Paul's encouragements and warnings about leaders?  
If you're a leader, what character traits is God working on in you?

#### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

If you're not a leader, how does this passage encourage you to act towards leaders?  
What is one quality that God is working on in you, as you emulate a leader?

#### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How can we speak about church (to one another and not-yet believers) to reflect what we've learned today? ie how we describe **rockypc** or how we talk about public moral failures of church leaders etc

#### **SERVE**

#### BONUS MATERIAL!

As we think about the qualities of leaders at **rockypc**, we can see how each of us can follow the godly example they set, in order to grow in the deep truths of the faith. **SERVE** is one of our core values, because every part of our **rockypc** community can use their gifts to build God's household - growing *as* disciples of Jesus and growing *new* disciples of Jesus. In a couple of weeks' time, on 29th May, we are having **SERVE** Sunday, where we will all have the opportunity to nominate where we'd like to serve God's household at **rockypc**. So we're going to spend a few minutes now thinking about why and how we can do this.

## READ TITUS 3v1-8

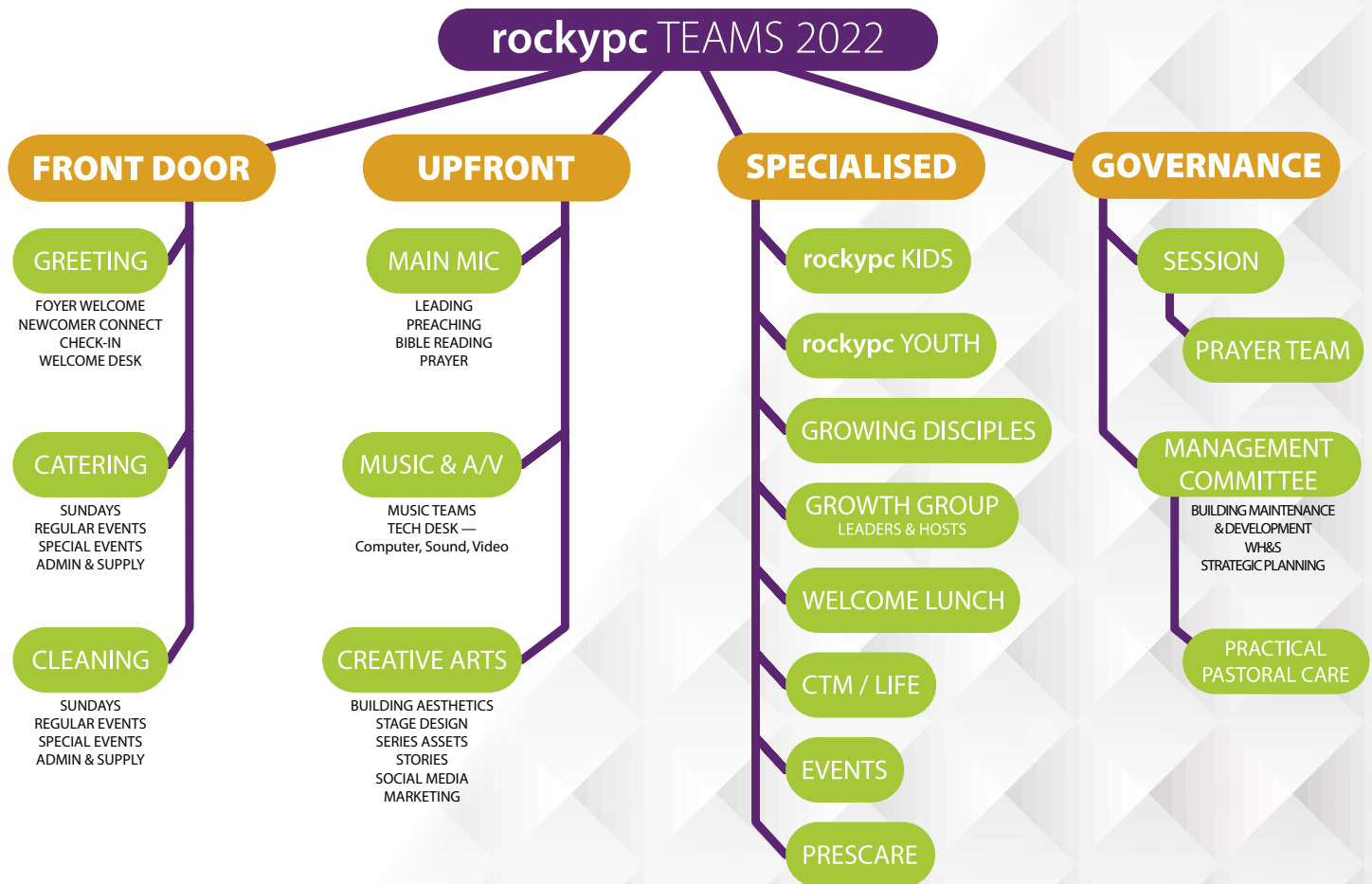
8. What were we like before being saved by Jesus? (v3)



9. How did God act towards us in our sinfulness? (v4-6)

10. What is the goal of God's gracious actions? (v1-2; 7-8)

In view of God's kindness to us in Jesus and the generous renewal of his Holy Spirit, spend some time thinking about how you can be ready to do good, in our **rockypc** community and our city. Take a look at the team chart below and speak with a team leader about what is involved.



**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Thank God for giving us leaders to oversee and to serve, so that we can be built up in the truth as God's household. Pray that our leaders would grow in all of these character traits, that they would have integrity in their private and public lives and that they would be trustworthy teachers of the truths of our faith.
- Pray that we would look for leaders like this, respect them and follow their example, so that God would grow each of us in these qualities.
- Thank God for his loving kindness shown to us in Jesus. Pray that we would be renewed by his Spirit to do good by serving one another. Pray for SERVE Sunday to be a day of thanksgiving and commitment to grow disciples together.



# TRUE GODLINESS

1 TIMOTHY 3v16-4v16

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

**GETTING STARTED**

Do you have exercise goals? How devoted are you to achieving them?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 3v16**

1. What are the key things we need to know about Jesus, as Paul tells us in this poem?

2. How do you think true godliness springs from these truths?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 4v1-5**

3. What do we learn about false teachers' character and teachings in Ephesus?

4. Why is this teaching wrong? What should be our attitude to marriage, food and other joys in creation?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 4v6-10**

5. Why is godliness of greater value than physical training?

6. What is the relationship Paul draws between truth, godliness and our hope in the living God?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 4v11-16**

7. What should be our attitude to Scripture and its truth (as leaders and as God's whole household)? *Notice the imperative verbs or commands.*

8. How should leaders set an example for the rest of the household? Do they need to be perfect? Or older in age?

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How does Jesus' appearing, proclamation and glorification motivate you to godliness? How can you train yourself to be godly?

Would you describe your attitude to Scripture as devoted, diligent and persevering? How does our hope in the living God encourage you to continue in this?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

If you are a leader, are you watching your life and doctrine closely? Who encourages you to do this? How can we help our leaders to keep progressing in godliness as examples for us?

### **SPEAK**

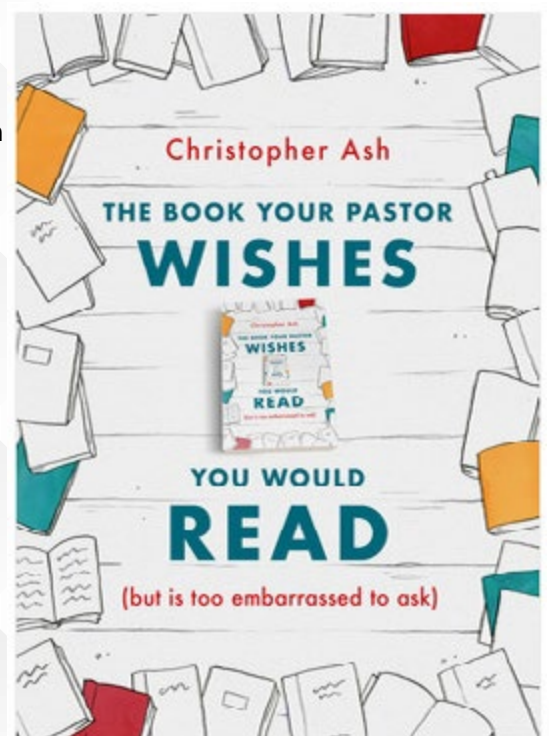
TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How can we live thankful lives for God's good creation, and speak of our hope in the present life and the life to come? Is this the message our not-yet believing friends hear from us, or do they think Christians just say 'no' to everything?

## **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God that Jesus came to us in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world and taken up in glory.
- Thank him that he is the living God, our Saviour, that we can hope in him now and in the life to come.
- Pray that true godliness would spring up in us as we are nourished by this truth. And that we would train ourselves to be godly.
- Pray that our leaders would be devoted to teaching Scripture, and live in a way that matches its message. Ask that we'd follow their example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.
- Thank God for all the good things he's given us in creation. Pray for friends and family to see our thankfulness and our hope that is for now and the future.



For more ideas on how to encourage leaders in their life and doctrine, grab a copy of this short but helpful book. You can buy it [here](#)

# HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

1 TIMOTHY 5v1-6v2b

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

## GETTING STARTED

What do you admire most about widows that you know?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 5v1-2

1. How should we view other men and women at **rockypc**?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 5v3-16

Paul spends a number of verses addressing the issue of how to care for widows as vulnerable members of God's household. He has three different types of widows that he cycles through in his discussion — older widows who have family members to care for them; younger widows; and, older widows with no family.

We can be tempted to dismiss this passage because, in Australia, we have a system of social welfare that didn't exist in the 1st Century. But statistically, women whose husbands have died are the most economically, socially and physically vulnerable around the world. And this is also true for Australian widows. You can find more information about this here:

<https://www.theloombafoundation.org/our-work/research/world-widows-report>

<https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/speeches/life-matters-launch-widows-and-women-planning-ahead-project>

We can also think this passage no longer applies because feminism has taught us that women don't need men and shouldn't be defined by their absence. This undermines the Bible's teaching about our interdependence as men and women (eg Genesis 1v26-28; 1 Corinthians 11v7-12); it minimises the unique 'one flesh' relationship of husband and wife (Genesis 2v21-25); and it devalues women's caring roles within the home (Titus 2v3-5).

So as we look at this part of the Bible as God's timeless truth to us, we want to see how it flows from God's own heart.

### READ PSALM 68v4-6

2. How does God treat the vulnerable members of our community? (See also passages like Deuteronomy 10v17-19; 24v17-22; Isaiah 1v16-17; Luke 7v11-17 and James 1v27 for the way that Israel and Christians should treat widows, orphans and foreigners based on God's heart)
3. Who should look after widows if they have families, and why? v4; 7-8; 16 (note that v4 is talking to male family members in the original Greek; and see also Deuteronomy 5v16)
4. In what ways do you think young widows might be tempted away from Christ by their sensual desires? v11-15

5. How might remarriage foster godliness in young widows?

6. What qualifies a woman to receive honour and practical support from their church? v3, 5, 9-10

It is unlikely that there was a particular 'list' of widows, as though it was some kind of formal order that required a vow of celibacy. Nor are these women necessarily employees of the church receiving payment, as their good deeds are more about their track record of good character. Paul just wants to be clear about who really needs help from the church and what godliness looks like for these women and their families.

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 5v17-25**

7. How should teaching elders be treated in God's household? Why?

8. How does it comfort and warn us to know that God and Christ Jesus see all, even what is hidden from us?

**READ 1 TIMOTHY 6v1-2b**

9. How should slaves and masters treat one another in God's household?

Paul is not advocating for the institution of slavery (see also 1 Corinthians 7v17-24). His focus in this section is on vulnerable members of God's household: destitute widows, elders whose livelihood is dependent on the church's generosity and slaves whose lives are at the mercy of their masters. In their position of powerlessness, slaves demonstrate godliness by respecting their masters, and, in their position of power, master are devoted to the welfare of their slaves.

While we don't have a direct equivalent in our society of slaves in our households, we can reflect on what godliness looks like whenever power dynamics are at play eg work, school, community organisations.

*growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

## SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Do you view others at **rockypc** as your fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers? How can you foster this attitude and deepen these family connections?

Paul gives multiple reasons in this passage to demonstrate godliness in God's household. How can these motivate you to care for those in need in **rockypc**?

## SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Think of specific people and specific actions you can take for the following:

How can you show honour and practical care for widows in your family and in **rockypc**?

Or if you are a widow, how can you grow in good deeds, and continue to hope in God? (v5, 10, 14)

How can you show honour and generosity to elders who lead and teach at **rockypc**?

How can you show respect or devotion to the welfare of others when there are other power dynamics at play (eg work, school, community organisations)?

## SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How can the way we treat vulnerable people at **rockypc** honour God's name rather than slander it?

## PRAYER IDEAS

- Thank God for our **rockypc** church family - for fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank him for the many ways that widows have loved and served us, and provided a godly example. Pray that they would keep hoping in God and turning to him for help.
- Pray that we would show honour and practical care to widows in our own families and at **rockypc**. Confess where we've failed to do this well. Pray that we'd be motivated to please God, to be blameless and put our religion into practice by supporting and providing for widows in many ways.
- Pray that we would honour and be generous towards our leading and teaching elders, while not tolerating sin.
- Pray that we would show respect to those in authority over us and devotion to the welfare of those over whom we have authority.
- Pray that God's name would be honoured in our community by the way we care for others in our church family.





# TRUE RICHES

1 TIMOTHY 6v2c-21

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

If you were as rich as Elon Musk, what would you do differently with your money?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 6v2c-10

1. Thinking back over the rest of the book of 1 Timothy, what is the sound instruction that Timothy should insist on?
2. What is the problem with any teaching that doesn't agree with godly teaching?
3. How does Paul contrast contentment with the love of money? (notice how v10 is often misquoted as 'money is the root of all evil')

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 6v11-16

4. What should Timothy pursue, fight for and take hold of?
5. Is Christian faith passive? Why or why not?
6. How do Jesus' return and God's transcendent character motivate us in the present?

### READ 1 TIMOTHY 6v17-21

Paul returns to the theme of riches. Earlier he was addressing those who want to be rich and were envying, now he's talking to those who are already rich.

7. How should those who are rich view their wealth?

## 8. How can we take hold of life that is truly life?

### *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

#### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

To what extent does your hope in Jesus' return impact your everyday life? What about God's transcendent character? How can you let them permeate your thoughts/desires/decisions?

#### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT  
JESUS

Do you struggle with either contentment or generosity? How can the warnings and encouragements of this passage help you put money in its right place? This week, how will you demonstrate that you know what true riches are?

#### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Do you need to confess an unhealthy interest in controversy? Are you actively pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and godliness? Will you take hold of the eternal life to which you were called?

### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. Give him honour and might forever.
- Praise him that our Lord Jesus Christ will appear. Pray that we'd keep hoping in him and know the life that is truly life.
- Pray that we'd flee from destructive teaching, controversy, malice and godless chatter. Ask for God's help to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness, taking hold of eternal life.
- Confess where you have lacked contentment or generosity. Pray that God would grow these in you and protect you from the love of money and the ruin that follows.