

December 18 Answers

- 1) Paul's first personal letter to Timothy. Although there is a wealth of instruction and guidance in 1 Timothy for those who are in leadership positions in the church, Paul also exhorted Timothy to personal **holiness**. Paul said, "This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good **conscience**" (1 Tim 1:18–19). This teaches us that as we fight against false teaching, we must be careful to stand **firm** in the faith and keep our conscience **clear**. Paul said, "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for **all** people" (1 Tim 2:1). This teaches us to be **diligent** in prayer, making intercession for all men, not just for those who are close to us. Paul said, "Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train** yourself for godliness" (1 Tim 4:7). This teaches us to **soak** ourselves in God's Word, striving to understand the truth and **engrafting** it into our hearts and minds. Paul said, "Let no one despise you for your **youth**, but set the believers an **example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim 4:12). This teaches us that no matter how young or old we are, our responsibility is to set an example of what it means to be a dedicated **disciple** of Jesus. Paul said, "But as for you, O man of God, **flee** these things [the desire to be rich and the love of money]. **Pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **Fight** the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim 6:11–12). This teaches us to avoid the pursuit of material wealth and possessions, and instead, to make **godliness** and holiness our goal.