

PREACHING AND PRACTICING THE TRUTH

**Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy
Titus
1, 2 and 3 John**

*And this is the record,
that God hath given to us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.
He that hath the Son hath life;
and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

1 John 5:11-12

**Hillcrest Chapel
Sunday School
Winter/Spring 2014**

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Introduction

In the coming months, we will be studying six New Testament epistles by two apostles, Paul and John. These epistles are among the last of the New Testament writings. Paul wrote two epistles to Timothy and one to Titus. John wrote the first of his three epistles to an unnamed person or church, the second to a lady known only as “the elect lady,” and the third to a man named Gaius. While each letter is unique and can be profitably studied by itself, there does seem to be a common emphasis expressed by the writers. The theme is expressed in the title to our study: “Preaching and Practicing the Truth.”

One thing shared by these two writers is the time of life in which they wrote. Paul told Timothy in his second letter that he knew he was close to the end of his earthly sojourn. The time of his departure was “at hand.” From historical references within the letters, we know that his other two epistles were written in the same general time frame after the end of the history recorded in the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

While we do not have specific historical references in John's epistles, the consensus among Bible scholars is that John also wrote late in his years. He may well have been in his 90's. Therefore, in a real sense, we have the “last words” of these two godly apostles. Here, they tell us what they found to be important after years of faithful ministry and devotion to the Lord Jesus. These are the mature conclusions of men who learned directly from the Lord Jesus and then, for many years, faithfully preached and practiced that truth. Not surprisingly, they exhorted the recipients of these letters to be diligent in studying the truth, to be zealous in preaching the Word, and to be faithful in practicing it.

Paul wrote to younger men in the ministry. He especially emphasized the duty of these pastors to faithfully minister the Word. His concern for sound doctrine was not academic or

theoretical. The people of God are to “adorn the doctrine of God” by purity of life. There is great gain in godliness. The duty of the minister is to facilitate this objective. The Word of God is the only instrument by which the people of God are perfected. Therefore, Timothy and Titus must preach and teach with great diligence.

John was also concerned about the purity of the saints' conduct. He approached this subject by considering what it meant to share the life of a God Who is light, righteousness and love. His conclusion was that it was imperative for those in fellowship with the Father to walk as the Son walked. The saints must walk in light, in righteousness and in love. He further said that if there is no similarity with the life of Jesus Christ, then there must be no relationship either. The practice of God's truth is the necessary proof that we are the children of God. Implicit in this argument is the need to *know* the truth. It all hinges upon a true knowledge of God.

There remains an essential link between preaching and practicing God's truth.

God's people must seriously consider the words of these faithful apostles. There remains an essential link between preaching and practicing God's truth. Neither will occur without the other. Therefore, if we would be holy practitioners of the Word, we must be diligent to study the Word and careful to attend the preaching of the Word. It is the Word, proclaimed and taught, which, by the Holy Spirit, will be used to perfect the saints. The task of doing these things is what Paul meant when he spoke of “the good fight of faith.” This good fight can only be waged by those who are born by the Spirit of God and is the distinguishing mark of all those who are in fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

May God grant that as we study these epistles of Paul and John, we will find ourselves increasingly devoted to preaching and practicing the truth.

SCHEDULE

January 5	Lesson 1: Teach No Other Doctrine 1 Timothy 1:1-17
January 12	Lesson 2: The Charge to Timothy 1 Timothy 1:18-2:15
January 19	Lesson 3: Proper Conduct in the House of God 1 Timothy 3
January 26	Lesson 4: Instruct the Brethren in Good Doctrine 1 Timothy 4
February 2	Lesson 5: Instructions for Conduct in the Church 1 Timothy 5
February 9	Lesson 6: Fight the Good Fight 1 Timothy 6
February 16	Lesson 7: Order in the Church Titus 1
February 23	Lesson 8: Purity in the Church Titus 2
March 2	Lesson 9: Be Careful to do Good Works Titus 3
March 9	Lesson 10: Hold Fast Sound Words 2 Timothy 1
March 16	Lesson 11: Study to be Approved of God 2 Timothy 2
March 23	Lesson 12: Godliness in Perilous Times 2 Timothy 3
March 30	Lesson 13: Preach the Word! 2 Timothy 4
April 6	Lesson 14: God is Light 1 John 1
April 13	Lesson 15: Walk as He Walked 1 John 2:1-17
April 20	Lesson 16: God is Righteous 1 John 2:18-3:9
April 27	Lesson 17: We are of God! 1 John 3:10-4:6
May 4	Lesson 18: God is love 1 John 4:7-21
May 11	Lesson 19: He that has the Son has life 1 John 5
May 18	Lesson 20: Love One Another 2 John
May 25	Lesson 21: Walk in Truth 3 John

Memory Assignments

1 Timothy 1:17

- 17 Now unto the King eternal,
Immortal, invisible, the only wise God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Titus 2:11-13

- 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation
hath appeared to all men,
- 12 Teaching us that,
denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,
we should live soberly, righteously, and godly,
in this present world;
- 13 Looking for that blessed hope,
and the glorious appearing
of the great God
and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:15

- 15 Study to show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof,
for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- 17 That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

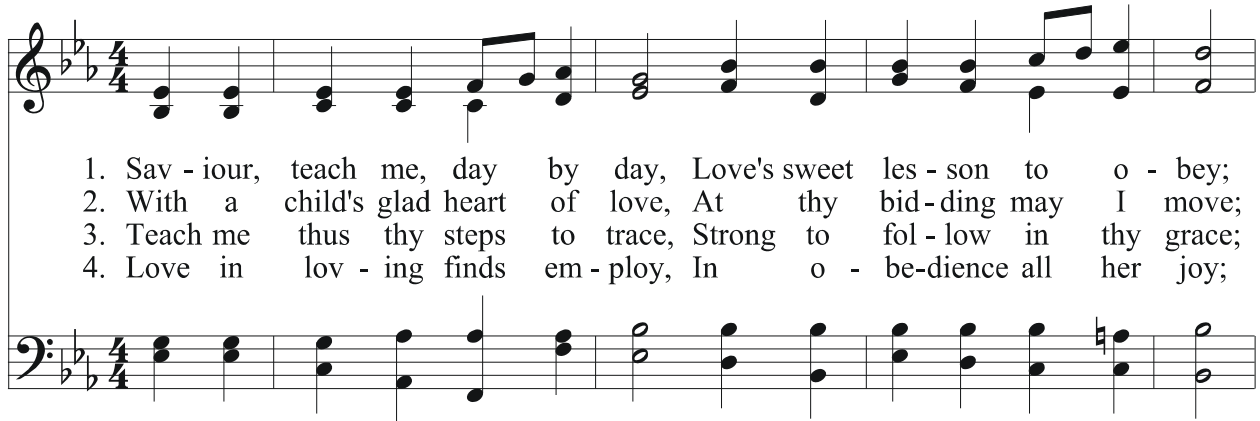
1 John 1:9

- 9 If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

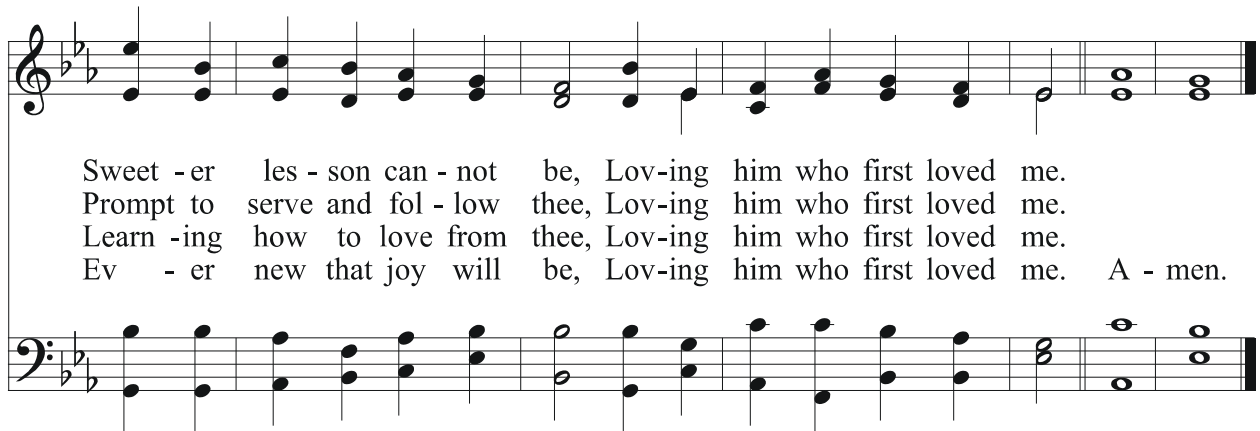
Savior, teach me, day by day

Jane E. Leeson, 1842

Arr. from Georg C. Strattner by J. A. Freylinghausen, 1705



1. Sav - iour, teach me, day by day, Love's sweet les - son to o - bey;
2. With a child's glad heart of love, At thy bid - ding may I move;
3. Teach me thus thy steps to trace, Strong to fol - low in thy grace;
4. Love in lov - ing finds em - ploy, In o - be - dience all her joy;



Sweet - er les - son can - not be, Lov - ing him who first loved me.
Prompt to serve and fol - low thee, Lov - ing him who first loved me.
Learn - ing how to love from thee, Lov - ing him who first loved me.
Ev - er new that joy will be, Lov - ing him who first loved me. A - men.

Lesson 2: The Charge to Timothy

1 Timothy 1:18-2:15

MEMORY: Titus 2:11 and review

HYMN: "Savior, teach me, day by day"

PURPOSE: Paul committed the ministry which he had received from the Lord to Timothy and charged him to "wage the good warfare." Prayers were to be made for all those in authority that a peaceful environment would be granted to engage in the work of preaching Jesus Christ, the Mediator between God and man. Women were exhorted to display godliness in their outward appearance and submission in their learning.

1. What charge did Paul commit to Timothy?
2. What happened to Hymenaeus and Alexander?
3. What was Paul's first exhortation?
4. What is good and acceptable in the sight of God?
5. What did Paul say about the man Christ Jesus?
6. What did Paul say about prayer?
7. What did Paul teach about the appearance of women?
8. Why did Paul make reference to Adam and Eve?
9. What promise did Paul give to women?

Lesson 4: Instruct the Brethren in Good Doctrine

1 Timothy 4

MEMORY: Titus 2:13 and review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: In view of the coming apostasy, when men will depart from the faith and follow all sorts of vain teachings, Timothy was to instruct and exhort the brethren in the doctrines of God's Word. At the same time, he was to be an example of the things he taught.

1. What did the Spirit teach about the latter times?
2. How did Paul answer those who would command the avoidance of different foods?
3. How did Paul describe a good minister of Jesus Christ?
4. What did Paul say about exercise?
5. Why do we labor and suffer reproach (strive)?
6. What did Paul tell Timothy about his youthfulness?
7. What did Paul tell Timothy to do?
8. What did Paul tell Timothy about his gift?
9. Why did Paul tell Timothy to take heed to himself and the doctrine?

Lesson 5: Instructions for Conduct in the church

1 Timothy 5

MEMORY: 2 Timothy 2:15 and review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: Paul taught Timothy how he was to treat all members of the church, but particularly the widows and elders. In all of his conduct, Timothy was to be pure before men.

1. How was Timothy to treat both men and women in the church?
2. What should happen to widows with children or grandchildren?
3. What did Paul say about widows who were truly alone?
4. What did Paul say about those who do not care for their families?
5. What criterion was to be followed in the care of an older widow?
6. What concern did Paul express about younger widows?
7. What did Paul say about the treatment of elders who rule well?
8. What did Paul say to do about accusations against an elder?
9. What advice did Paul give Timothy about himself?

Lesson 6: Fight the Good Fight

1 Timothy 6

MEMORY: 2 Timothy 3:16 and review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: Paul exhorted Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. He urged Timothy to pursue holiness as he taught and exhorted the saints. Paul warned against seeking godliness in order to obtain material gain. He also warned against trusting in riches instead of the living God Who bestows all material blessings. Timothy was to teach men to be laying a foundation for the life to come at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1. Why did Paul tell servants to honor their masters?
2. What did Paul tell servants who had believing masters?
3. How did Paul describe those who taught contrary to godly teaching?
4. What did Paul say about being content?
5. What warnings did Paul give about seeking riches and the love of money?
6. What was Timothy to be seeking?
7. How did Paul speak of God?
8. What instructions did Paul have for the rich?
9. What final exhortation did Paul have for Timothy?

Lesson 8: Purity in the Church

Titus 2

MEMORY: 1 John 1:9 and review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: Jesus Christ gave Himself to redeem His people from all iniquity and to purify them as His Own special people, “zealous for good works.” Titus was to instruct in sound doctrine, exhorting the people to pursue a life of purity in this present age as they awaited the return of their great Savior.

1. What was Titus to teach the older men?
2. What was Titus to teach the older women?
3. What were the older women to teach the younger women?
4. What was Titus to teach the younger men?
5. What was Titus to teach servants?
6. How is our conduct in this lifetime affected by the grace of God?
7. How is our expectation for the future affected by the grace of God?
8. Why did Jesus Christ give Himself for us?
9. What special instructions did Paul give to Titus?

Lesson 9: Be Careful to do Good Works Titus 3

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: The people of God have been saved from sin by the grace and mercy of God. This work of salvation consists of a renewal of the individual by the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ the Savior. Therefore, those who believe in God must be careful to maintain good works and to avoid sin.

1. What did Paul want Titus to remind the people to do?
2. What did Paul remind us of our previous condition?
3. How are we saved?
4. What is the result of our justification by God's grace?
5. What did Paul say about good works?
6. What did Paul want believers to avoid?
7. What did Paul say about a factious (divisive) man?
8. What personal instructions did Paul give to Titus?
9. How can unfruitfulness be avoided?

Lesson 10: Hold Fast Sound Words

2 Timothy 1

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: Paul wanted Timothy to remain faithful to the truth he had been taught concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Timothy must not be discouraged because of Paul's afflictions, but rest confidently in the power of God. That power was seen when God accomplished His plan from before the beginning of time to abolish death and bring life by Jesus Christ. Therefore, Paul was certain that the Lord would preserve him eternally according to the Gospel.

1. How did Paul introduce himself?
2. Why did Paul give thanks to God?
3. What did Paul tell Timothy about the gift he had received?
4. How did Paul want Timothy to react to the fact that Paul was a prisoner for the Gospel?
5. What did Paul tell Timothy about the purpose of God?
6. What did Paul say about Jesus Christ?
7. Why was Paul not ashamed when he suffered for the Gospel?
8. What did Paul want Timothy to do?
9. What did Paul say about Onesiphorus?

Lesson 11: Study to be Approved of God 2 Timothy 2

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "Savior, teach me, day by day"

PURPOSE: Paul urged Timothy to be strong in the ministry that had been committed to him. He must endure hardships for the sake of the elect that he may share with them the eternal glory that is in Christ Jesus. He must seek God's approval by showing diligence in understanding the Word. He must shun error and flee evil lusts. He must pursue righteousness. In humility, he must instruct those who oppose the truth.

1. What lessons did Paul teach Timothy about being strong in the grace of Christ Jesus by each of the following illustrations?
soldier:

athlete:

farmer:
2. Why was Paul so willing to suffer, even to the point of chains?
3. How was Timothy to show diligence?
4. What are we told about Hymenaeus and Philetus?
5. What is the seal on the foundation of God's house?
6. How is a vessel for honor described?
7. What was Timothy to avoid and what was he to seek?
8. How was Timothy to deal with those who opposed him?

Lesson 12: Godliness in Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "Savior, teach me, day by day"

PURPOSE: Paul warned Timothy that the last days would be particularly perilous for godly men. He must turn away from the evil of the day and also from those who would have a form of godliness that lacked truth. Paul had found the Lord faithful in his own afflictions and persecutions. Timothy must continue in the Word by which he had been nourished since childhood. It would be by the Word alone that he could expect to be equipped to live a godly life.

1. What kind of love would men manifest in the last days?
2. What does Paul warn about the godliness of the last days?
3. What would be the relationship between evil men of the last days and the truth?
4. What did Timothy learn from the life of Paul?
5. What did Paul tell Timothy about persecutions?
6. What did Paul want Timothy to do in these days of great deception?
7. What effect does Holy Scripture have on the unsaved?
8. How did we get the Scriptures?
9. What value do the Scriptures have for the man of God?

Lesson 13: Preach the Word!

2 Timothy 4

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: Paul concluded this letter with a charge to Timothy that he must continue to proclaim the Word of God. He must not turn aside from this solemn task despite rejection and afflictions. Paul was at the end of his ministry. He had persevered in difficult times because the Lord always stood with him. He was now ready to receive the crown of righteousness reserved for all those who long for the coming of the Lord.

1. How did Paul describe the Lord in his charge to Timothy?
2. What is Paul's charge to Timothy?
3. What warning does Paul give to Timothy?
4. What did Paul say about his own ministry?
5. What did Paul expect to receive from the Lord?
6. What did Paul say about the following men?
Demas:

Mark:

Alexander:
7. What did Paul say about his defense when he was abandoned by all?
8. What hope did Paul have for the future?

Lesson 14: God is Light

1 John 1

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: John wrote this first epistle to speak about eternal life that is found in Jesus Christ. He wanted those receiving the letter to share this life with him and with God Himself. To understand this life we must understand what it means that God is Light.

1. What personal experience did John have with “that which was from the beginning”?
2. What did John declare about this One?
3. Why did John bring this message?
4. What message did John hear from the One Who was from the beginning?
5. What did John say about those who claim fellowship with God and “walk in darkness”?
6. What is true about those who walk in the light as God is in the light?
7. What did John say about those who claim to have no sin?
8. What if we confess our sins?
9. What did John say about those who claim that they have not sinned?

Lesson 16: God is Righteous 1 John 2:18-3:9

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: John warned against antichrists who would come denying that Jesus is the Christ. To prevent this deception, God gave His Holy Spirit so they might know the truth. By Him, we know that God is righteous and that He sent His Son to take away sin. Therefore, the true children of God will be known by their practice of righteousness in anticipation of being exactly like the Righteous One at His appearing.

1. What did John tell them about antichrists?
2. How do the people of God know the truth?
3. What did John say about those who deny that Jesus is the Christ?
4. How do we abide in Christ?
5. What did John teach about God's character and what it means for us?
6. What did John teach about being the children of God?
7. What leads the children of God to seek purity in this life?
8. What did John say about Jesus Christ to show why the children of God will not continue in sin?
9. What did John say about those who are born of God?

Lesson 20: Love One Another 2 John

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: “Savior, teach me, day by day”

PURPOSE: John wrote to the “elect lady” and her children to encourage them to manifest love for one another by living according to the commandments of Christ. He warned them about deceivers and told them not to receive those who do not accept the doctrine of Christ.

1. What do we know about those to whom John wrote this second epistle?
2. Why did John rejoice?
3. What did John want them to do?
4. What is love?
5. How did John identify the deceivers?
6. What personal warning did John give them?
7. What did John say about the “doctrine of Christ”?
8. How were they to treat a deceiver, and why?
9. Why did John want to visit the “elect lady”?

Lesson 21: Walk in Truth 3 John

MEMORY: Review

HYMN: "Savior, teach me, day by day"

PURPOSE: John wrote to Gaius with joy because he had heard that Gaius was continuing to live in obedience to God's Word. He commended Gaius for showing hospitality to brethren who came to his church on their missionary travels. He had sharp words of rebuke for proud Diotrephes who neither received John nor other visiting brethren.

1. How did John pray for Gaius?
2. Why did John rejoice?
3. What gave John the greatest joy?
4. What had Gaius done that showed his love before the church?
5. What did John tell Gaius about the visiting brethren?
6. What did Diotrephes love?
7. What did Diotrephes do?
8. What did John tell Gaius to do about Diotrephes?
9. What did John say about Demetrius?