



# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## Guard the Truth

1st and 2nd Timothy are two books that give the first detailed description of how the church should operate. The principles include the call to ministry, qualifications for ministry and care by those in ministry. "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

## 1st Timothy

1st Timothy has six chapters: chapter 1 deals with the message of the church; chapters 2 and 3 the members of the church; chapter 4 the ministers of the church; and, chapters 5 and 6 cover the ministry of the church.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. How does Paul say that Timothy (we) should pray and for who and why?
- b. What does Paul say about fashion in the church?
- c. What are the qualifications given for the bishop?
- d. What was the role of the deacon?
- e. How does Paul tell Timothy he should behave as a "good minister?" (1 Timothy 4:6, 13, 16)
- f. How important is doctrine? Give verses in Timothy and elsewhere that support the importance of doctrine.
- g. What instruction is given for the treatment of various people (older, younger, etc.)? Examine your heart: How are you following these instructions in your treatment of people?
- h. Examine your heart: If everyone in your church were just like you, what kind of church would it be?
- i. "Wage the good warfare." Examine your heart, how are you contending for the faith?

## 2nd Timothy

It is believed that second Timothy was the last letter that Paul wrote. Paul reminds Timothy of the present calling in chapter 1--stay loyal in suffering; chapter 2--the character of a pastor; chapter 3--practical concern; and chapter 4--the personal charge.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What was Paul's tone in this 2nd letter to Timothy?
- b. Who was the mother of Timothy and how might her training and pray influenced Timothy?
- c. How can you best "train up a child in the way he should go?"
- d. How did Paul instruct Timothy in dealing with false teachers?
- e. Which metaphors did Paul use to tell Timothy that the work would be hard?
- f. Examine your heart: How can you stay on the straight path and not become sidetracked?
- g. What does Paul say to do with people who are not "lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power?"
- h. What was the personal charge Paul gave Timothy?
- i. Examine your heart: What is the legacy that you will leave when you are no longer on this earth?