

Women and Leadership in the Church

Reading Paul in Context (part two)

a study on 1 Timothy 2

Review of last week:

This last week we looked at **Mark 9:30-10:16** together – “**The Greatness of Jesus**”.

- As we think back to our study and/or Sunday’s teaching, what stands out to us? Was there something that hit home for us, challenged us, encouraged us, got us thinking or praying? Explain.

This coming Sunday we will be returning to our study on **Women and Church Leadership: Reading Paul in Context (part two)** – with a thorough study of 1 Timothy 2:11-15 in its’ historical and literary context.

To prepare for Sunday, this study will help us begin to engage **1 Timothy 2** together.

Take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to hear His Word. And then read the whole chapter aloud a few times (possibly in a few different translations – the NIV, ESV, NRSV as well as the Message).

- Share your initial observations or reactions to the text.
- Also, are there any significant emphases or differences that stand out to you from the different translations? Explore these together and how they affect your understanding.

Digging into the text together:

- First, take a few minutes together to name or write down all the commands or instructions Paul gives in this chapter (noting who they are directed to – maybe Timothy, everyone, men, women, or others).
- Second, consider together the meaning and implication of each instruction for today?
- Third, explain why we think this way about these different commands?
- Finally, share what we’ve learned from this exercise about how we read & apply scripture?

As with all New Testament letters, Paul’s first letter to Timothy was written to a particular people in a particular place and time facing particular issues. Understanding something of the context of this letter is vital for understanding its original meaning and implications for today. As we look toward Sunday, what do we already know (from previous study or resources available to us) about the context of this letter – and how does this shed light on Paul’s explicit instructions here? (*e.g., do we notice any references in the letter itself to controversies or specific challenges that the Timothy is facing in the life of the Ephesian church?*)

- Lastly, as we come to Sunday, what questions, concerns, fears or hopes do we have?

Pray together for Scott Anderson as he will be teaching on this significant text this Sunday, and for us all as we seek to hear and honor God’s Word to us.