

A STUDY OF THE CONTEXT OF 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-15

By Bob Young

1 Timothy 2:11-15

One could wish for a slightly different translation and softer words, but the overall sense is conveyed by the translations we have.

The nouns in this section (11-15a) are singular, woman or wife, not women or wives. (Compare the plural nouns of 9-10, 15b.)

2:11, *Esuchia*, means quietness of demeanor, not necessarily referring to words. See 1 Thess. 4:11 where the translation is quietness. Silence may miscommunicate in this context.

2:12, I do not turn over to (permit) a woman (wife?) to teach a man (husband?) or to have her own authority over (separate from) him. She is to be quiet, reserved.

2:13-15a, this section is a parenthetical explanation, the woman (Eve) was formed second. The woman (Eve) was the one deceived. The woman (singular, Eve) will be saved (restored, accepted) through childbearing.

2:15b, the second part of verse 15 is a continuation of the thought of vv. 9-10, returning to the plural of vv. 9-10.

It is essential to see that the focus is on demeanor and attitude: verse 8, the men without anger or disputing; verses 9-10, the women who profess godliness, with decency and propriety; verses 11-12, a woman who is quiet in demeanor; verse 15b, women of faith, love and holiness with propriety. Note the parallel plural usage of verses 9-10 and 15b.