News Story Summary

A new report released in late May revealed that 93% of companies are overconfident about their ability to combat breeches in their cyber security. While these companies were confident that hackers could not get access to privileged information (like passwords), the study said that 80% of companies did not have strong enough countermeasures to protect this information. In short, companies think they can guard against cyber-attacks, but the security in place isn’t good enough.

This study comes on the heels of another study released in early May. This study focused on individuals, finding that 90% of Americans think they have protected themselves against cyber threats. However, the study showed that less than 50% of Americans do the bare minimum to protect themselves.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “companies overconfident about cybersecurity” and “American overconfident about protection against cyber threats.”)

Focus Attention

To supplement (or replace) the Focus Attention idea, enlist two volunteers to summarize the two news stories highlighted above. Ask: Why do you think people and companies feel overconfident in this area? What do you think causes overconfidence in general? What are the dangers of placing our confidence in the wrong things? Say: Today, we will examine the importance of placing our confidence in the right places. Challenge the group to look for what Paul encouraged Timothy to place his confidence in and why.

Challenge

To supplement (or replace) the Summarize and Challenge idea, recall the two stories discussed at the beginning of the class. Ask: What are some other faulty things people place their confidence in? Point out how the world glorifies self-confidence, but that will ultimately fail because human beings are flawed and imperfect. Say: Nothing in this world is worth placing your confidence in. Only Christ and His mission are eternal sources of assurance and confidence.