Timothy, Paul’s Beloved Son in the Faith

Introduction: Someone asked me to name the most faithful character in the Bible besides Jesus. I thought of Joseph but a close second was Timothy. His name is mentioned 26 times in the New Testament. Paul wrote 1 and 2 Timothy to him with much advice on preaching and living the Christian life. But there are certain passages that speak to who Timothy was and how he lived. I want to look at some of those passages.

**I) In The Beginning, Acts 16.1-2.**

**A) His father was a gentile, a gentile who spoke Greek.**

1. Was indicates past tense, father may have been dead.

2. Many a child has been reared with one parent some turn out good and some bad. **B) B) 2 Timothy 1.5 His mother was a Jew, Eunice.**

1. His grandmother was Lois

2. Like many people today, he lived in a split family. Black/white, Hispanic/Oriental, etc.

3. I am sure Timothy at one time or another had felt prejudice and felt like an outsider.

**C) He had been taught the scriptures as a child, 2 Timothy 3.14-15**

1. This would have been referring to Old Testament scriptures.

2. Faith is a product of teaching and learning the word of God.

3. The lessons a child learns at an early age will remain with them, **Prov. 22.6.**

a. Parents, who is training your children?

b. Does not teach the impossibility of apostasy for many passages teaches that a faithful person can become unfaithful. Points out the importance of teaching your children if you want them to be faithful.

**D) Timothy was a disciple, a follower of Christ.**

1. Not told when he obeyed the Gospel but he had done so. One cannot be a disciple without obedience.

2. **Luke 6.40; 14.26,27** he loved God more than his parents or anyone else.

3. He left his home to travel with Paul, Silas, and Luke. Luke 9.57ff

a. Travel then is not what travel is to us now. Dangerous! 2 Corinthians 11.23ff.

b. Think of Leon Stevens as he left Cash, AR to go to fight in WW II.

**E) Timothy was circumcised twice!**

1. The second time was in **Acts 16.3**

2. Not as a religious practice, **Acts 15.1ff.**

a) Timothy was viewed as an apostate Jew.

b) This circumcision was a cultural practice, not religious.

c) Later on Titus was not circumcised, **Galatians 2.3-5.**

d) This would have been – highly personal, highly embarrassing, and painful.

3. The first time was in the spirit, **Romans 2.25-29.**

a. It occurred when he was baptized, **Colossians 2.11-12**

b. Again it was highly personal, some consider baptism to be embarrassing, can be painful in leaving behind one’s former life and sins.

4. How old was Timothy? May be in his late teens.

**II) Timothy was Paul’s son in the faith, 1 Timothy 1.2; 2 Timothy 1.2**

**A) Paul had no physical children, no wife.**

**B) Timothy was close to Paul, learned from him, traveled with Paul, been instructed by Paul.**

1. Young people you can learn from those who are older. They have knowledge plus wisdom.

2. Don’t be afraid to ask questions, go to an older person whether man or woman and ask about child rearing, homemaking, taking care of your family.

3. Today we call it mentoring but it used to be called training, or disciple-ing.

a. John Wit helped me with my studies along with a host of other older men Who is helping you?

**III) Timothy was doing the work of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 16.10, Romans 16.21; 1 Thess 3.2.**

**A) This meant he was studying the word of God, 2 Timothy 2.15.**

**B) He was living the Christian life, 2 Timothy 2.22**

1. How old does someone have to be to do the work of the Lord?

2. Young workers become older workers. Paul was a worker and so was Timothy.

Conclusion: What would Paul write to you?

Conclusion: There are a lot of Timothy's today. Young people making good decisions. Deciding to obey the Gospel, to put God first in their lives, bringing up their children as Lois and Eunice did. There are a lot of older Christians who lived the life of Paul. We need both.