

Timothy

Introduction. This lesson discusses the life and ministry of Timothy, Paul's "dearly beloved" and "own son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2).

I. ***Timothy's Early Life***

- A. His father was a Greek (Acts 16:1).
- B. He was a native of Lystra (Acts 16:1).
 - 1. Lystra was a Roman colony founded by Augustus with an aristocratic core of citizens with franchise, a group likely to honor the similar status of Paul.
 - 2. At Isauria, not far away, an inscription has been found to "Zeus before the gate," hence it was probably the location of the proposed ceremony mentioned in Acts 14:13.
- C. His mother and grandmother were Jewish and instructed him in the faith (2 Timothy 1:5).
- D. He was converted as a result of Paul's first journey through Lystra and was named as a disciple there upon Paul's arrival on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1).
- E. He was circumcised because of the Jews who knew his father was a Greek (Acts 16:3).

II. ***Assisted Paul On His Second Missionary Journey***

- A. He was left at Berea (Acts 17:14).
- B. Instructed to join Paul at Athens (Acts 17:15).
- C. Sent by Paul to Thessalonica to establish and comfort brethren (1 Thessalonians 3:1-3).
- D. Rejoined Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5, Romans 16:21).

III. ***Assisted Paul On His Third Missionary Journey***

- A. Paul sent him from Ephesus to Macedonia (Acts 19:22) and Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:8).
- B. Rejoined Paul in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 1:1).
- C. Accompanied Paul to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4).

IV. ***Accompanied Paul To Rome***

- A. A faithful companion (Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; Philemon 1).
- B. Paul spoke very highly of him (Philippians 2:19-20).

V. ***Assisted Paul After His Release From Prison***

- A. Sent to Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3).

- B. Requested to rejoin Paul at Rome during his second imprisonment (2 Timothy 4:9).

VI. ***Paul's Instructions To Timothy***

- A. Instruct men not to teach false doctrines (1 Timothy 1:3).
- B. Fight the good fight, keep the faith and a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:18-19).
- C. Know how to conduct oneself in the church (1 Timothy 3:15).
- D. Teach the pure gospel (1 Timothy 4:6-7).
- E. Be an example to the believers (1 Timothy 4:12).
- F. Guard what has been entrusted (1 Timothy 6:20).
- G. Be strong in the faith (2 Timothy 2: 1-3).
- H. Be diligent to present yourself to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the work of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).
- I. Flee youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22).
- J. Live according to God's word (2 Timothy 3:14-17).
- K. Proclaim the word (2 Timothy 4:1-2).
- L. Endure hardship and do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5).
- M. Appropriate principles.
 - 1. Train up a child in the way that he should go (Proverbs 22:6).
 - 2. Remember your creator in the days of your youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
 - 3. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God.
 - 4. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.
 - 5. Younger Christians can be valuable workers for the Lord.
 - 6. Older Christians often take younger ones "under their wings."

Conclusion. Timothy was a young man who was very helpful in the kingdom of God. He is a good example, especially for the young, of one who gave his all for Christ. May there be many who follow him.

Questions:

1. Was Timothy raised in the Jewish faith?
2. Why was Timothy circumcised and not Titus (Galatians 2:3)?
3. Why was Timothy so entrusted by Paul with great responsibility at an early age?
4. What was the role of Timothy at Ephesus as described in 1 and 2 Timothy?

5. Was Paul concerned for Timothy's spiritual fate?
6. What were Paul's feelings toward Timothy?
7. Was Timothy also imprisoned for his faith (Hebrews 13:23)?