

Timothy, “I have no one like him”

August 5th & 6th, 2017

Philippians 2:19-24

Paul’s life was Christ-centered!

“I hope in the Lord Jesus...”

“At a time of crisis and tension when the outlook was unsettled and he does not know what a day may bring forth, he can only make plans *in the Lord Jesus*. This means that his hopes are governed by the Lord’s will for his situation, and equally that his plans do not rest on a human calculation of release and freedom. They are based on God’s undertaking for him.”¹

Paul was concerned about the spiritual health of the Philippian church

“...to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.”

2 Corinthians 11:28 “And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”

Paul had mentored Timothy and imparted to him God’s concern for His church!

“For I have no one like him...”

- ❖ Timothy became Paul’s representative to the church:

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3

- Timothy was sent to Thessalonica to establish and exhort the believers not to be moved from their trust in God because of the afflictions of Paul!

1 Corinthians 4:17 “That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.”

- Paul told the disciples at Corinth, *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1*
Timothy was sent to Corinth to remind the believers to continue following Christ after the manner modeled by Paul.

1 Corinthians 16:10 “When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.”

- Paul exhorted the church not to despise Timothy because of his youth but to support and help him return to Paul.

“...who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare”

Genuine: “Native; belonging to the original stock; hence, real; natural; true; pure; not ... false or adulterated ... (*Genuinely:*) Without ... foreign mixture.”²

“For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

“...in a world of selfishness and self-seeking, it is such a rare thing to find a man like Timothy who is really anxious to promote the welfare of other people, and to give himself to a fatiguing

journey and to the resolving of personal quarrels in the Philippian church. This would be a delicate issue to handle, calling for tact, wisdom and patience.”¹

- ❖ Timothy was a young man
1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
- ❖ Timothy was physically weak
1 Timothy 5:23 “(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)”
- ❖ Timothy struggled with fear
2 Timothy 1:6-7 “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”
- ❖ Timothy went willingly and faithfully!

“But you know Timothy’s proven worth...”

- ❖ Timothy proved himself faithful by going wherever Paul sent him and staying true to the Word of God!
- ❖ Timothy grew up in Lystra, a small Jewish community.
 - He had a good reputation in his town and was willing to be circumcised by Paul to remove hindrances to the gospel!
 - Timothy was aware that Paul had been stoned in Lystra and left for dead (*Acts 14:8-19*) yet did not hesitate to follow him!

“...how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.”

- ❖ Timothy was with Paul and Silas at the foundation of the Philippian church *Acts 16:4-40*
- ❖ Timothy continued following Paul in spite of persecutions!
 - *2 Timothy 3:10-17*

Paul’s last words to Timothy...

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2

**Making true disciples ensures the development of a healthy church
– all for the Glory of God!**

Endnotes:

- ¹ Martin, Ralph P. The Epistles of Paul to the Philippians: an introduction and commentary. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 1978.
(Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)
- ² Webster, Noah. American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition). San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.
- ◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.