

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Eighteen

IN ACTS: Timothy

Burden to Impart:

Like Timothy, we should learn the Lord's Word and live a Christian life while we are young so that we will be able to become the most useful to the Lord and His servants when we become older.

Memory Verse: "Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. As Paul and Silas journeyed and visited the churches to strengthen them, they met a young disciple named Timothy. Timothy was known and respected by the saints in at least two different churches because of his godly Christian life and testimony (Acts 16:1-3). Little did Paul know that Timothy would become his closest companion and most useful co-worker for the rest of his life.
2. Timothy was not just saved "off of the street" one day. He was raised up with the Scriptures since his babyhood. Though his father seems to have been an unbelieving Greek (for he never had Timothy circumcised), his mother and his grandmother believed in the Lord and in His Word. Just as Timothy's grandmother Lois had imparted her sincere and genuine faith into Timothy's mother, Eunice had also imparted her faith and knowledge of the Lord into Timothy through her way of life and by teaching him God's Word (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15). Timothy had a rich background as a believer.
3. By his natural disposition it seems that Timothy was not an aggressive, bold, strong person like Paul. He seems to have been somewhat fearful and timid (1 Cor. 16:10; 2 Tim. 1:6-7). We can see that not all of the Lord's servants are bold and daring like Peter and Paul. But all that would serve Him must be proper in their Christian living and testimony.
4. Timothy closely followed Paul (2 Tim. 3:10). By being with Paul and listening to him as he spoke God's word he had received a rich deposit of the truth within him (2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2). Timothy had the same kind of heart and love as Paul did; he genuinely cared for the saints and the churches and sought after the Lord's interests (Phil. 2:19-23). When Paul could not personally visit a church he would send Timothy, for he could trust him to faithfully teach both what Paul taught and the way Paul lived (1 Cor. 4:16-17). As a spiritual son to Paul (1 Tim. 1:2), Timothy was approved and served as a child with a father. Paul even called him "God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ" (1 Thes. 3:2).
5. When Paul was imprisoned in the later years of his life for his testimony, many of the disciples forsook him, even some of his fellow workers (2 Tim. 1:15; 3:10). But Timothy served with Paul faithfully till the end (2 Tim. 3:13, 21).