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A Biographical Study of Timothy

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Timothy

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Timothy, the person
 - A. He was from Lystra and probably was saved during Paul's first missionary trip (Acts 14:19-20; 16:1-2).
 - B. His mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were godly Jewish women, but his father was a pagan Greek (Acts 16:1-2; 2 Tim. 1:5).
 - C. He had been brought up on God's Word (2 Tim. 3:14-15).
 - D. He was a man of great faith (2 Tim. 1:5).
 - E. Paul regarded him as his own son in the faith (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2).
 - F. Timothy may have been a somewhat reserved individual who did not always enjoy robust health (1 Tim. 4:12, 14-16).
 - G. He was, nevertheless, a man of God (see 1 Tim. 6:11).
- II. Timothy, the partner—Timothy became a faithful coworker with the Apostle Paul.
 - A. He was invited by Paul to "join the team" during the apostle's second trip (Acts 16:3)—This team would consist of Silas, Paul, and Luke. Timothy may have been chosen to take John Mark's place. (See Acts 13:5.)
 - B. He was circumcised by Paul so that he might have freedom to preach the gospel in various Jewish synagogues (Acts 16:3; see also 1 Cor. 9:20).
 - C. Timothy was formally ordained by Paul and the presbytery (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).
 - D. He also accompanied Paul during the third missionary trip (Acts 19:22; 20:4; 2 Cor. 1:1, 9).
 - E. He became Paul's close companion during the apostle's first imprisonment (see Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; Philem. 1).
 - F. Paul's final request before his martyrdom in Rome was for Timothy to be at his side (2 Tim. 4:9, 21).
- III. Timothy, the pastor
 - A. His witnessing for Paul—At the apostle's request, Timothy performed a ministry in at least five New Testament churches. These were:
 1. The church at Thessalonica—"Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith . . . But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you" (1 Thess. 3:1-2, 6).
 2. The church at Corinth—"For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church . . . Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do. Let no man

- therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren" (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10-11).
3. The church at Philippi—"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel" (Phil. 2:19-22).
 4. The church at Berea (Acts 17:14)
 5. The church at Ephesus—"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:3).
- B. His writings from Paul—While at Ephesus, Timothy received two letters from Paul, 1 and 2 Timothy. In these epistles Paul exhorted and encouraged Timothy.
1. Stir up your gift—"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (1 Tim. 4:14-15).
 2. Be a good soldier—"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Tim. 6:12). "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).
 3. Watch your own life—"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16).
 4. Be gentle—"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:24-25).
 5. Be impartial—"I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (1 Tim. 5:21).
 6. Flee from sin—"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22).
 7. Denounce sin—"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20).
 8. Follow after righteousness—"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (1 Tim. 6:11).
 9. Bring others to Christ—"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Tim. 4:5).

10. Give priority to the Word of God.
 - a. Study it—“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - b. Continue in it—“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them” (2 Tim. 3:14).
 - c. Preach it—“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2).
 - d. Commit it to others—“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

STATISTICS

Mother: Eunice

First mention: Acts 16:1

Final mention: Hebrews 13:23

Meaning of his name: “Honored of God”

Frequency of his name: Referred to 24 times

Biblical books mentioning him: 12 books (Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Philemon, Hebrews)

Occupation: Missionary and pastor

Place of birth: Lystra

Important fact about his life: Paul addressed two New Testament epistles to him.