

Timothy

Timothy was a son of a mixed marriage; his mother, who evidently instructed him in the scriptures, was a Jewess [2 Timothy 1:5] and his father a Greek [Acts 16:1] and was a native of Lystra.

Timothy was highly esteemed by the Christian brethren in both Lystra and Iconium [Acts 16:2].

When Timothy became a Christian is not specified but it is reasonable to consider he was a convert of Paul's first missionary journey, which included Lystra in its itinerary, and that on that occasion Timothy witnessed Paul's sufferings, [2 Timothy 3:11].

By the time of Paul's second missionary journey through the area, Timothy's mother also was a Christian.

Paul although he had only recently replaced Barnabas by Silas as his travelling companion he added Timothy to his party, perhaps as a substitute for John Mark whom he refused to take, [Acts 16:1-5].

The choice of Timothy seems to have other reasons, for Paul later refers to prophetic utterances which confirmed Timothy's being set apart for the work, [1 Timothy 1:18; 1 Timothy 4:14]. Timothy had received this through the laying on of the hands of the elders and Paul, [2 Timothy 1:6].

To allay any needless opposition from the local Jews, Timothy was circumcised before setting out on his journeys, [Acts 16:3].

1 Thessalonians 3:2-5 [New King James] *“and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labour might be in vain.”*

Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage the persecuted Christians there.

Timothy was included with Paul's two letters to the Church at Thessalonica, [1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1].

Timothy was also present with Paul during his preaching work in Corinth, [2 Corinthians 1:19].

Timothy is next sent to Macedonia with Erastus by Paul [Acts 19:22].

From there Timothy was to proceed to Corinth [1 Corinthians 4:17].

Timothy was still young and had a timid and reserved nature, for Paul urges the Corinthians to set him at ease and not despise him, [1 Corinthians 16:10-11].

From the situation that resulted in Corinth, Timothy's mission was not totally successful, [see 2 Corinthians]. Paul did not give up on Timothy, as he continued to travel with Paul.

Timothy was with Paul when he visited the Jerusalem Christians with a collection for them, [Acts 20:4-5].

We next hear of Timothy when Paul was a prisoner and wrote his letters to Colossians [Colossians 1:1], Philemon [Philemon 1:1] and Philippians [Philippians 1:1].

In the letter to Philippians, Paul mentions he intends to send Timothy to them and warmly commends Timothy to them.

Philippians 2:19-22 [New King James] *“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.”*

When the apostle Paul was released from prison he left Timothy at Ephesus to deal with false teachers, supervise public worship and appoint church officials, [1 Timothy 1:3]. Also see the rest of this letter.

The second letter written to Timothy, he was urged to hasten to be with Paul, but whether Timothy arrived in Rome before his execution we do not know.

Later Timothy himself became a prisoner [Hebrews 13:23]. Of his subsequent life nothing definite is known.

The two letters written by Paul to Timothy have provided comfort and help to countless other “*Timothys*,” young servants of Jesus Christ who were looking for support, through many generations.

When you face a challenge in your Christian life that seems beyond your abilities, read these two letters sent by Paul to young Timothy and then remember that many others have shared your experience.

Lessons we can learn from the life of Timothy –

Youthfulness should **not** be an excuse for ineffectiveness.

Our study of the Word of God, the Christian Bible, to be most effective must be started at a very young age.

Our personal inadequacies and inabilities should not keep us from being available to our Creator God.

A genuine interest in the welfare of other people is the key to an effective Christian life, [**Philippians 2:19-21**].