

LESSON 11



TIMOTHY, A DEPENDABLE FOLLOWER

Scripture Texts: Acts 16:1-3; Philippians 2:19-24; 2 Timothy 2:1-13

In this lesson we study three important factors that contributed to the development of Timothy's life and success of his ministry. These factors are of such importance that we will deal with them separately.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."*

1 Timothy 4:12

Timothy Was Reared in a Godly Home

Timothy received a heritage of unfeigned faith from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). His early life was spent in an environment of devotion to God and attendance at the house of worship. This environment helped to stabilize his life during his younger years. The child who does not receive this kind of heritage from his parent is thrust upon the sea of life as a ship without a rudder.

Timothy Was Backed and Supported by His Home Church

The members of his congregation in Lystra were interested in him and gave him opportunity to develop his talents for God. They placed certain responsibilities upon him that developed his usefulness. Every young person who is sincere in his efforts should have this kind of backing from his home congregation. The members of the local church should seek out youthful talents and put them to work for God.

Timothy Was Coached in His Work By a Successful Minister

None other than the Apostle Paul discerned the value of this young man and asked him to accompany him on his missionary tours. By accepting this invitation, Timothy accepted an apprenticeship in the teaching and counsel of one of the wisest and best ministers ever known in the Church of God. He chose as his pattern one who was motivated by a genuine missionary zeal, who was an unexcelled scholar, and who was willing to give his life in defense of the church and its purposes. He did not pattern his ministry after some self-centered glory seeker.

If the Church of God is to continue its evangelistic outreach to future generations, then parents and church leaders must see to it that the young people are reared in an atmosphere that is conducive to their deciding to follow Christ and to use their talents to His glory. "Parents, who wish to train up their children in the way they should go, must go in the way in which they would have their children go" (Bacon). "Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain" (Locke).

There is a dearth within the church today of consecrated leaders. Let us all present a challenge to young people to answer the call of Christ to the ministry. There may be several Timothys in our congregations who await recognition, encouragement, and training.

There is no limit to what can be done if we do not care who gets the credit for what is done. How do you feel about it?

Just a Thought

**"A self-made man is usually a horrible
example of unskilled labor."**

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