

**Note:** Third missionary journey: AD 53/54 - 57/58

3. From the earlier studies this week, what qualities have you seen in Timothy which would help him to become accepted by the church? Would you be willing to listen to and respect such a servant of God? Why?

Pray for your church leaders. The ones you rate poorly are the very ones who need your prayers! And practical help won't come amiss!!

### **Weekend**

1. Put together a short biography on the life and times of Timothy. Useful references are: Acts 16-28; Romans 16:21; 1 and 2 Corinthians; Philippians; Colossians 1:1; 1 and 2 Thessalonians; Philemon 1:1; Hebrews 13:23. Find a Bible atlas and a dictionary or search online to trace his travels, provide a time-scale and produce a background.
2. Don't be surprised if the Holy Spirit teaches you a thing or two!!

### **Notes**



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### **Meeting With God Bible Reading Notes**

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### **Week 42: Timothy (A character study)**

Timothy's words go unrecorded in the Bible but he endears himself to those who meet him through the eyes of Luke and Paul in the book of Acts, and the letters. A gentle young man, he is timid in his approach to people, but faithful to his Lord and prepared to suffer the very real dangers of friendship and travel with Paul. He spent time in the jail at Rome because of his faithfulness.

### **Day 1. A recipe for a 'mixed-up' kid?**

#### **Acts 14:8-18; 16:1-5**

Timothy lived in Lystra, a Roman colony in a remote mountainous farming region of Galatia (in the south of modern Turkey). Jews also lived there, some having intermarried with the leading families as a way of climbing the social ladder. He probably became a Christian during Paul's stay at the town on the first missionary journey (Acts 14).

1. Timothy was surrounded by Jews, Romans and Greeks. As you read Acts 14:8-18, note down the differences in belief held by these peoples. How do we as Christians today respond to similar diverse religious views?
2. Timothy's Jewish mother had become a Christian but his father, a Greek, apparently retained the old religion as you will read in Acts 16:1-5. What kind of problems can such a situation bring about in family life?
3. Consider the importance of godly teaching and prayer on the part of parents and relations as illustrated by Timothy's experience - 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:14-15 - especially bearing in mind your answers to questions 1 and 2. Are there children and parents for whom you could be praying regularly?

## **Day 2. The young Christian - too young?**

### **1 Timothy 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:20-26**

In Old Testament times superior wisdom and authority were considered to be the characteristics of the aged, although Job, a middle-aged man, was revered by old and young alike (Job 29:8). However, Proverbs 16:31 shows that age alone doesn't warrant respect.

1. From Paul's advice to him in both these passages, what problems do you think Timothy was going to meet as a young man leading a church? Note down ways by which older Christians might have helped him.
2. 'Youthful passions' (RSV) or 'evil desires of youth' (NIV) in 2 Timothy 2:22 might have included a craving for pleasures, power and possessions beyond the reasonable needs of a young man (or woman). How was Timothy told to overcome them? Again how might other believers have helped a Christian such as Timothy?

Pray for those you know who are young in years yet in a position of authority - the Christian Union committee members, youth leaders, young missionaries, house group leaders.

## **Day 3. Too timid?**

### **1 Corinthians 16:10-11; 1 Timothy 5:23; 2 Timothy 1:3-7**

Timothy was not strong physically. He had been brought up in an isolated area, off the trade routes, and possibly had been protected by his mother and grandmother. This was no sophisticated tough guy itching to set out on an adventure.

1. Corinth was a rough sea-port, international in its population, crude in its ways. What does Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians suggest Timothy's reaction to such a place might be? Note them down.
2. What does Paul's advice in 2 Timothy 1:3-7 suggest as the way to overcome the timidity that most Christians feel, if not always, at least in some situations?
3. From 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 how might Paul's view of physical hardship and weakness have encouraged one such as Timothy?
4. It is easy to dismiss those who always seem anxious or timid. What can you learn from Paul's approach to Timothy which will help to shape our attitude to such people?

Why not accept 2 Timothy 2:1 as a personal challenge and ask the Lord to make you 'strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus' (NIV)?

## **Day 4. The faithful fellow worker**

### **1 Corinthians 4:14-17; Philippians 2:19-24; 2 Timothy 4:9-22**

Timothy's name 'pops' up everywhere after he sets off with Paul and Silas. We find him in Asia Minor, Greece and Rome. And the jobs Paul sends him to do might appear most unsuitable! Some people reckoned without God's strength.

1. As you read these verses in 1 Corinthians and Philippians, make a list of the qualities that Paul finds in Timothy. Are you now better able to understand the truth of 2 Corinthians 12:9a?
2. Why was Paul confident in sending Timothy to Corinth and Philippi? From what you have read so far, why might he be able to sort out the problems of doctrine and behaviour occurring in the churches?
3. Much is written and talked about the 'generation gap'. Paul and Timothy were years apart in age yet Paul longed for his company (2 Timothy 4:9-22). What do you think made them such great companions?

Examine your attitude to those older than yourself. In the light of what you have learnt, does it need changing? Pray for an open and teachable mind on this matter, a matter which can divide churches, and cause individuals great pain. If you are older than most in your church, do your attitudes to the young need to reflect more of Paul's concern for this young man?

## **Day 5. The faithful pastor**

### **1 Timothy 1:3-7, 18-20; 4; 2 Timothy 1:3-14; 4:1-5**

During Paul's third missionary journey, he and Timothy were in Ephesus. This was the great city dedicated to the worship of the goddess Diana. Timothy remained there as pastor after Paul left, despite his possible failure at Corinth.

1. The passages indicate that God had given Timothy special gifts required for the task. List some of the problems that he was going to have to resolve, despite his youth.
2. What practical advice and encouragement did Paul give to his young friend?