

Introduction

1. From the affectionate way Paul wrote of him, it would seem Timothy was his favorite disciple.

2. Timothy's father was a Greek, but his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois, were Jewesses (2Ti 1:5 compared with Acts 16:1).

2Ti 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Acts 16:1 He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.

3. It is generally accepted that Timothy was born in Lystra and well known in the Christian communities of Derbe and Iconium. Acts 16:1 compared with Acts 16:2



Acts 16:2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

4. Paul was so impressed with the young Timothy that he resolved to take him on his second missionary journey. It is supposed, Paul became aware of Timothy on his first missionary journey.



5. Timothy had excellent spiritual training under his mother and grandmother. "The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him." (Acts 16:1-2 compared with 2Ti 1:5 and 2Ti 3:14-15).

2Ti 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2Ti 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

2Ti 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

6. Strangely enough, he had never been circumcised, perhaps because his father was a Greek. We may assume that his father had little to do with his son's religious education. His father may have died when Timothy was very young.

7. There were certain prophetic indications that Timothy was destined for important service in the cause of Christ. (1Ti 1:18 compared with 1Ti 4:14)

1Ti 1:18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

1Ti 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message

when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

8. When Paul joined the local elders in laying hands on Timothy, he received the charismatic gift of teaching. This gift along with certain other gifts were designed to equip him for his ministry as an evangelist, teacher and delegated apostle. (2Ti 1:6 and 4:5).

2Ti 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2Ti 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

9. Before ordaining him, however, Paul circumcised him. The circumcision occurred because he was going to labor among the Jews.

Acts 16:3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

10. Normally, Paul held strongly that circumcision was unnecessary for the Christian and strenuously opposed the demands of Judaizers that Gentiles had to be circumcised.

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

11. Paul had Timothy submit to the rite so as not to arouse unnecessary prejudice among the many Jews to whom he would proclaim the gospel.

End Lesson Taught 5-31-09