



Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

Faithful And Faithless

II Timothy 1:13-18

Lesson Three

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Faithful and Faithless—II Timothy 1:13-18

Paul said in chapter one, verse twelve, that he had *entrusted* himself to God. In verse fourteen, he told Timothy to guard the “good deposit” that had been *entrusted* to him. It is the same word. It is a strong word. It describes a person, going on a long journey, who turns over the keys to his house to a friend who he trusts. He asks the person to check on the house daily...to feed the cat...to water the plants...to set the security system when he left to insure that there were no break-ins. The traveler does this because he completely trusts his friend.

Now, the friend could do at least one of two things. He could follow the instructions of the house owner, or ignore them. In the first case, when the owner returned, he would find the cat healthy and happy, the plants thriving and the house full of his treasured belongings. Or, in the second case, he would return to find the cat missing, the plants dead, and all his valuables gone.

Trust is a most important thing. Paul was absolutely sure that he could trust God to keep his life and soul safe. Now, Paul wants Timothy to be just as faithful (trustworthy) as God is. Paul knew that there were both kinds of people who claimed to be Christian. In our Scripture lesson for today, he names both. Read II Timothy 1:13-18.

Paul believed in Timothy. Paul had deposited in Timothy, “sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.” And, with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, Timothy was to guard that deposit. What a wonderful testimony. Paul trusted Timothy with his own testimony and with the teaching Paul had done in all those years with Timothy. As we have said, this letter is written many years after Paul met Timothy in Lystra, maybe as much as thirteen to fifteen years earlier. Since Timothy had spent many of those years with Paul, there were many years of teaching and observance of Paul’s example.

Now, Paul is facing death. As far as we can tell, Paul knew that it would not be long before he would be executed. He must trust his mission to others. And, Timothy is one of the most important disciples of Paul to carry on the work.

Then, in verse fifteen, Paul reminds Timothy that many who “signed up” with Paul for Christian ministry had turned away...“deserted me.” He even names two guys. Hermogenes (Her-mo’-gin-ees) and Phygelus (Fi-jel’-us) are singled out as deserters. We don’t know why Paul chose those two as examples of all those in the province of Asia who had turned their backs on Paul’s leadership. Maybe they had been strong leaders, but now they were faithless.

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For leaders of any kind, faithlessness is negative and disappointing. That is true in leadership of any group. But, it is especially true of Christian leaders. Christian leaders must depend on faithful followers of Christ to do the work of God's Kingdom. And it is especially depressing when people are unfaithful to Christian leadership, but especially to God's leadership.

What had happened in Asia we don't know. What we might assume is that some of these leaders went back to some of their Jewish roots and began leading the churches to tell people that they had to become Jews before they became Christians. (Judaizers) Paul had attacked that kind of leader pretty harshly in other letters.

But Paul doesn't linger on the negative. He moves right along to praise for Onesiphorus. (Oness-e-fore'-us) Paul prays that God will be merciful (good and kind) to the family of this man. He said that Onesiphorus searched for him up in Rome, intentionally, until he found Paul.

This was a man who had been in the church in Ephesus. That is the church of which Timothy was pastor for several years. Onesiphorus must have been a strong leader in the church along with Timothy. He was, obviously, a hard worker.

Then, Onesiphorus went to Rome, searched that large city until he found Paul, and ministered to him while Paul was in prison. Paul mentions that Onesiphorus was "not ashamed of my chains." This man just wanted to be a servant to God and to Paul and it didn't make him a bit of difference that he was helping a "jailbird."

All of us should follow the faithful example of Timothy and Onesiphorus. And we should get far away from the faithless example of Hermogenes and Phygelus.

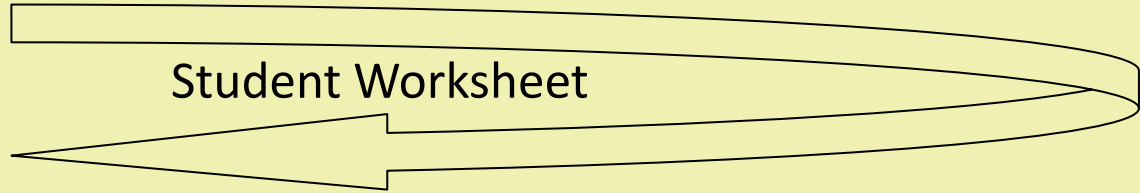
*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: "What you have heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching with faith and love in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 1:13

Lesson Goal: To help students know the difference between faithful service to God and faithlessness which hurts us and others.

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-What had Paul “deposited” with Timothy?

-How many years do we assume passed from the time Paul met Timothy and the time he wrote the letter called II Timothy?

-What were the names of the two guys who deserted Paul”

-It is especially depressing when people are _____ to Christian leadership, but especially to _____’ leadership.

-What did Paul pray for the family of Onesiphorus?

-Onesiphorus went to Rome, searched that large city until he found _____, and ministered to him while Paul was in _____.

-All of us should follow the _____ example of Timothy and Onesiphorus.

Scripture Memory: “What you have heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching with faith and love in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 1:13

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.