

“What time is it?”

By Verta Giddings

Lesson 3 – “Time to be Responsible”

Ephesians 5:16 – “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

The Life of Timothy:

We are now studying in the New Testament. The apostle Paul found Timothy on his second missionary journey. As he was going over some territory of his first trip, Paul came to the cities of Derbe and Lystra. There is where he came in contact with a young man who had a **good testimony** – Acts 16:1-2.

When Paul was in that area on his first missionary trip he had preached and people had believed on Jesus. It must have been then that Timothy’s grandmother and mother were saved. For we read in II Timothy 1:5 that faith in the Lord lived in these ladies before it lived in Timothy.

II Timothy 3:14-15 tell us that Timothy was taught the Word of God when he was a child. This made him **wise** unto salvation through **faith** in Christ Jesus.

By the time Paul returned to that area, Timothy was ready to start working with Paul. He had a **good name**. People could **trust** him.

To go with Paul and preach in different places, was a **great responsibility**. Before he started out with Paul and Silas, he must have known about the dangers and hardships ahead of him. Remember Paul had been stoned and left for dead at Lystra. Still Timothy was **willing** to go.

Timothy traveled with Paul and Silas to many places. They crossed over into Europe. Timothy worked right with them and learned the Word of God through them. He also learned the way to minister to people, and how his daily life had to count for the Lord – II Timothy 3:10-12.

Sometimes Timothy was sent to minister all by himself – I Thessalonians 3:1-2; I Corinthians 4:17; and I Timothy 1:3.

Later on when Timothy was not right with Paul, he received a wonderful letter from him which is called the book of I Timothy. Timothy was still young and needed encouragement.

Paul told Timothy a lot about how to take care of a church, and about ordaining leaders. He told Timothy **not to let anyone despise his youth** and to

be an example in many ways. He said Timothy should give attention to the Word of God by reading, exhortation, doctrine (teaching). He should meditate on these things and others would be helped. Then, too, he was not to neglect the gift God had given him, which was likely preaching – I Timothy 4:12-16.

Still later, Paul was in prison in Rome for preaching about Jesus. Again he wrote a letter to Timothy, which is the book of II Timothy. Paul urged Timothy to **stir up** the gift God had given him, which must be the gift of the Holy Spirit. This would have encouraged Timothy to keep on even when Paul was in prison.

Timothy didn't need to be afraid, for God had given him the spirit of **power**, of **love**, and of a **sound mind** – II Timothy 1:7.

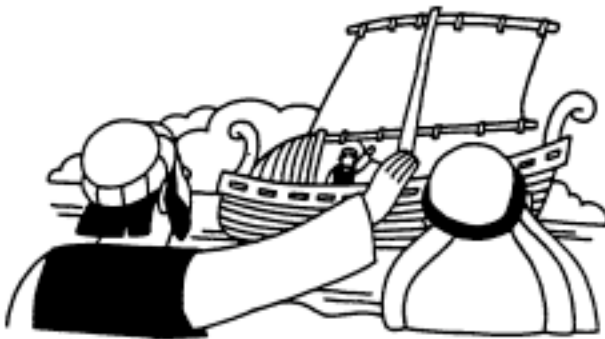
Paul was not ashamed that he was in prison for Jesus' sake. Timothy need not be ashamed either. In the letter Paul said, "Timothy **keep on**, don't back down now."

Then in II Timothy 4:2, he told Timothy, "**Preach the Word**, no matter what." Paul gave to him what was perhaps his last words before his death. They are good for us to think about, also. They are found in II Timothy 4:6-8.

We believe Timothy did go on in the Lord's work. He was not a quitter. He proved to be responsible while he was **young**. Time and trouble did not change this.

We read in the book of Lamentations, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his **youth**"—Lam. 3:27. Are you willing to allow the Lord to use you, while you are young, and all the rest of your life?

Maybe you have not been taught the Word of God from your youth like Timothy was. The Lord will save you no matter what has already been in your life. **Believe in the Lord and be saved.** Jesus loves you and wants you to come to Him. There is no better time than right now.



Timothy's Missionary Work Acts 16:1-4

Questions on Lesson 3

Scrambled Answers are found at the end of the questions.

1. What do we learn first of all about young Timothy? Acts 16:2.

2. Who in his family had faith in the Lord before Timothy did? II Timothy 1:5.

3. When was Timothy taught the Word of God, the holy Scriptures? II Timothy 3:15.

4. Into what did this make him wise? II Tim. 3:15.

5. As Timothy traveled with Paul in missionary work, what things did he learn from him? II Tim. 3:10. _____

6. Paul sent to or left Timothy in different places to minister. What wonderful names did he call Timothy, showing he could be trusted?

I Thess. 3:2. _____

7. What did Paul say of him in I Corinthians 4:17?

8. Even though he was still young, in what ways could Timothy be an example of the believer?

I Tim. 4:12. _____

9. To what must Timothy give attendance?

I Tim. 4:13 _____

10. What did Paul tell Timothy not to neglect?

I Tim. 4:14. _____

11. If he did all of this, to whom would his profiting (the help he received) appear?
I Tim. 4:15. _____

12. What did Paul urge Timothy in a letter to stir up? II Tim. 1:6. _____

13. Timothy may have been afraid, since Paul was in prison for preaching about Jesus. What did Paul say God has NOT given?
II Tim. 1:7. _____

14. What, though, HAS God given, so Timothy, as we, too, need not be ashamed of afraid?
II Tim. 1:7. _____

15. Then of what did Timothy not need to be Ashamed? II Tim. 1:8 _____

16. What did Paul tell Timothy to keep on doing?
II Tim. 4:2. _____

17. What things did Paul tell Timothy to do, in this last letter which he received from the Apostle Paul? II Tim. 4:5. _____

18. When should a young person learn to do the Lord's work, learning to bear the yoke?

Lam.3:27. _____

19. Will you let the Lord start using you in His work while you are young like Timothy was?

(Give your answer.) _____

The Answers are scrambled here. Put the right answers to the questions.

- * Of the testimony of the Lord, nor of Paul the Lord's prisoner.
- * The gift given him when Paul laid hands on him.
- * Timothy's grandmother and mother.
- * Beloved son, faithful in the Lord.
- * He was well reported of.
- * Brother, minister of God, fellow-laborer in the gospel.
- * Watch in all things, do work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- * Spirit of fear.
- * The gift that is in thee.
- * Spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- * Unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- * In word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, purity.
- * Preach the Word.
- * To all.
- * From a child.
- * Reading, exhortation, doctrine.
- * Paul's doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.
- * In his youth.

