

# 1. Timothy the Gospel Messenger

- a. Hope: expectant desire
  - i. Paul *intends* to send Timothy
  - ii. He *desires* to send him for their good and for his own peace
  - iii. They can expect his arrival as one who is genuinely concerned for their welfare and strong in the gospel help that they need
- b. Timothy
  - i. Young man from Lystra with a great reputation (Acts 16:2)
    - 1) Lystra was where Paul and Barnabas were treated like gods, then stoned when unbelieving Jews came from Antioch (Acts 14)
    - 2) Paul returned to Lystra right after his stoning in order to “strengthen the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)
    - 3) Timothy most likely observed this persecution and Paul’s perseverant faith personally (2 Tim 3:10-11)
  - ii. Raised in a “mixed home”
    - 1) Mother was Jewish believer, Father was Greek (Acts 16:1-3)
    - 2) Grandmother, Lois, taught Timothy well in the Scriptures from childhood and exhibited genuine faith to Timothy (2 Tim 1:5; 3:15)
  - iii. teacher and evangelist (Acts 16:4-5; 2 Tim 4:1-5)
  - iv. a close compatriot of Paul
    - 1) Paul calls him “my beloved and faithful child in the Lord” (1 Cor 4:17) and “my beloved son” (2 Tim 1:2)
    - 2) It is Timothy that Paul requests to bring his coat and “above all” his books (parchments) (2 Tim 4:13) when he believes that he is finally going to die
    - 3) Paul sent Timothy with messages and missions often
      - a. Athens to Thessalonica (1 Th 3:1-5)
      - b. Ephesus to Corinth (1 Cor 4:17; 16:10,11)
      - c. Macedonia to Ephesus with Erastus (Acts 19:22)
    - 4) Most likely Timothy is visiting Paul in Rome and will be sent out again to minister to the church in Philippi
  - v. Appointed by Paul as an elder at Ephesus
  - vi. gifted in the Word and younger than normal
    - 1) 1 Tim 4:12-14
    - 2) Acts 16:2
- c. I will send
  - i. Gospel messengers are humble, but carry an authoritative message
  - ii. Tim is coming with Paul's authority as an apostle
    - 1) He comes on behalf of Paul, who cannot come, yet
    - 2) Shows Paul's desire to care for the Philippians
- d. soon
  - i. encouragement to the Philippians
  - ii. He senses the urgency of the need
  - iii. But he also needs Timothy with him for a little longer, so he sends Epaphroditus now and Timothy will arrive later

- e. “in the Lord Jesus”
  - i. This is the sphere in which all hope springs from Paul: everything is in the Lord
    - 1) All instruction, desires, purposes, encouragement comes in the Lord Jesus
    - 2) Jesus is the preeminent wellspring of life for Paul from which all flows in blessings of the Spirit and returns to in praise and worship
  - ii. See “trust in the Lord” in v24, “receive him in the Lord” v29, “rejoice in the Lord” in 3:1, “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1), “agree in the Lord” (4:2)

Jesus Christ is your life, and as such He must be your strength, your wisdom, your ultimate resource from which you are to draw continuously, and upon whom you must continuously depend.

~Charles Price

## 2. Gospel Messengers Expect to See the Spirit’s Handiwork in the Church

- a. Paul sends Timothy so that he might hear of the Philippians and rejoice at the news
- b. Great expectation of praiseworthy news!!
  - i. How often do I expect great news?
  - ii. How am revealing the greatness of God in the Lord Jesus to the brokenhearted and weary? Am I revealing the gospel joy to those who are struggling?
- c. Paul gives the Philippians encouragement that he is for them, and that he is not looking to be micromanaging them, but is looking for their praiseworthy goodness.
  - i. If the Lord is present within believers by His Spirit, then there will always be something praiseworthy produced.

Let me urge upon you the importance of cultivating faith if you are to be able to walk in love and spiritual power. Without faith it is impossible to please God, but those who believe are given more grace than they can handle. Believing is to expect God to be with you and change you and change others. Therefore, expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.

~C.J. Miller

- ii. There will be need for growth in trust and obedience (see Philippians), but there is always the expectation of something praiseworthy
- iii. Paul expects his letter to have a positive effect: for the Philippians to heed his counsel and grow in humility before Timothy arrives
  - 1) How do we accept the instruction of the Holy Spirit through the Word?
  - 2) Resistance or Reception?

The church needs people who, in listening to their pastor, listen for the message of Christ, and pastors who, in laboring among the people, look for the image of Christ. Only when pastor and people thus keep their eyes on Christ will their mutual relations keep healthy, profitable and pleasing to almighty God.

~John Stott

## 3. Gospel Messengers Genuinely Seek the Welfare of the Church

- a. Paul states that he has nobody like Timothy

- b. "kindred spirit" with Paul, or "like-minded" "feel the same"
  - i. Paul and Timothy both desired the glory of Christ and saw the gospel as the power of God
  - ii. Both Paul and Timothy have given their livelihood for the sake of the gospel and the well-being of the churches of Jesus
  - iii. 1 Cor 16:10 – “he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am”
  - iv. Paul includes Timothy as the preacher of the gospel in Corinth, right alongside of himself (2 Cor 1:19)
- c. genuinely concerned for your welfare
  - i. Timothy was there in Philippi when the gospel was first preached the church was first planted (Acts 16)
  - ii. He probably had a great desire for them because of this initial participation in the gospel with them
  - iii. They most likely had a great desire for him, too, because of this
- d. This concern for them is that they know, understand, believe, and live in line with the gospel of Christ from a heart that desires Christ above all else
  - i. All Christ-centered teachers know that the goal is heart-impassioned supreme love for Jesus

Disciple-making teachers do not merely present rules. They are fundamentally after a change of people's hearts. They are out to create people who, as Augustine explained, “love God, love others, and do whatever they want.” They are out to create people who pray because they want to, who read the Bible when they feel like it and feel like it quite often, who serve as much as they want to and want to quite a bit. Disciple-making teachers seek to create people who do all of this, not out of law or obligation, but out of their heart's desire.

~Josh Hunt, *Disciple-Making Teacher*

#### 4. Gospel Messengers Seek After the Interests of Jesus Christ More Than Themselves

- a. Everyone else is seeking themselves, not Jesus
  - i. strong statement of reprimand concerning other leaders in Rome
  - ii. not just that they're busy, but that they're not seeking Jesus the Christ
    - 1) This is in direct opposition to Christ (2:5-11)
    - 2) Timothy, however, exemplifies 2:3-4
- b. shows Paul's previously mentioned condition of being alone in Rome with nobody caring for him in prison, either
  - i. This statement wouldn't fly in today's Christian society: it's too judgmental
    - 1) What does this tell us about ourselves? Priorities?
    - 2) How about Paul's?
  - ii. The facts showed that those in Rome were overly concerned about their own welfare and not the desires of Christ nor of the welfare of the Church
  - iii. Paul called them on it by honoring Timothy for his proven worth as a minister of the gospel and a lover of Christ's church
- c. The source and center of all Christian ministry must be the supreme worship of Jesus and His messengers seek Him above everything else
  - i. This is how Paul could die well (and Timothy would be imprisoned soon as well)  
As the biography of Cain shows, when humanity fails at the altar, it fails in the field. (Waltke)

- ii. Messengers who are not grounded in deep faith in Jesus and controlled by the supreme worship of the heart toward Him will show evidence of it by not seeking His interests or of seeking the welfare of His Bride

## 5. Gospel Messengers Prove Their Worth by Furthering the Gospel Wholeheartedly

- a. Paul sends Timothy in his place often, showing that he trusted him with the message and with the leadership to halt disagreements and instruct according to the gospel
  - i. 1 Thess 3:1-3
  - ii. 1 Cor 4:17
  - iii. Acts 19:22
- b. As a child to a father with Paul
  - i. Lovingly
  - ii. Humbly
  - iii. Faithfully
  - iv. Trusting
- c. High praise of Timothy's truest and deepest purpose: the gospel of Jesus
  - i. There is no finer point of praiseworthiness than a life lived worthy of and contending for Jesus Christ
  - ii. Timothy even seems to be imprisoned later (Hebrews 13:23), presumably for the sake of the gospel, just like Paul is here
- d. Because of Tim's proven worth as a minister of the gospel, Paul hopes to send him soon with news of Paul's future
  - i. And Paul hopes to come quickly to visit as well

### Conclusion:

Brothers and sisters, if you and I want to be Gospel Messengers, who seek after the interests of Christ and work heartily for the well-being of His Bride, then we must do all within our power to know Christ and Him crucified. Paul instructed Timothy to "continue in what you have learned and firmly believed" and to "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead", "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" and "follow the pattern of sound words that you've heard from me, in the faith and the love that are in Christ Jesus."

Gazing into the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ is what transforms us into the image of the One who died to redeem His Bride and sits enthroned over all powers and authorities. So, let us gaze into the wonders of the holy God who left His throne out of such amazing grace, to take upon himself our failing flesh of dirt, to die a criminal's shameful death and bear the holy wrath of God in our place. Let us gaze upon this One who gave freely for you and for me, was raised up from the dead to justify us as children of God and now has been given authority over all creation. Imbibe on His person, passionately pursue His story until you grasp it deep within your soul and His deep, deep love for you explodes in the deepest love for Him in return. Shake off the tendrils of the world's promises and by the power of the Holy Spirit set your face like flint into the maelstrom of disdain that the world will charge into you. Let us repent of trusting in our own goodness, and come again to receive the righteousness of Christ by faith alone, that He may receive all the glory in the Church today and forever.

When we believe these things deep within our souls, then our lives are swept up with great risk-taking endeavors for the interests of Jesus Christ. Great risks that involve loving others, pouring ourselves out for their faith, and seeing the Holy Spirit sweep through this city bringing many sons to glory through repentance and faith in Jesus. And we will rejoice!