

18/04/10 (pm) - Series on Philippians - Sermon 20

Timothy: A Model Christian

Philippians 2:19-24

***Theme:** Timothy is an example in reputation, attitude and behaviour of what a Christian should be.*

Who Was Timothy?

- Probably from Lystra.
- His mother and grandmother were Jewish believers.
- His father was Greek.
- Probably became a Christian through Paul's preaching.

- Paul chose him as a companion and co-worker (*cf.* Acts 16:3).
- Paul had Timothy, a half-Jew, circumcised.
- Timothy accompanied Paul on his 2nd and 3rd journeys.

- Timothy remained faithful to Paul until the end of Paul's life, *cf.* 2 Tim. 4:9.
- Timothy was imprisoned himself, *cf.* Heb. 13:23.

Timothy's Example in Reputation, Attitude & Behaviour (2:19b-24)

In elaborating why he desires to send Timothy to the Philippian Christians Paul says five things about him:

1. Timothy was a trusted servant (2:19). He was Paul's messenger to some churches: Thessalonica, Corinth, Philippi.

Timothy is the patron saint of all those who are quite content with second place, so long as they can serve.

(Barclay)

Do we have such a reputation?

Are we content to serve?

Cf. John. 13:12-17.

Principle: *Christians must be trustworthy servants.*

2. Timothy was genuinely concerned about others' welfare (2:20b).

Principle: Christians will show their devotion to Jesus by being genuinely concerned about the welfare of others—Christians and unbelievers.

3. Timothy lived for Jesus Christ (2:21). For Timothy, as for Paul, to live was Christ.

Principle: *Christians must be primarily concerned about the interests of Jesus Christ.*

*'I have only one passion. It is He,
none but He.'*

(Count Nikolas von Zinzendorf)

Can we say the same?

4. Timothy had proven character (2:22). Paul saw proof of Timothy's profession in his life. Paul could say what he said because he judged Timothy's life.

Principle: *Christians must prove their Christian character by how they live their lives.*

5. Timothy was unique (2:20a, 21). This is a sad observation. Why? Paul was contrasting some Christians in Rome (*cf.* 1:15, 17) and some in Philippi (*cf.* 2:3-4) with Timothy. They were not as spiritual, as faithful, as trustworthy, as Christ-like as Timothy.

Is this not what we see today?

Many Christians put themselves
first and Jesus next.

Are the Christians you know like
Timothy?

Do others see **you** like Timothy?

**Principle: *Some Christians live
as they should but sadly some
do not.***

Conclusion

- The Example of Jesus

Timothy was a living example of what Paul had just been teaching.

He was a model Christian because he modelled himself on Jesus.

If we follow his example we will be following the example of Christ.