

Mother's Day 2022

2 Timothy 1:3-10

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we celebrate Mother's Day. As I have said each year that Mother's Day and Father's Day are holidays that not all experience the same way. For some these holidays recall warm, beautiful memories, and for others a nightmare that just won't go away.

This morning I want us to look at the important role of motherhood and the example to follow from Scripture in how to be a good mother. The example is Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois.

2 Timothy 1:3-10

³ Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. ⁹ For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹

Sally Clarkson

“No calling is greater, nobler, or more fulfilling than that of motherhood.”

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (2 Ti 1:3–10). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Who is Timothy?

Acts 16:1-5

Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium,³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek.⁴ Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.⁵ So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.²

Timothy, Timotheus (Person). Paul's convert and companion, whose name means "one who honors God." His name is often spelled Timotheus in the KJV.

Timothy first appears in Acts 16:1–3 as Paul's disciple whose mother "was a believer; but his father was a Greek" (v 1). He was a third-generation Christian after his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois (2 Tm 1:5). The apostle Paul, undoubtedly Timothy's spiritual father, refers to him as "my true child in the faith" (1 Tm 1:2); he perhaps converted Timothy on his first or second missionary journey. The son of a Greek (or gentile) father, Timothy was yet uncircumcised; however, when Paul decided to take Timothy with him on the second journey, he had him circumcised, so as not to hinder their missionary endeavors among the Jews.

Timothy, who was "well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium" (Acts 16:2), became Paul's companion and assistant on his second missionary journey at Lystra.

He traveled with Paul into Europe following the Macedonian vision. When Paul decided to go to Athens, he left Silas and Timothy at Beroea to better establish the church there (Acts 17:14). Timothy and Silas eventually joined Paul in Corinth (18:5). He next appears with Paul in Ephesus on his third journey (19:22), from where Paul sends Erastus and him into Macedonia ahead of himself. In the last mention of Timothy in Acts 20:4, he was included in the list of goodwill ambassadors who were to accompany Paul to Jerusalem with the offering for the Christian Jews.

Timothy is often mentioned in the Pauline letters. His name is included in the introductory salutations of 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon. Timothy's presence with Paul when he wrote these

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 16:1–5). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

letters confirms the accuracy of the references to him in Acts. He was in Corinth on the second journey when Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians, at Ephesus on the third journey when Paul wrote 2 Corinthians, and in Rome during Paul's first Roman imprisonment, when he wrote Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. He is mentioned in the introductions of 1 and 2 Timothy as the recipient of those two pastoral letters.

In the closing salutations of Romans 16:21, Timothy is listed along with others who send their good wishes to the believers in Rome. In 1 Corinthians 4:17 and 16:10, Paul speaks words of praise for Timothy as he sends him with a message to Corinth (see also Phil 2:19–23; 1 Thes 3:2–6). In 2 Corinthians 1:19 Timothy is named along with Paul and Silas as men who were telling about Jesus Christ.

In Hebrews 13:23 the author (Pauline authorship uncertain) tells his readers that Timothy has been released from prison, and hopes to come with Timothy to visit the readers of that letter.

Paul put Timothy in charge of the church at Ephesus and wrote him two pastoral letters addressed with his name to help him perform that responsible task.³

I. A Legacy of Faith

Proverbs 13:22

Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren...

C.S. Lewis

“Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.”

II. A Living Faith

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.⁴

³ Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Timothy, Timotheus \(Person\)](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, pp. 2069–2070). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Heb 4:12). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

III. A Learning Faith

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵ You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. ⁵

CONCLUSION:

Andy Stanley

Your greatest contribution to the kingdom of God might not be something you do, but someone you raise

Elizabeth Hawn

“Mothering is the gospel lived out as you hold your child’s heart in beauty, prayer, and patience. It’s not the big decision, but the little ones, trusting God through it all.”

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](#) (2 Ti 3:14–17). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.