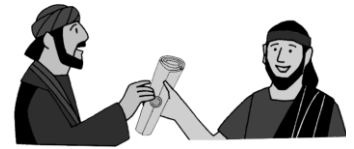


THE CHRISTIAN LEADER



1. His Charge

(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)

Introduction to this series

Timothy came from Lystra in the region of Galatia, and this was where Paul met him on his first missionary journey. Acts 16:1-5. Paul saw that he loved the Lord, knew the Scriptures, was enthusiastic and well-spoken of - a young man whom he could teach and train to become a Christian leader.

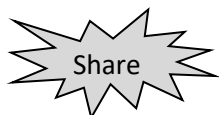
However Timothy was no different to many of us! "I can't do it." That is how Timothy felt – inadequate and too young for the job that God had called him to do. Is that how you feel? The task of being a leader in your Christian group or Church seems challenging. We can be like Timothy, who learnt from those more mature in the Christian faith. So these two letters, written by his spiritual father, are relevant to us as they give instruction on the sort of person a Christian leader should be, what he is to teach, and how he is to train others. Let's begin by looking at the charge or commission that Paul gives to Timothy.

Introduction to this study

Paul had been 'entrusted' with the gospel. See 1 Timothy 1:11. This word 'entrust' means to deposit something in a bank for safe keeping. God had entrusted Paul with the gospel to pass it on safely. His testimony to Timothy is an encouragement to the younger man, but Paul goes on and says, "This charge I commit to you." Now Timothy is entrusted with the gospel and the responsibility to pass it onto others. God is also putting His trust in you to pass on the Christian faith.

1. Paul's Testimony 1 Timothy 1:12-17

- ✧ What was Paul's attitude to Christ before he became a Christian? V13
- ✧ Paul did not deserve to be chosen, yet God had appointed him for service. Why? V12, 13, 14, 16
- ✧ We are often very critical of other Christians, especially the leaders, expecting them to be perfect. How can v16 help us to look at one another in a different light?
- ✧ Sometimes we pretend to have no problems as this would make us appear 'unspiritual'. According to v16, how can an honest testimony help others?
- ✧ Why do you think Paul adds v17 to his testimony?



Share together how Paul's testimony has encouraged you.

2. Paul's Charge to Timothy 1 Timothy 1:3-11, 18-20

Paul testifies how he had been appointed to service. Now he passes this responsibility onto Timothy, "This charge I commit to you." The charge was to teach the truth and live a godly life.

- ✧ Timothy was facing many in the Church who had swerved from the Truth. How is he to deal with this problem in a positive and negative way? V3-7
- ✧ Sound doctrine will lead to changes in lives. What is to be Timothy's motive in all his teaching? V5. What qualities are important in the lives of those who follow and teach the Truth? V4, 5, 19
- ✧ Paul reminds Timothy to wage the good warfare. What are the two areas in our lives where we need to protect ourselves from attack? V18-20



Discuss why it is important that true teaching and godly living go hand in hand.

Conclusion

Whether you have been chosen as a leader of a small group, or a large congregation, you have been entrusted with the same gospel as Timothy. It is not always easy to be a leader! Let's learn from the instructions Paul gave to Timothy. We too should have a sincere faith, a pure heart, and be motivated by love.