

Leaving a Legacy

Introduction: “What Will I Leave Behind?”

- I. A Legacy of Education (2 Timothy 1:3-5)
 - A. We are introduced to Timothy in Acts 16:1-2.
 - 1. He was a disciple – meaning, a Christian.
 - 2. He was “well reported of” – meaning, given an honorable testimony.
 - B. Paul declared that Timothy possessed a sincere, genuine faith.
 - C. How had Timothy received such a legacy of true faith and noble character?
 - 1. It first dwelt in his mother and grandmother.
 - 2. His faith and morality had been handed down from his family.
 - 3. However, these things are not passed along by physical birth.
 - D. His mother and grandmother taught him the truth of God’s Word.
 - 1. Romans 10:17 – Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Timothy 3:15
 - 3. Consider that Timothy’s mother was a Jew who became a Christian.
 - 4. What an example of true, humble faith!
 - E. In a world of terrible influences, Timothy was given a legacy of education.
 - F. What legacy will I leave behind?

- II. A Legacy of Encouragement (2 Timothy 1:1-2)
 - A. Timothy’s father was not a Jew nor a Christian; he was a Gentile (Acts 16:1).
 - 1. This does not mean that he was a bad father.
 - 2. However, he could not give his son the proper guidance and encouragement he needed to live the Christian life.
 - B. Yet, Timothy found a spiritual father in Paul.
 - 1. Paul calls Timothy “my own son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2).
 - 2. He calls him “my dearly beloved son” (2 Timothy 1:2).
 - 3. Timothy had “fully known” Paul’s character and way of life (2 Tim. 3:10-11).
 - 4. Paul had no one “likeminded” as Timothy (Philippians 2:19-22).
 - C. As Christians, we have a responsibility to edify and encourage the next spiritual generation.
 - 1. Titus 2:1-2, 6 – Men are to set an example and teach the younger.
 - 2. Titus 2:3-5 – Women are to set an example and teach the younger.
 - 3. 1 John 2:12-14
 - D. We live in a world with a desperate need for mothers and fathers, mentors and guides.
 - 1. Remember the legacy given to us – those who taught and encouraged.
 - 2. Pass that legacy on to others – teach and encourage!
 - E. In a world of persecution and discouragement, Timothy was given a legacy of encouragement.
 - F. What legacy will I leave behind?

- III. A Legacy of Evangelism (2 Timothy 2:1-3)
 - A. The legacy received by Timothy was a great blessing and benefit to his life and faith.
 - B. However, it was not to be kept to himself alone!
 - C. Timothy was commanded to do for others what Paul had done for him.
 - D. If we want to help our world become a better place, we must evangelize.
 - E. In a world of selfishness and apathy, Timothy was given a legacy of evangelism.

Conclusion: *What will I leave behind?*