

Recap of 1/14/18 (1 Timothy Introduction)

1. Timothy, the recipient of the Book of 1 Timothy, was a Christian worker of unusual character. As described by Harry Foster, Timothy was “recklessly unselfish.” Paul, in Philippians 2:19-22, characterized Timothy as one who uniquely looked out for the interests of others because he cared for the interests of Jesus Christ in them. He always put others first. In Foster’s words: “Not for him the self-preoccupation and self-interest which marred the service of so many of Paul’s fellow-workers: he was genuine in his self-forgetfulness. A man who has nothing to lose always has a big advantage over those who suffer from the tensions set up by personal considerations.”

2. Timothy’s mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, taught him the Scripture from infancy. This godly heritage prepared him to respond to the gospel. “As parents we have no idea of the amount of influence we have in shaping our children’s spiritual destinies. Family prayer times, spontaneous conversations about God during life’s everyday moments, and reading our children Bible stories contribute to a spiritual foundation that can withstand the storms of life. The great gift a parent can give is an authentic and attractive faith.” (365 Life Lessons from Bible People)

3. Timothy was Paul’s protégé. He worked beside Paul on numerous occasions, Paul sent him on special missions as his representative several times. In six of Paul’s letters Timothy is mentioned in the salutation. Finally, Paul wanted Timothy with him in those final days before his martyrdom. As to his temperament, Timothy was reserved, even timid (2 Timothy 1:4-7). In response, Paul urged him to exercise his spiritual gifts and to carry out the duties entrusted to him.