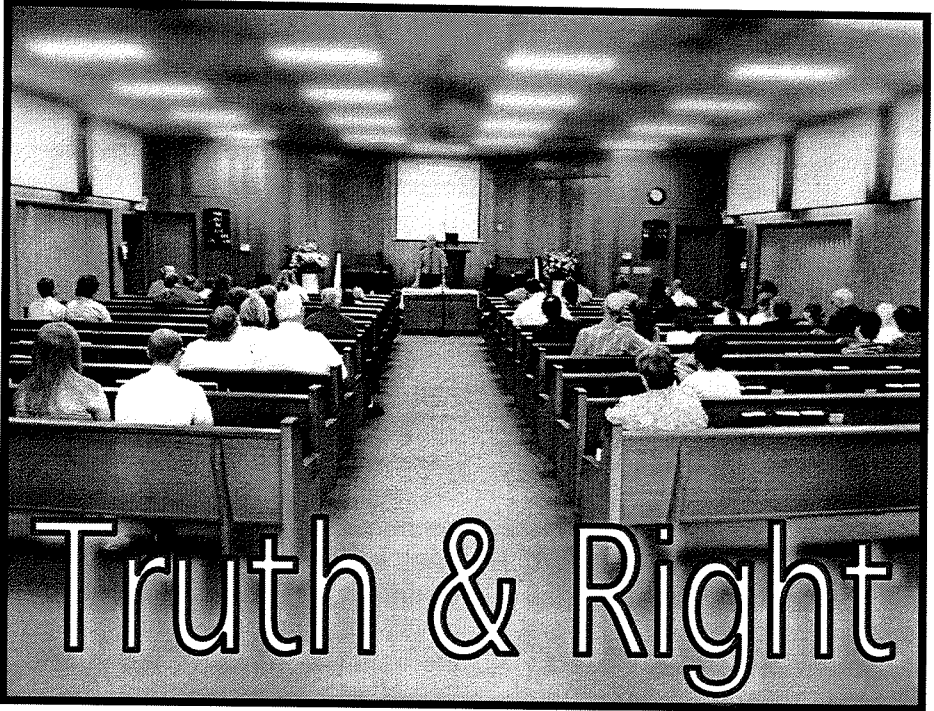


*In search of...*



# Truth & Right

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## Paul and Timothy

Picture it: the apostle Paul is on his second missionary journey, not with Barnabas as before, but with Silas. They come to the city of Lystra and visit with the disciples there. About five or six years prior to this is when Paul had first been to Lystra and established the congregation of believers there. If you recall, at that time, he had also been stoned and left for dead. So it's difficult to say exactly what he must have been feeling coming back, but one thing is for certain, that he greatly

desired to see the brethren there and check on their progress. One last item of note: those years earlier, we are told, Paul had appointed elders (Acts 14:23). The church there had everything they needed to grow & be strong in the Lord.

Now, Paul returns and finds that not only is the church holding its own and spreading the gospel, but it has grown. In particular there is a young man named Timothy whose mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, were

Jewish, but his father was Greek. We are told that his mother was a believer, but that is all; therefore, sadly, we draw the conclusion that his father was not a Christian. Yet despite his family not being all agreed, he was already a disciple when we first read of him, which is especially remarkable given that he could not have been much older than eighteen. At the very least most scholars agree that Timothy was not older than twenty.

Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and to make sure not to offend anyone, had Timothy circumcised before they left (Acts 16:3). Directly following this is when Paul received the "Macedonian call" and they went into Europe to preach the gospel. During this time, not only was Timothy learning more about the gospel, and growing bold in preaching & teaching, but he was also growing close to Paul. Their relationship, as evidenced by several passages, was like that of a parent and a child; "That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church." (1 Cor. 4:17), "But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel." (Phil. 2:22), "Paul, an apostle of

Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." (1 Tim. 1:1-2)

We know that after the tumultuous time in Thessalonica and then in Berea, Paul was sent off to Athens, but he instructed Timothy and Silas to remain in Berea, and then to return to the Thessalonians, because of the concern for the church there. They later came to meet Paul in Corinth; Paul's second missionary journey ends shortly thereafter. Later, while in Ephesus (remember that Paul spent three years in Ephesus), Paul sent Timothy to Macedonia (Acts 19:22) From there Timothy was sent to Corinth (1 Cor. 4:17).

After this point some of the details are lost to us. We know that Timothy accompanied Paul more in his travels, and that ultimately he went with Paul to Rome as evidenced by the writings of Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon and Philippians, all of which were written during his imprisonment. Being willing to go with him even though Paul was a prisoner of the Roman Empire just goes to show the brotherly love Timothy had for this older man in the faith.

The apostle left Timothy with a number of important instructions: to guard against false teaching (1 Tim. 1:3-4), what qualities an elder must have (1 Tim. 3:2-7), that Scripture comes from God (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and to make sure he did the work of an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5), among others. Paul was a seasoned veteran of the gospel, an older man who saw not only intelligence & capability in Timothy, but also a legacy of sorts. Is it any wonder that the last words Paul is recorded as written were in his second letter to Timothy?

One of the most well-known things that Paul said to Timothy is "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 4:12) What an encouragement that even those who are young physically and young in the faith can serve as a good example to brothers & sisters! This flies in the face of the idea that young people "just need space" or need time to "sow their wild oats" with the foolish hope that later on they will come back and be ready to have a serious relationship with the Lord. Rather, Paul's relationship with Timothy and Timothy's relationship with God show us that faith can be active at a young age, and, if given the chance, those who are younger

can be of great service in the kingdom of God!

It is also funny to think about how these two men ended up growing so close to one another, but had they still been under the old law, they probably would never have interacted; Paul from the strictest sect of the Jews, and Timothy, whose father was a Gentile. This young man, who could have just as easily been involved with the worship of pagan gods, was instilled with faith in the Lord and was open to the gospel when he heard it.

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Tim. 4:1-4)

Jarred Currence

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# Queen Esther

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- The king of the Persian empire was Ahasuerus (Esther 1:1)
- His queen, Vashti was told to display her beauty (1:11)
- Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah (vs. 2:7)
- She was raised by her cousin Mordecai (2:15)
- Two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, plotted to lay hands on the king, but were stopped (2:21)
- The Agagite, Haman, was promoted very highly (3:1)
- Yet Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage (3:5)
- So Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews (3:13)
- Even in the palace, Esther would not escape (4:13)
- There was built a gallows fifty cubits high (5:14)
- Haman was hanged and the Jews were saved (7:10)