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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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Perseverance in Leadership A Study in 2 Timothy

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Food for Thought

Christian Heritage

To guide your children on the right way, you must go that way yourself.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalm 127:3 (NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread" Jan 22, 2008)

PERSEVERANCE IN CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18

The second letter to Timothy is among the most personal in the Bible and the most moving. Approaching death, Paul wrote his young protege with stirring words. As he wrote, Paul was a prisoner of Rome and due to be executed by beheading. He urged Timothy not to be ashamed of him. Paul described the work of Christ on believers' behalf. Not only did He save us, but He also gave us all a calling. He abolished death and revealed immortality to those who call on His name in faith. Paul reminded Timothy that this was the reason for his apostleship. Paul was called to reveal to men the truth about God and His Messiah. It was for this exact reason that he was imprisoned because powerful men did not want to hear the message. **One of the most significant passages in the Old Testament is Deuteronomy 6:4-9. There Moses stresses the importance of passing God's Word to succeeding generations.** Tragedy befell the Jewish people because they did not remember those words. It is often said that the church is never more than a generation away from extinction—or at least from irrelevance. Today's lesson impresses us with the supreme importance of faithfully teaching the gospel message to each succeeding generation. **Young people do not automatically become Christians just because their parents were Christians. They must be taught to follow Christ.** God has no grandchildren! As far as we know, the apostle Paul had no children and was never married. We do know that Paul had a sister and nephew, so he did play the role of uncle (Acts 23:16). We also know little about Paul's relationship to his father. We know that his father provided him with an excellent education, with a trade (tent-making), and with Roman citizenship. Paul noted that he had grown up in Jerusalem under the tutelage of a great rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). It is likely that Gamaliel had served as a substitute father for young Paul, if indeed Paul's formative years were spent in the temple city far from his family's home in Tarsus. Thus Paul well knew that the teacher-student bond could be more than a professional relationship. Teachers produce disciple-children. Teachers bear both joy and responsibility for the careers of these "offspring." While Paul saw himself as the "father" of his converts (compare 1 Corinthians 4:15 and Titus 1:4), he considered Timothy to be his "son" in a unique way. **He had taken a personal, paternal responsibility for Timothy's circumcision, because Timothy's natural father was not a Jew. Paul's role of substitute father seemed so appropriate that Paul convinced Timothy's mother to let the boy travel with him, even though Timothy probably was no more than a teenager at the time (Acts 16:1-3).** In this week's lesson we see Paul reflecting on this relationship from the vantage point of many years of fruitful association with Timothy. The book of 2 Timothy was written while Paul was in prison in Rome (2 Timothy 1:8, 16, 17), probably awaiting his execution (2 Timothy 4:6). Soon there would be no teacher to guide the student. Yet Paul was confident that Timothy was ready to assume full responsibility; Timothy was his prized pupil, his son in the faith, his joy and hope for the future.

Veterans' organizations that are built around World War II service members have fallen on very hard times in America. Their few remaining members are old and ill. Their ranks are dwindling rapidly as more than 1,000 veterans of that era die every day. They all will be gone in a few years. **The church too is always one generation removed from extinction. Without constant replenishment of its members, it will die. Research by the Barna Group tells us that the average person's moral foundation is in place by age 9. Most people have come to lifelong faith conclusions by age 13, and most adult leaders in churches were heavily involved in training and ministry when children.** Yet many church programs today are designed to serve adults. Aging "Baby Boomers" (those born between 1946 and 1964) clamor for worship according to their tastes. The "Gen Xers" (who are in their thirties) want churches that are responsive to their needs. We cannot ignore these voices, but the leaders of tomorrow's church are found among our pre-teens of today. Are we investing funds, time, and our very best people in training children? That "deposit on account" today will have a rich yield of Timothys and Timothyettes for the future.

(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

HERITAGE THROUGH FAMILY TRAINING (2 TIM 1:3-5)

Through prayers (vs 3-4)

- Prayers that seek increase in faith (1 Thess 3:10)
- Prayers for all the saints (Eph 6:18)
- Prayers for rescue from harm (Rom 15:31)
- Prayers for enlightenment (Eph 1:18)
- Prayers for empowerment (Eph 3:16-19)
- Prayers to live a godly life (Col 1:10)
- Prayers for an open door (Col 4:3)

Through faith passed on (vs 5)

- Faith passed that reveals the righteousness of God (Rom 1:17)
- Faith passed that leads to salvation (Acts 11:13-14)
- Faith passed through believing the gospel (Gal 3:2)
- Faith passed through the preaching of the gospel (1 Peter 1:12)

HERITAGE THROUGH THE GIFT AND POWER OF GOD (2 TIM 1:6-10)

Gift of power (vs 7)

- Power of the Holy Spirit (Zech 4:6)
- Power to overcome (Luke 10:19)
- Power to be witnesses (Acts 1:8)
- Power to speak wisely (1 Cor 2:4-5)

Gift of love (vs 7)

- Love that is poured out in us by God (Rom 5:5)
- Love that is part of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- Love that we can never be separated from (Rom 8:35)
- Love that remains (1 Cor 13:13)
- Love that compels (2 Cor 5:14)
- Love that is built up by Jesus (Eph 4:16)

Gift of sound mind (vs 7)

- Sound mind that has been transformed by God (Rom 12:2)
- Sound mind from the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)
- Sound mind that has been made captive to make it obedient to Jesus (2 Cor 10:5)
- Sound mind through thinking on godly things (Phil 4:8)

Gift of a holy calling (vs 9-10)

- A heavenly calling (Heb 3:1)
- A calling to belong to Jesus (Rom 1:6)
- A calling according to God's purpose (Rom 8:28)
- A calling into God's kingdom (1 Thess 2:12)
- A calling into eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)
- A calling into glory (1 Peter 5:10)

BUILDING ON THE HERITAGE (2 TIM 1:11-18)

Appointment to teach and preach (vs 11-12)

- By being prepared (2 Tim 4:2)
- By being sent by God (Rom 10:15)
- By using God given gifts (Rom 12:6-7)
- By being a servant able to teach (2 Tim 2:24)
- By being anointed (1 John 2:27)

Holding fast to sound doctrine (vs 13-18)

- Hold fast by teaching according to sound doctrine (Titus 2:1)
- Hold fast by trusting what has been taught (Titus 1:9)
- Hold fast by seeking God's will and Jesus' teaching (John 7:16-19)
- Hold fast by using Scripture (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Hold fast by sticking to the truths of the faith (1 Tim 4:6)