

July 26, 2009



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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



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Perseverance in Leadership A Study in 2 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
06/28	Introduction	
06/28	Perseverance in Heritage	1:1-18
07/12	Perseverance in Work	2:1-13
07/19	Perseverance in Character	2:14-26
7/26	Perseverance in Following	3:10-17
08/02	Perseverance in Word	4:1-8
08/09	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

GODLY MENTORS

One who follows Christ is to
lead the way for another.
To help another person grow,
You have to pay a price;
It takes the giving of yourself,
And that means sacrifice.

*The things that you have
heard from me . . . commit
these to faithful men
who will be able to teach
others also.*

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread" Sept 24, 1996)

PERSEVERANCE IN FOLLOWING GODLY MENTORS 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

In Greek mythology Odysseus was the king of Ithaca and a hero of the Trojan War. While he was absent from home fighting the war, he entrusted the care of his household and his son, Telemachus, to his faithful friend Mentor. Ever since, the name of Odysseus's friend has been synonymous for a wise and trustworthy counselor. The apostle **Paul was such a counselor—a mentor—for Timothy**. In this lesson we glimpse just a small portion of the **trustworthy advice** Paul gave to his son-in-the-faith Timothy. What church today is not also plagued with some of these same problems Paul writes about? While 2 Timothy is difficult to date exactly, we usually understand it to have been written by Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome. This was his second Roman imprisonment, not where we find him at the end of the book of Acts. Tradition tells us that Paul was released from that first imprisonment, perhaps because his accusers from Judea never arrived to present their case. Paul probably returned to Rome in about A.D. 65 or 66. He apparently was caught up in the persecutions by Emperor Nero while there. This second imprisonment would have been relatively brief, ending with Paul's execution in A.D. 66 or 67. This was when he wrote to Timothy a second time. Paul now had given up all hope of release and expected to be put to death (2 Timothy 4:6). His only hope of seeing Timothy again was dependent upon Timothy's coming to Rome (2 Timothy 4:9). We don't know if Timothy made the trip or not. But we do have Paul's letter to him.

(Excerpt from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Scripture text this week records some of Paul's final words in this life. One word that summed up Paul's life is the word "faithful." **He was near death, but rather than despair, he faithfully mentored Timothy**. He had been beaten and nearly killed many times, but he was always faithful. **By contrast, the world around Paul was anything but faithful**. Most people worshiped created things instead of the Creator. Even in the churches, false teachings were becoming a problem. Many believed lies rather than the truth. **Most people will never learn about the Bible without preaching and evangelism**. Paul charged Timothy to preach and evangelize, teaching doctrine to the people in the church and the message of salvation to those outside. **Paul had lived what he commanded Timothy to do**. Paul was about to meet the executioner. Yet the faithful have a great reward, a crown of righteousness from the Father. Paul was about to receive some of the greatest promises that he had preached to others.

(Excerpt from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

PAUL'S EXAMPLE IN MINISTRY (2 TIM 3:10-13)

His Core Values (vs. 10)

- Teaching only sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
- Setting example of doing what is good and having integrity (Titus 2:7)
- Having a way of life that can be imitated (Heb 13:7)
- Serving the Lord in humility (Acts 20:18-21)
- Delivering the message and gospel of God (1 Thess 1:5-7)
- Serving so that the evidence of the grace of God can be seen (Acts 11:23)
- The pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness (1 Tim 6:11-13)

His Persecutions (vs. 11, 12)

- Persecutions of imprisonment and hardships (Acts 20:23-24)
- Persecutions that put him on display and made him a spectacle (1 Cor 4:9-11)
- Persecutions of great pressure that made him fear for his life (2 Cor 1:8-11)
- Persecutions of insults (Heb 10:33-34)

His Opponents (vs. 13)

- Opposed by scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-5)
- Opposed by those who have abandoned the faith (1 Tim 4:1-2)
- Opposed by false prophets (Matt 7:15)
- Opposed by those claiming to be the second-coming of Jesus (Luke 21:8)
- Opposed by those who teach by their cunning and craftiness (Eph 4:14)

TIMOTHY'S EXPERIENCE IN LEARNING (2 TIM 3:14-17)

Learning from Mentors (vs. 14-15)

- Mentors that provided sound teaching (2 Tim 1:13-14)
- Mentors that presented the word of God as it actually is (1 Thess 2:13)
- Mentors that presented the truths of the faith (1 Tim 4:6)
- Mentors that follow Christ (1 Cor 11:1-2)

Learning from Scripture (vs. 16-17)

- Scripture that is perfect (Ps 19:7)
- Scripture that provides understanding (Ps 119:104)
- Scripture that proclaims the whole will of God (Acts 20:27)
- Scripture that prepares and builds up the Church (Eph 4:11-13)