

**Knowledge is necessary for us to fulfill our part in God's church.**

We have responsibilities, things to do, and we must learn how to do them.

Does this seem odd? This is God's plan:

**1 Peter 2:5** "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Now to make this connection between knowledge and responsibility more clear, let's go to one of God's prophets:

**Hosea 4:6** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

**The knowledge we need comes from God's word – and God's word is ALL we need.**

**Timothy is a good example of this – one who acquired knowledge, that prepared him to meet his responsibilities, and this pleased God, as we know through the testimony of Paul, one of Jesus' apostles.**

**I. FROM A CHILD, TIMOTHY KNEW GOD**

**2 Tim 1:5** "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Unfeigned means sincere and without hypocrisy. Therefore when Timothy was a boy his mother, Eunice and his grandmother Lois were devout Jews and very sincere in their faith. This meant that they tried to follow the teaching of God in all ways. They were very loving and kind and opened their home to those in need.

There is no information about Timothy's father other than the fact that he was a Gentile and not a Jew. (Acts 16:1)

But we do know that Timothy's mother and grandmother were very diligent in teaching Timothy the Bible, which at this time only included the Old Testament.

Jesus referred to the Old Testament as Moses and the prophets and said they were sufficient in themselves to do the job, from the account of Lazarus and the rich man:

**Luke 16:30,31** "And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies about Jesus Christ and many more about other people, kings, and nations. These prophecies told about things that would happen hundreds of years before they actually did; and all these Bible prophecies came true.

These prophecies would persuade men, build faith, that there is a God that we must know and obey, and provide the rules for our obedience.

## Some Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in Christ

### Old Testament prophecy

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:1).

"I am despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him" (Ps. 22:6-8).

"My tongue cleaveth to my jaws...they pierced my hands and my feet" (Ps. 22:15,16).

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Ps. 22:18).

### Fulfilment in Christ

These were the very words of Jesus on the cross (Matt 27:46).

Israel despised Jesus and mocked him (Luke 23:35; 8:53); they shook their heads (Matt. 27:39), and said this as He hung on the cross (Matt 27:43).

This was fulfilled in Christ's thirst on the cross (John 19:28). The piercing of hands and feet refers to the physical method of crucifixion used.

The precise fulfilment of this is found in Matt. 27:35.

Note that Ps. 22:22 is specifically quoted as applying to Jesus in Heb. 2:9.

**Hebrews 2:9** "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee" (Ps 22:22)

"Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Heb 2:12)

"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Ps. 69:21).

This happened while Christ was on the cross (Matt. 27:34).

The whole of **Isaiah 53** is a remarkable prophecy of Christ's death and resurrection, every verse of which had an unmistakable fulfilment. Here are just two examples:

"As a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7)

Christ, the Lamb of God, remained silent during his trial (Matt. 27:12,14).

"He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isa. 53:9).

Jesus was crucified along with wicked criminals (Matt. 27:38), but was buried in the tomb of a rich man (Matt. 27:57-60).

This is how we can prove that the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible and how we can also prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because no ordinary man can see hundreds of years into the future. The Bible is the only book on earth that contains true prophecies, with no errors.

## II. TIMOTHY'S KNOWLEDGE GAVE HIM FAITH

The reason Timothy had such a sincere faith was because of his knowledge of the scriptures; and that knowledge convinced him that 1) There was one God, Jehovah, and 2) Jesus Christ was the Son of God, the Messiah.

**Rom. 10:17** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Paul would later remind Timothy in a letter to continue to

**2 Tim 2:15** “Study to show thy self approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”

If we do not continue to study the Bible then our faith will not be strong. God has told us this many times in His Word:

**1 Peter 2:2** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”

To grow means to get larger, to acquire substance, we don't just read, we must learn, take it into and make it a part of us, as He says:

**1 Thess. 5:21** “Prove all things; holdfast that which is good.”

The only source a person has to prove anything about God is the Word of God, which has been proven true by the fulfilled prophecies

**Isa.34:16** “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.”

**Eph.3:4-5** “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”

And so Timothy from a child was given a pure heart from his mother and grandmother as they taught him the Bible and he learned of God.

The word of God provides us the pure goodness of God;  
Goodness that will fill us and fulfill us as good children of our Father.

Timothy used the foundation of knowledge and faith to accept his later responsibility:

**1 Timothy 4:12-16** “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

God expected this of him, and of us! “Be thou an example”  
Again, here is God's expectation that we behave and do as He wants us to:

**1 Tim 3:15** “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

### III. TIMOTHY MEETS THE APOSTLE PAUL

As a young man then, a man of faith, grounded in God’s word, he met the apostle Paul. And because of the common faith, they established a spiritual relationship in Christ that would bond them as a father and son.

Timothy would follow Paul, literally in his travels and spiritually as the apostle followed Christ.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”

He became a full time evangelist with Paul and helped him establish and strengthen congregations throughout the world. They went mainly to the Gentiles, but also to the Jews.

We first read about Timothy or Timotheus in Acts 16, on Paul’s Second Missionary Journey..

**Acts 16:1-5** “Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

Shortly after, we find Timothy left with Silas to strengthen the church while Paul went ahead to Athens.

**Acts 17:14** “And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timothy abode there still.”

In Acts 18 & 19 we find them in Macedonia (Thessalonians, Philippians) and then in Acts 20, in Asia (Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Laodicea).

**Acts 19:22** “So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season”

**Acts 20:4** “And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.”

Timothy shared these arduous journeys with Paul and was also jailed.:

**Heb 13:23** “Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.”

### IV. TIMOTHYS WORK AS A PREACHER

Besides preaching in Macedonia and Asia, Timothy also preached in Greece:

**1 Cor. 4:17** “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church”

**1 Cor. 16:10** “Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he works the work of the Lord, as I also do. “

Paul called Timothy his “work fellow” or fellow laborer in **Rom 16:21**.  
Notice how Paul addressed his letter to the Philippians, in Macedonia:

**Phil 1:1** “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.”

And to the Colossians in Asia:

**Col 1:1,2** “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse:”

These Christians saw Paul and Timothy working together to establish them in their Christian faith. This established trust and confidence in Timothy, when Paul sent Timothy, as here:

**Phil. 2:19** “But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. “

Often Timothy worked alone as a follow-up to stay when Paul went on or returned and continued to teach. He did this in Thessalonica, when Paul sent him with a letter:

**1 Thess. 3:2** “And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith “

## V. TIMOTHY’S FINAL CHARGE

After Paul was arrested and he knew he was going to be executed he wrote his Second letter to Timothy. In it, he charged Timothy to continue his work and preach the gospel as if he were a soldier fighting for his life.

**2 Tim. 2:3-4** “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

He was to preach - strongly:

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

Besides to encourage Timothy, it was for his protection as well – he had to say it all, to warn all. As Paul wrote the elders in Ephesus:

**Acts 20:26,27** “Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all

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men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

And just as Paul did with Timothy, Timothy was to teach others to do the same –

**2 Tim 2:2** “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Paul was leaving Timothy to preach and organize the church.

Paul likely charged him to appoint elders in the churches as he did Titus:

**Titus 1:5** “For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee”

Timothy a man of God, able to recognize and set in order these things – able to recognize and ordain elders that God’s church would prosper.

Timothy’s knowledge of God’s word, built his faith in God to endure the trials and be a faithful servant, fulfilling the will of God.

Just as God would have each and every one of us do.

May we all be able to say, as Paul did to Timothy, and I’m sure Timothy was able to also:

**2 Timothy 4:5-8** “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. <sup>6</sup>For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

That was Paul and Timothy - Are YOU ready? Do you love the Lord?

Do you want a crown? Have you obeyed his commandment?

**John 14:15** “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

And Jesus’ command was given through his chosen messengers, the apostles:

**Acts 2:38** “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

*[Sermon 6/5/2011 by Ed Kelleher at West Columbia church of Christ. All scriptures read and projected on screen during the sermon.]*