

“A Mom's Influence”
2 Timothy 2:3-5

INTRO:

Today is Mothers' Day. Although Mothers' Day is not a Biblical holiday, we delight to celebrate it because God has used our mothers greatly in our lives. As I thought about this, I thought about how frustrating it is to parent in this day and age when the world around us is heading rapidly toward the judgment of God. And I thought how much we who try to be godly parents need to be reassured that what we are doing is making a difference! So, let us this morning for just a few moments consider this statement from the pen of the Apostle Paul in the last letter that he ever wrote. Let us remind ourselves again, how God uses godly parents and particularly godly mothers in our lives.

I. The Roots of Paul's Faith

II. The Roots of Timothy's Faith

I. The Roots of Paul's Faith

A. The second epistle to Timothy is the last letter we have from the pen of the Apostle Paul. He wrote this knowing that very shortly he would be executed for his faith. In **chapter four** we will read, ***“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”***

B. Therefore, Paul opened this final letter to his son in the faith, Timothy, with encouragement. His inspiration started with the origin of his own and Timothy's faith.

1. Paul remembered the roots of his own faith. **(2 Timothy 1:3)**

“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did.”

In the original Greek the phrase literally reads, ***“From my parents.”*** As Paul thought upon the salvation he possessed and proclaimed he saw it from a perspective that we often do not think about.

2. The Christianity Paul knew and enjoyed was a not a new creation that just burst upon the scene in the last few decades. It was a part of God's plan from the beginning. Everything God did and revealed in the Old Testament led up to the sending of His Son

the Lord Jesus into this world to die for our sin. When Paul defended his faith after his arrest he referred to this fact. For example in **Acts 24:14-15**

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.”

C. Paul reminded Timothy that the faith he and Timothy held to was an historic faith. True faith is also a personal faith. We don't believe because of Abraham, Moses, and David. We believe because God used significant individuals in our lives to save us.

II. The Roots of Timothy's Faith

A. As Paul talks about Timothy's faith, he thought about those whom laid the foundation for Timothy's faith. Those individuals were his grandmother and mother. **(2 Timothy 1:5)**

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

B. We first meet Timothy in **Acts 16:1**;

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.”

Timothy had a Greek father but a Jewish mother. Timothy's father does not appear in our text in **2 Timothy 1**, we do not really know why.

1. Because Paul refers to Timothy more than once as his “son in the faith,” we can safely assume that the Apostle Paul himself was the one who showed Timothy the rest of the story when it came to the Son of God. Still, when God saves us, He did not work just through the one who had the privilege of sitting on the stool and catching the newly born believer.

2. In **John 4**, we read our Lord Jesus Christ's words to His disciples about reaping and sowing in salvation. **(John 4:35-38)**

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest. And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that

for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

C. Paul gave thanks to God for Grandmother Lois and Mother Eunice who planted spiritual truth in Timothy's life.

1. We know something of how they ministered to him from what Paul wrote later in this letter. **(2 Timothy 3:14-17)**

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

They taught young Timothy the scriptures from his youth. He lived a life filled with the Bible.

2. Because Timothy's Grandmother and mother laid the foundation, Timothy was ready to hear the rest of the story. How prepared are those under our influence to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

The application to this passage is two-fold.

1. First to moms, dads, grandmothers and grandfathers, don't underestimate the influence that you have in your children's and grandchildren's life. Remember you are sowing seed! Be patient for God to produce the harvest. John and Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, and Timothy were all the products of a mother's prayers.

2. Second, if you have never received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, today can be the day of salvation for you. Others have told you about Him. They have planted the seed, but you may still need to put your faith in Him. Are you saved? Would you like to be this Mother's Day?