

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 29, 2023
THEME: "Paul and Timothy"

PARTNERS

SUNDAY Read Acts 16:1-10

"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." Paul and Timothy paired up to bring the message of salvation to the whole region going from city to city. They had the blessing of the elders of the church in Jerusalem. Paul and Timothy working together was consistent with the pattern Jesus mentioned in Luke 10:1: *"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come."* It was a great advantage for Paul to have a younger partner in ministry because that would increase his credibility with the younger generation. It also provided young Timothy with valuable experience to enhance his own service for our Lord and Savior. This partnership really was a great benefit to believers of the entire Christian age in that the Holy Spirit used two of Paul's letters to Timothy as books in the New Testament. Among the many great truths in those two letters is this one in II Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

APOSTLESHIPS

Monday Read I Corinthians 1:1-5

" Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother." All believers have a special calling of our Lord to further the Kingdom of heaven. In Paul's case it was to be an apostle of Christ in his time. Christ had called others earlier to be apostles with a special ministry for His glory! The apostles took the message of the redemptive work of Jesus to the known world at that time. Some of the apostles were chosen by God to put His good news of eternal life into writing. Paul was one of those with his letters to the churches of that time becoming a large part of the New Testament. Praise God for the work of the apostles.

SERVANT

Tuesday Read Acts 9:10-15

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:" There is no higher calling than to be a servant of Christ, the Son of God and coming King of kings. Just as there were servants of Christ in the time recorded in the book of Acts, so there are today. There are those who serve in various positions in churches true to the Gospel, but all believers are His servants in neighborhoods and workplaces out in the world. They serve Christ by being a light in their world and His ambassadors sharing His message. Jesus makes a very interesting statement about His servants in John 15:15: *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."* As the servants of our Savior and Lord, we are actually His friends.

PAIRING UP

Wednesday Read 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." It is interesting to see how God controls the circumstances in the lives of His people to accomplish His will. It was God's plan for Timothy to work together with Paul on his missionary journeys. I doubt this idea of working with Paul ever occurred to Timothy or his family, but it was the plan of God. God arranged things so the two would meet, and they paired up to work together for the glory of God. Timothy could not have asked or even dreamed of the way God would use him as a servant of our Lord! Paul, if asked, would probably say how valuable it was and their labor of love for Jesus was enhanced by having young Timothy as a partner.

PRAYER SUPPORT

Thursday Read: Acts 21:1-5

"And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed." In a way of speaking, all Christians are involved in the work of missions. That is true from a practical viewpoint because they are God's ambassadors in the community where they live and work. That is the Biblical instruction in II Corinthians 5:20: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."* But they also are involved in foreign missions by their work and intercession, their prayer support for missionaries!

JERUSALEM

Friday Read: Acts 21:10-15

"And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles." Jesus, the Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the world: Jews and Gentiles alike. God's chosen nation is Israel the homeland of the Jews. God's family is made up of Jews and Gentiles alike: Christians from all nations around the world. All people who repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their personal Savior are in the family of God. That is the truth of John 1:12-13: *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Those believers have the gift of eternal life, a home in heaven! They are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and will reign with Christ, when He returns to earth to take the throne of David in Jerusalem!

MISSION REPORT

Saturday Read Acts 21:18-20

"And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry." It is always interesting and delightful to hear reports from missionaries. One of the great privileges and

responsibilities of local churches is to support missions and missionaries. And it is the responsibility of missionaries to report how God is working in and through them on the mission field. Since believers in the church are providing prayer support in addition to financial support, they should certainly be made aware of how God is answering those prayers. The work of missionaries is a team effort!