

- f) At St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico, there is just the one door into the worship area. Over the door is a sign that reads, "Servant's Entrance". There isn't any way in or out of that church except through the servant's entrance!
- g) We, like Timothy and Paul are servants of Jesus Christ. He is the example in verses 6-8.

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 9

QUESTION 1

- a) Paul would love to have gone to Philippi himself. He had a special relationship with them (**see 1:3-5**).
- b) The church was suffering persecution and Paul was concerned that they should stand firm.
- c) He was also concerned that they might be discouraged by news of his own situation (the reason why he writes so positively about his suffering for the gospel in 1:12f).
- d) Unable to see these believers himself, he sends Timothy; a man that he trusts.
- e) Timothy will not only bring news back; but will encourage the believers in the church there.

QUESTION 2

- a) Timothy had been to Philippi with Paul on his first missionary visit (**see Acts 16:3, 11-12**).
- b) Timothy naturally cared for people and was concerned for their needs. He would later become the pastor of the church in Ephesus.
- c) Timothy's interest is not doubled edged. It isn't used to solicit their sympathy for him; or for any self-gain.
- d) It is significant to note that Paul was unable to find anyone else in Rome who shared his interest and concern for the believers in Philippi; and was willing to go for him (verse 20).
- e) Sadly, Paul knew that not all those involved in the gospel work would put the believers before themselves and care for them.

- f) Note the link in verse 21 with what Paul has written in verse 4. In both verses he is speaking about having an interest and concern for the needs of others above ourselves.
- g) This is not to say that Timothy was a last resort. Because of his time in Philippi earlier, Paul can say in verse 22, that the church knew Timothy. And in particular, his *“proven worth”*.

QUESTION 3

- a) The father/son analogy is a spiritual one.
- b) It is likely that Timothy came to salvation under Paul’s ministry. Paul seems to like to refer to such individuals as his children in the faith (see **1 Timothy 1:2, 1 Corinthians 4:17**).
- c) Paul had visited Lystra on his first missionary journey (see Acts 14). By the time he returns in Acts 16:1 we read that Timothy is already a disciple.
- d) We know that he had grown up under the godly influence of his mother and grandmother (see **2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15**).
- e) Timothy was a young believer who had evidently grown strong in his faith.

QUESTION 4

- a) He was well spoken of by the other believers in Lystra and that is why Paul was keen to take him with him (**Acts 16:2**).
- b) Paul takes him under his wing and trains him up. Perhaps another reason for his father/son description.
- c) What binds them together is serving together in the gospel.
- d) Timothy is mentioned at least 24 times in Paul’s letters. And most of the letters include at least one of those references.
- e) Such is their relationship, that it is interesting to note that the last letter we find Paul writing when he knows his life will soon end, is to Timothy.

QUESTION 5

- a) The language of verse 23 is the same as that of verse 19 where Paul ‘hopes’ in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy.
- b) Paul is always aware of the providence of God. If it is His will, then the visit will take place.
- c) At this point, Paul isn’t sure whether he will be released or killed. Perhaps the delay was to see what was going to happen during an imminent trial.
- d) Verse 24 suggests that Paul is confident of his eventual release. He will therefore be able to visit Philippi himself.
- e) Until then, Timothy will ably represent him.
- f) Timothy was evidently important to Paul in his ministry and as one who encouraged him while imprisoned.
- g) And yet he would not keep him longer than was absolutely necessary. Timothy is to encourage the believers and bring back news of their progress to Paul.

QUESTION 6

- a) Paul had seen the potential in Timothy and had encouraged him in his service.
- b) Discipleship and mentoring is an important part of our progress in the gospel.
- c) He had trained him on the job.
- d) This is about service from the heart. Timothy would never be a great name in the church. But he is commended for his usefulness to Paul and his encouragement to the church. That should encourage us to encourage others.
- e) We too are to grow through service and example.