

Paul's fellow workmen

Part 2

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Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.

[00:00:01] Last night we were looking at Barnabas, Paul's mentor as I've called him. He's the one who was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith, certainly was not a pessimist. He was one who would take time with individuals. He was one who had an eye and an ear for what the Lord was doing even elsewhere. He had heard of Paul being saved at Damascus and being faithful in preaching the word there and when everyone else at Jerusalem was afraid of this man who had at one time persecuted them, Barnabas was the one who would introduce him to the Apostles and Barnabas had a character that when he introduced someone to the Apostles and would put his character on the line [00:01:04] for them, this meant something. You know it's not everybody that can bring a stranger and one whom the brethren may be suspicious of into a meeting and introduce him and make him an appreciated part of that meeting, but Barnabas had that character and he's one who quietly goes on in service for the Lord. He's the one who brought Saul to Antioch and worked together with him there for a whole year teaching these new believers. He's the one who could be sent out in service with Saul, Barnabas and Saul, Barnabas and Saul, and then all at once we read Paul and his company and he just beautifully steps back and lets the Spirit of God use the one whom he was gifting and both in the gospel as well [00:02:08] as in the ministry of the truth of God. He could later on spend time with the John Mark for whom Paul after an initial bad experience really, well he just didn't, I don't want to say he had no use for him, but he certainly didn't intend to take that boy along on another trip when he had gone back when the going got rough. Yet thank God Barnabas could work with him in such a way, probably Peter worked with him too afterwards, but Paul could right toward the end of his life and bring Mark, he's serviceable to me for ministry. Well Timothy, we find another young person and one whom Paul takes, he's Paul's son in the faith and Paul really works with him, developing him as a useful servant [00:03:12] of the Lord and we need this kind of, you know people talk about a Paul-Timothy relationship, and we need much more of that today. Last night we commented how too many of God's servants operate as one man bands and again in looking at Timothy and his relationship with Paul and we see that that was not God's intent. God from way back in the Old Testament always had the more mature believer take a less mature believer under his wing and train him and develop him and then God would in his time and in his way use him for service. We see Moses and Joshua and Elijah and Elisha, [00:04:07] we can see a David and Solomon, I mean we can see this kind of a pattern and many times in the scripture where an older one took a younger one under his wing and really trained him for the Lord. Now as to Timothy's background, we see this in various places, in fact the life of Timothy is not set out in, you know, in two chapters for us in nice beautiful order, we've got to hunt across quite a bit of the New Testament to find it. We'll start in Acts 16, in Acts 16 Paul is on his second missionary journey, he's taken Silas, he's gone with the fellowship of the believers at Antioch and he's retracing part of the trip that he and Barnabas had made together, the part [00:05:12] on the continent of Asia, what is now Turkey, and he

comes to Derbe and then to Lystra and here in these places it says, behold a certain disciple was there. Now the NIV reads as if the disciple named Timothy lived at Lystra. In chapter 20 there's indication he may have lived at Derbe. Personally I've always leaned toward him being from Derbe but Lystra was close and it says that he had a good reputation, the brethren at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him, he had a good testimony there. And it's nice to see this young brother is known not only in his local assembly [00:06:06] but in the neighboring assemblies as well. And remember these towns, while they may have been as close as some of our towns are one to the other, people didn't have the cars that we had to lay that distance behind them in a few minutes, but ten miles meant three hours and this type of thing. So Timothy here is spoken of as being of mixed parentage, he's the son of a Jewish believing woman. His father was a Greek and that's all that's said about his father. Scripture doesn't want to run him down but we never have any indication that his father was a believer. In fact when Paul writes to Timothy in the second epistle he refers to Timothy's godly mother and [00:07:04] grandmother, the mother Eunice, the grandmother Lois, and these women had taught Timothy the holy scriptures. Paul can say in chapter 3 of that second epistle to Timothy that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. I don't think it was an easy, nice home background that Timothy came from. The father a Greek. Remember that back in those days marriages were very often arranged things, arranged between families. So I can't hold against Timothy's mother that she married an unsaved Greek.

[00:08:06] We don't know how much the grandmother would have been able to stop something like that. These things may well have been arranged among the men in the families and so on. Timothy grew up in a divided home situation obviously but a faithful mother and a faithful grandmother taught him God's word. Now simply to be taught God's word doesn't in itself do anything. The holy scriptures are able to make thee wise to salvation but salvation is through faith which is in Christ Jesus. The basis was laid there. There was a good background but apparently when Paul came on the first [00:09:01] missionary journey with Barnabas, Timothy must have come to faith in the Lord Jesus then. Paul refers to him as my son in the faith and here he finds this certain disciple. I picture Timothy as being in his middle or late teens at this time, probably late teens. A disciple, one who is learning, one who is following, one who is going on with the Lord. He has a good testimony of the brethren in these new assemblies here, Lystra and Iconium, probably Derby as well. And it says him would have to go forth with him. Paul chose Timothy to go along with him. Why? Now we have some things told us about Timothy that are a bit unusual. In the second epistle to Timothy chapter 1 verse 6, [00:10:10] Paul refers to something that I have read various things on it but I'm not satisfied that I can explain this verse the way I would like to. It says, for which cause I put thee in mind to rekindle the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. The only place that I read of in scripture where a gift of God in the sense is given by putting on of someone's hands. So in that sense it was something unusual. I mean it's not the way normally God bestows gifts by someone laying on hands. In chapter 4 of the first epistle, he refers to this again. He says in verse 14, [00:11:05] be not negligent of the gift that is in thee which has been given to thee through prophecy with the imposition of the hands of the elderhood. Now here he doesn't say by the elders putting their hands on you. You know these verses have been used in Christendom to justify the custom of ordination and that you know when a man has finished his Bible school or seminary or something like that then he gets ordained and all kinds of ministers put their hand on him and somehow he's supposed to get God's gift that way. Now I don't read that in these verses. Paul speaks of having that Timothy had a gift which had been received through Paul and he speaks of the elders having fellowship with this but you know just how this worked in its detail I'm not going to try to say [00:12:06] much more on but it was obvious that Paul mentions through prophecy it was obvious that God pointed out this young man to him as one whom

he should take along, one whom he was to work with and God gives him a gift. Now whether he gave it to him just in a flash when Paul laid hands on him or whether this may have been something that was given over a period of time through Paul working with him I don't want to say but Paul identifies Timothy with him or identifies himself with Timothy and he takes him along. Now you know it's not an uncommon thing for a young person to go to an older brother or sister and say you know I'd like to be your understudy and I'd like to go [00:13:06] with you I'd like to travel with you on a trip I've been approached by various ones who would like to go with me here or there or something like this. Well I appreciate this kind of a request and in no way am I knocking it but the scriptural order is really that the more experienced one pick the understudy, the helper or someone take them along and some of the experiences that I can look back on as a young brother that were tremendously helpful to me were a few days or a few weeks with an older brother. I remember helping brother G.A. Wisey, Raymond Campbell's father-in-law move from Michigan to Florida. He must have been 80 years old or so at the time past 80 I believe but it [00:14:06] was a three-week process starting with helping him burn some of his papers and get his effects packed and then they had an auction sale and then their brother G.A. Wisey was a real shepherd at heart and we had to detour here and detour there and so on to visit isolated people and we came through Taylorsville with some very interesting memories connected with our stop here and on through South Carolina and finally to Florida. But the stories that brother could tell you know the things that you could learn in traveling with him. I remember a trip in the Caribbean, lower Caribbean with brother Mayhew meeting him in Trinidad spending eight days with him there and then going up to St. Vincent and then he gave me directions about going to St. Lucia and meeting [00:15:02] him again in Barbados and spending two weeks in Barbados with him and so on. You share a bed with the brother and you're kept awake by the steel band at three o'clock in the morning because they've just had their first election and you know you there are things you talk about and you know there are things you do together. There are ways in which you learn and it's good and one can appreciate this kind of a thing for Timothy as well. Paul was directed of God really to take this young fellow along. He has the fellowship of brethren in not only his home meeting but in surrounding meetings with this and one other thing about Timothy personally comes out when Paul writes that last letter to him, a time when things are very discouraging but Paul mentions it [00:16:02] elsewhere too. Timothy was a very sensitive and caring young man. Now Paul in writing to him makes use of a number of illustrations from the field of sports and with his father being a Greek one can imagine there must have been somewhat of a tug-of-war between dad and mom. Mom was teaching scripture and grandma was backing her up and dad of course was trying to influence his boy in another direction and well there's a place for all these things in life but by time Timothy grew up his direction seems to have been set and he cares about people. When Paul writes to the Philippians about Timothy he says I have no one like-minded chapter 2 of Philippians and I like the Darby [00:17:08] translation there verse 20 I have no one like-minded who will care with genuine feeling how ye get on for all seek their own things not the things of Jesus Christ and if you want to serve the Lord normally service for the Lord is connected with people. Now there are areas of service for the Lord that are in the background and that may be connected with things. Now a building like this to build it to maintain it and so on this is very valuable service for the Lord but a building like this is used for people too and ultimately service for the Lord is connected with people and Timothy was a man who cared about people and who related to people this is what one [00:18:10] looks for if one is going to to work with someone else and to train them for service for the Lord well what do you look for one of the things you look for is that they that they care about people and that they're sensitive to people. Now Timothy was perhaps a bit overly sensitive when Paul writes him the second letter he's got to stir him up things had gone wrong all those in Asia he says have left me have turned away from me and so on and Timothy was sort of letting his hands hang and Paul says stir up the gift that is in you God hasn't given us a spirit of fear of cowardice no he's given us a spirit of love and of power and of a

sound mind and get going get moving [00:19:01] over occupied you know we can we need to be occupied with people but we don't want to be so taken up with people that we get our eyes off the Lord and if people don't smile right and don't say the right things to us we get discouraged and we want to quit well what happens here in chapter 16 Paul's going to take him along and in verse 3 we read that he circumcised him because of the Jews that lived in that area for they all knew that his father was a Greek must have had some kind of a reputation the thing that stands out here you know a the Jews to this day a ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court a person is a Jew if his mother is Jewish doesn't matter what his father was Jewishness [00:20:06] comes through the mother this was custom at that time it's been ruled on by the Israeli Supreme Court and they still trace their Jewishness not through the father but through the mother and for Timothy to be considered by Jews as a Jew because his mother was a Jewish and not to be circumcised not to have entered into that covenant relationship as one of the people of God one of God's earthly people this was offensive to the Jews this was a real stumbling block an uncircumcised Jew you know that was an anomaly and shouldn't be and Paul's custom was that when he came to a new town the first place he would ask for and head for was the Jewish synagogue if they had one in Philippi they [00:21:05] didn't have one obviously and he went to where he would find any Jews that would be interested in the Lord's things found a few women at the riverbank for the Jews according to their customs even today to establish a synagogue you have to have at least ten males that have made their bar mitzvah that are considered adult responsible male Jews how gracious of the Lord to say that where two or three are gathered together unto my name and he doesn't specify male or female there there am I in the midst of them you know this is so gracious of the Lord but there wasn't a synagogue in every place but Paul would head for the synagogue and to take along a Jew who was uncircumcised this [00:22:02] would turn off his audience from the start but God commanded circumcision to be done as a normal thing when the baby is eight days old and doctors say today that that's the safest and really the best time to do it God makes no mistakes but you know for a person a man to be circumcised as a teenager or as a full adult it's a painful operation it's not the easy thing Timothy had gotten along without it up to this point but you know Paul writes in later on thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and here was perhaps the first test would he submit to this kind of an operation so as not to turn off Jews that they were trying to reach for the Lord Paul writes to the Galatians that when it came to Titus a Gentile Paul stood up against forcing him to be [00:23:01] circumcised a Gentile didn't have to be but here he was leaning over backwards not to give offense to the Jews and you know a young person has to learn these kind of things if he wants to be an effectual servant for the Lord and if we haven't learned that when we're young we've got to start learning them when we get a little bit older but if we want to reach people for the Lord you know we've got to reach out to them we can't expect them to come up to certain standards so that the Lord can save them no we've got to do the reaching out and this is what we see here Paul took him and circumcised him because of the Jews and then when they would come places where the reputation of this family had spread it wasn't going to turn anyone off there wouldn't be any hindrance to this man's ministry and later on Paul you know oftentimes the epistles continue on with the practical [00:24:10] things that we see exemplified in the Acts and again Paul writes to Timothy in his first epistle there's a whole chapter devoted to well practically a whole chapter devoted to his personal conduct as a servant of the Lord in chapter 4 and the central verse there don't let anyone verse 12 don't let anyone look down on you because you're young but set an example for the believers in speech in life in love in faith and in purity you know if a young person wants to be active in service for the Lord they've got the strike against them that they're young because many [00:25:01] people feel well what's he what's he got to say why should I listen to her and so on well then it becomes even more important in this kind of situation that the life backs up the words and every aspect of the life you don't excuse certain things by saying well he's just young you know loose relationship between guys and girls for example well they're just young no that kind

of thing does not add to a testimony but it can very quickly detract from a testimony and and so so Paul is careful he builds Timothy up he to me he takes Timothy along we don't read initially that Timothy is being put on the platform being asked to preach sermons this kind of thing first he accompanies [00:26:03] the Apostle his life has to be in order his conduct he's got to be such that it's not going to be offensive to others he observes no doubt Paul writes about him to the Philippians where we were reading before he speaks of Timothy as having served with him you know the proof of him that as a child a father he has served with me in the work of the glad tidings you know a child helps a father how by taking over no by handing him a tool at his request by holding something dad says hold this put your hands here bring me that hammer go get this you know this is how a child helps a father and that's how Timothy got started in the Lord's work together with Paul [00:27:06] and Paul writes to the Corinthians about Timothy also 1st Corinthians 4 verse 17 he says for this reason I have sent you to Malthus who's my beloved and faithful child in the Lord who shall put you in mind of my ways as they are in Christ according as I teach everywhere in every assembly Timothy is going to remind you of my ways when you watch him when you listen to him you're going to be reminded of me and I don't think Timothy is just going to say well Paul said Paul did and so on he would do that but Timothy in his ways would show forth the character of Paul he served with me as a child serves with his father he served with me in the gospel well as they go on I mean they they come [00:28:01] to Philippi first of the places that we read any detail about on this trip they've actually gone through Phrygia the Galatian country they wanted to go this way they wanted to go that way and Spirit of God is directing another way and the Spirit of God sees to it that they are directed to to go to Europe and there they pass through the seaport city very quickly Neapolis they go on to Philippi the main city there in Macedonia Paul had gotten this vision of the Macedonian man saying come over and help us and he figures well we better start right in the main city and incidentally the strategy that Paul used throughout the acts was to hit the main cities with the gospel spend time in major cities get a work start there and you know major cities draw on the [00:29:02] countryside roundabout Paul spent two years we read in chapter 19 in Asia actually refers to three years there later on and during that time all Asia the whole province hears the word of the Lord Paul is only in the main city but people come in people go out people market there people have relatives there and so on and the word spreads through the whole province in that time it seems in the course of time many missionaries have gotten away from that strategy and have gone and located in some of the most remote villages and when you reverse the scriptural strategy you find it doesn't work nearly as well scriptural strategy is to to be in the cities and to you know let the work work out from there rather than to start in a little village and you know [00:30:01] eventually neglect the big cities all together I think that's one thing that impressed me when I went to Colombia the one and only time I've been there to see the missionaries each located in one of the major cities and the work spreading out from there I thought this follows scriptural patterns I'm glad to see that as many other places it hasn't been that way well as we go on Philippi Paul and Silas are thrown into prison Luke is obviously with them and Timothy is with them and God sees to it that Timothy is spared that experience at the beginning God in his wisdom knows just what a person can take and what he can't take but as they go on in chapter 17 they come through Amphipolis Apollonia then Thessalonica they're there only a few weeks and they get run out of town essentially and the Jews are persecuting them and in verse 10 the brethren immediately sent [00:31:04] away in the night Paul and Silas to Berea who being arrived where I went away into the synagogue of the Jews and so on so Timothy seems to have been with them yet because after their experience there and in verse 13 when the Jews want to stir up the crowds there against against the missionaries well the brethren verse 14 immediately send away Paul to go as to the sea but Silas and Timotheus abode there now Timothy isn't with Paul he's with Silas Paul's associate and you know he can work together with him and certainly if one trains a young brother you know one has to be careful not to train him to simply be attached to you but that he can work together with others as well it may

[00:32:06] come the time may come when you have to be separated Timothy stays here with Silas and then when we get to the letter to the Thessalonians you know Paul was only in Thessalonica a few weeks three Sabbath days we read and he soon is writing these Christians an epistle a letter first Thessalonians is probably the first letter Paul wrote and he sends it by Timothy in first Thessalonians chapter 3 Paul was very anxious about things at Thessalonica and he says we're for being no longer able to refrain ourselves we thought it good to be left alone in Athens as it's just a little farther down the road and sent Timotheus our brother and fellow workman under God in the glad tidings of Christ to confirm you and encourage you concerning your faith that [00:33:08] no one might be moved by these afflictions and so on when you read the first six verses of this chapter you see the tremendous Commission that Paul and trust to Timothy and notice how he refers to Timothy he doesn't say we sent our young brother Timothy he says we sent our Timotheus our brother and fellow workman under God you know it's one thing if Timothy would have called himself well I'm I'm Paul's brother and I'm his fellow workman but for Paul graciously to refer to him in this way to build up Timothy before the Thessalonians as he writes about him you know this this is a good way to do we don't find Timothy asserting himself and claiming special privilege [00:34:03] because he was Paul's fellow workman no but Paul graciously calls him that and he sends Timothy there to Thessalonica a few months after perhaps only a few weeks after he had been there himself and what is he sending him for he's sending them sending him in verse 2 to confirm you and encourage you concerning your faith and in verse 5 he says for this reason I also no longer to refrain able to refrain myself sent to know your faith Timothy is the next verse having just come to us from you and brought to us the glad tidings of your faith and love and that you have always good remembrance of us and so on Timothy this young man sensitive to people had been sent to to do this for the Thessalonians so probably at first he had passed out gospel tracts he had you know [00:35:10] whatever the equivalent of that was in those days shined Paul's shoes he had to fix the meals whatever but now Paul is using him as he grows and as he develops in much more responsible areas of service and this is in accord with the principle the Lord gives that he that is faithful in that which is little you know can be entrusted with things that are far greater but you don't start with the big things we don't read of Timothy on the platform yet in fact he never as far as we see in scripture he's never known for his great public preaching but he is known for his working with people and his teaching his confirming them in the faith is encouraging them is leading them [00:36:02] is insisting on that which is right and against that which is wrong and so on well to the Thessalonians Paul sends Timothy he feels he's been there so short a time has the enemy been able to subvert the work was this a real work you know when the Lord told the parable of the sower he points out the four different kinds of ground that the good seed can fall on the seed is equally good whether it falls on the wayside the stony ground the thorny ground or into the good ground but you don't you can't tell right away what the effect has been see falls on the wayside gets gobbled up by the birds very quickly the seed that falls on the stony ground oh it seems [00:37:01] to be productive in a hurry it really starts growing but then the Lord says the hot Sun beats down on it and because it has no depth of root it dries up and there was that danger Paul had been in Thessalonica just a few weeks he was very concerned about these Christians were they stony ground believers or had the seed really fallen into good ground and that's what he sent Timothy to not only to help them but to really check things out how are things going on at Thessalonica it's one thing to have a big glorious start a real interest apparently but some months later how are things going on it's interesting to read some of these men who claim to be evangelists who claim to be healers and they come to a place and they lay their hands on so-and-so many people and you know people are shedding their crutches right and left and so on afterwards you find some of these [00:38:04] have been planted in the audience perhaps but there there has been a certain amount of research done in following up six months or a year later these people that claim to be healed in a healing service and generally speaking the results are very minimal and people who have you know

come forward in large numbers in great citywide evangelistic campaigns when you follow them up a year or so later you find there's only a percentage that are going on with the Lord God uses his word he's promised to use his word to bless his word and I'm not knocking big gospel campaigns but we need to be careful to distinguish the fruit falling on the different kinds of ground and it's only that which falls on the good ground and brings forth fruit that is abiding and to God's [00:39:05] glory well Thessalonica there were no major difficulties we find Paul has to write them a letter to explain some details as to the Lord's coming thank God we have this letter otherwise we sure wouldn't be able to distinguish the various portions of the Lord's coming if we didn't have the letter to the Thessalonians so we have to be very thankful for what people missed in the Apostles ministry and what they had to have explained to them a second time but at Corinth where Paul spends a year and a half later on there are some very severe and very major problems there and Paul writes them a letter also and again he's sending Timothy we read of that in 1st Corinthians 4 we might just turn back there a moment he says in a few verses previous to where we are reading [00:40:08] that he's admonishing them as beloved children and he says well if you'd have 10,000 teachers or instructors in Christ you've got all kinds of teachers yes but you don't have many fathers in Christ Jesus I've begotten you through the glad tidings and he says be my imitators and then he says for this reason I've sent Timothy to you he's my faithful and beloved child in the Lord he'll teach you my ways and so on he doesn't say too much more at that point about Timothy but in the last chapter of the same 1st Corinthians he mentions Timothy again and notice what he says this time in chapter 16 of 1st Corinthians he says in verse 10 if Timothy comes see to it that he has [00:41:05] nothing to fear while he's with you for he is carrying on the work of the Lord just as I am no one then should refuse to accept him send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me I'm expecting him along with the brothers. The Corinthians were quarrelsome people and they were taking sides and becoming factious and Paul is sending this young brother oh he's aged a few years in the meantime he's probably in his earlier mid-twenties by now and Paul is sending him to an assembly that's in trouble and he writes very stiffly here to this assembly don't you threaten him don't you tell him you're just a young twerp you're just a young brother what do you have to say to us he's older in the faith than any of you are Paul doesn't say that but it was true but he [00:42:07] says don't despise him and see that he has nothing to fear he's carrying on the work of the Lord just as I am isn't this a beautiful commendation for Paul to give to Timothy he's carrying on the work of the Lord just as I am on the other hand if Timothy had written a letter to friends or to the assembly at Corinth and said you know I've gotten to the point where I'm carrying on the work of the Lord just like Paul is what would that sound like you know would be saying the same thing wouldn't it but it's one thing for Paul to say it about Timothy and another thing for Timothy to assert it about himself that was here that it wasn't my business to refer to an older brother [00:43:02] as my fellow worker but if you want to call me that you know that that was a different story but it was a very painful lesson to be learned but I had to learn it from the opposite direction as Timothy here later on well Timothy was to remind them of Paul's ways he was to give the same teaching that Paul had given later on he sent to Ephesus or left at Ephesus if first Timothy chapter 3 Paul writes to him and he says something Timothy may have grown a little bit older in the meantime we can't precisely date this epistle and I know most feel it's right near the end of Paul's life I'm not so sure about first Timothy in that way but Paul says the Ephesians are first Timothy 1 verse 3 even as I begged thee to remain in Ephesus when I was going to Macedonia is this [00:44:05] possibly Acts 19 that thou mightest enjoin some not to teach other doctrines nor to turn their minds to fables and interminable genealogies which bring questionings rather than further God's dispensation which is in faith oh he had been left there to command to enjoin to insist that certain men don't teach false doctrines do you leave a young brother in an assembly to insist on the kind of doctrine that's going to be taught and not taught here was a young brother who was really growing and Paul leaves him there with that Commission and we you know traditionally refer to Timothy and

Titus as apostolic delegates and you know we give them these wonderful titles [00:45:03] and well Paul sent them as his delegates or left them as his delegates here or there but let's remember here was a very young brother Paul's son or child in the faith and he's given this kind of job and I don't think Paul got all kinds of complaining letters from these assemblies you know why did you send this kid here and what's he got to say to us and so on that you really play favorites don't you know here was a young man who had been trained to do a job and who was doing it and who could be entrusted with more and more in this first chapter why there are people who want to teach the law and insist on the law being kept so Timothy has to stand for purity of doctrine [00:46:05] and conscience in the next chapter you have the question of prayer public prayer what to pray for who is to pray publicly the roles of men and of women and so that comes out Timothy is to teach and insist on certain things in the third chapter you have the question of elders and deacons who is qualified for these positions and so on in the book of Titus, Titus is left to appoint elders Timothy is not quite that specific but the qualifications for elders and deacons are very very clearly indefinitely spelled out in this epistle and the implication certainly is Timothy see to it that you pick the right men for those jobs and then his personal responsibility for [00:47:02] conduct in the as the Lord's servant comes out in the fourth chapter his relationships with others in the assembly at the beginning of chapter 5 of 1st Timothy you know their rebuke not an elder sharply but exhort him as a father younger men as brethren elder women as mothers and Timothy obviously was not married at this time yet he's told the younger women as sisters with all purity there's no reference anywhere to Timothy's wife and family he may well have been like the Apostle Paul who forwent this forsake of the gospel now some I know feel that Paul may have been a widower during his ministry and that's altogether possible but certainly he forwent an active married life during his ministry and Timothy seems to have have been much the same way so the sixth chapter again [00:48:09] there's the question of attitudes the question of money the good confession you know these are subject areas that Paul sets before Timothy for his ministry when we read most of the epistles that Paul writes he finds that we find that you know these epistles as was customary with letters in those days start out by introducing the writer you know you didn't have the envelopes that we have today with a return address so that you knew who the letter was from before you even opened it but the Roman form of writing a letter and I suppose it would have been the Greek form too was that the letter started out with the name of the person writing the letter and then next was [00:49:02] who it was addressed to and then there was a salutation and then you went into the body of your letter and Paul writes a number of letters and in most of these letters he includes at least one or two other brothers he's teaching he's the Apostle he's really laying down God's Word but in the mouth of two or three witnesses every matter is to be established and so as a normal thing the epistles are written including another brother or two with him and the most common one that he includes with him is Timothy and you know this beautiful harmony between old and young nowadays it seems that many times there's almost a rivalry between old and young or between an experienced brother and this young upstart that's coming along that you know might become more popular than he [00:50:07] is somewhere down the line or might be more gifted than he we saw last night with Barnabas that there comes a time when one may have to step aside and let the one whom God has chosen for a position or for you know whom he's gifted greatly given a job to let him take the more prominent part in Paul's lifetime and we don't find Paul stepping back and saying here Timothy take over but Paul is incapacitated from active service from traveling in the latter part of his life he spends a number of years in prison and during part of this time Timothy is free and able to serve and Paul is encouraging him and wanting him to go on in service for himself so we can learn from both these things the relationship of a Barnabas and a Paul and also the relationship of a Paul and [00:51:05] Timothy. Paul includes Timothy in the heading of first and second Thessalonians and second Corinthians letters written before his imprisonment at Rome. He includes him in the heading of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon during his imprisonment at Rome. Paul was or Timothy was

evidently with Paul during part of that time. He mentions him in Romans 16 verse 21 and mentions him in first Corinthians as we've already noticed and Timothy it would seem was imprisoned for a while also because at the end of Hebrews which personally I would believe Paul wrote despite what some of my brethren may think to the contrary he speaks about to know that our beloved brother Timothy has been set at liberty and so on and they say that among the Jews there was a saying [00:52:07] that as the teacher so the disciple or as the as a disciple so the teacher I forget which way it went but that this may have been a very veiled way of saying to them I'm free and I'm planning to come to see you Timothy's free he's at liberty and so on how does Paul worded exactly says know that our brother Timothy is a set at liberty with whom if he should come soon I will see you in other words I'm free to know first it's Hebrews 13 23 know that our brother Timothy is a set at liberty with whom if he should come soon I will see you and then at a time when things have really gone sour when Paul has to write all those in the province of Asia have forsaken me he can write [00:53:04] the second letter to Timothy an extremely personal letter he can write to him how to conduct himself at a time of apostasy and faithlessness he's encouraged encourages him to use diligence when others are unfaithful he tells him be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus how to conduct yourself in a time of departure and that whole second chapter gives details he writes Timothy about the last days and what would happen what to expect the importance of God's Word at a time like that that's the the third chapter and then there's some very very touching personal instructions in the last chapter you can find out how Paul was suffering the cloak that I left at Troas at Karpis's house bring that with you when you come Paul obviously didn't have an extra cloak they [00:54:07] often use those as a blanket to sleep under do your diligence be diligent to come before winter bring John Mark with you he's serviceable to me for ministry I mean one sees the the beautiful personal relationship of Paul and Timothy and how Paul can express things that are very personal to Timothy as you read the the second letter that he writes to him the first letter it's the admonition be an example don't neglect your reading don't to this do that and so on how to conduct yourself but in the in the second letter the personal relationship shines out and you know it's so beautiful when you see a warm intimate personal fellowship among servants of God particularly with [00:55:06] what the world calls generation gap when that can be bridged over in this way it's a it's a beautiful thing to read these letters not just from the doctrinal standpoint which of course is the first line we read these letters for doctrine but when we can see these very personal things how to live as Christians you know there's as much that touches the heart well we'll stop with Timothy Bill has been kind enough to duplicate some of my notes here and I'll pass them out and both as to last night and what we've had on on Timothy today