

SUBJECT : Follow A Good Mentor

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture:

2Timothy 3:10-4:8

BIBLE TRUTH:

**A good mentor not only instructs but also leads by
example**

MEMORY VERSE: READ

2Timothy 3:14

Lesson Aim

**To help class members appreciate those who
have mentored them and to challenge them to
be good mentors of others**

Introduction

- The theory in the secular world is that a teacher is responsible only for the material he presents in the classroom and that what that person does in private life is no one else's business.
- In earlier days, teachers were expected to model the kind of behavior that students should emulate. When a teacher accepted a job in a little country school. They also accepted the responsibility of being a good role model for the children.
- The Apostle Paul had been a mentor for young Timothy. Paul had taught the faith by precept and example. Now that Paul's time on earth was almost over, he challenged Timothy to remember the lessons he had been taught and use them to build a strong foundation for his life and ministry.
- Paul charged Timothy to preach the word and evangelize the world. Teach doctrine to the people in the church and preach the message of salvation to those outside.
- Paul had been the example of what he commanded Timothy to do. Paul was about to meet his executioner. Yet he was not discouraged or overly concerned about dying, but was looking forward to meeting his Savior face to face and receiving a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give him at that day. 2Tim. 4:6-8.

Practice What You Preach

- 2 Tim. 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience
- Timothy had known and had closely observed and followed the godly example of Paul. Paul mentions seven things about his life that stand out as a dynamic example.
- There is *doctrine*, that can only be known by doing. John 7:17
- A person cannot teach where he hasn't been. We must teach by precept and example to be approved of God. 2Tim. 2:15
- There is life style, Paul practiced what he preached. 2Cor. 10:11
- People respond better to what you do, then they do to what you say.
- The other characteristic mentioned faith, longsuffering, charity, patience are all fruits of the spirit. Gal 5:22-23.
- Then there is *purpose*. : The word purpose means the original intent for the creation of a thing. A fish out of water becomes depressed. Why? because a fish out of water cannot fulfill its purpose for being and that is to swim. A bird in cage becomes depressed. Why? Because a bird in a cage cannot fulfill its purpose for being, and that is to fly. What's the point? The key to man's fulfillment is for man to do what God purposed him to do. The believer's very purpose for living, his chief aim in life is Gen 1:26-28, 2Cor. 5:17-19, Mat. 28:18-20

He Will Bring You Out

- [11] Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. [12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- Paul suffered severe persecution and affliction. He mentions three experiences that Timothy knew about. In Antioch the civil leaders of the city had risen up and expelled him from their city. Acts 13:50
- In Iconium a large mob with the city officials set out to arrest and to stone Paul to death. Acts 14:4-6.
- In Lystra a rioting mob stoned Paul and dragged his limp body out of the city thinking that he was dead. Acts 14:19-20.
- But note: deliverance does not mean *deliverance from persecution, but deliverance through persecution*. 1Corn 10:13
- Notice why believers suffer persecution; all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- Scripture gives three specific reasons why believers shall suffer persecution. Believers shall suffer persecution because the world hates you. You are not of the world. The world doesn't know Christ. John 15:18-21
- Therefore, the world is becoming more and more anti-Christ in their political policies, domestic laws, educational institutions. Lu 19:10-17

Evil Men And Seducers

- [13] But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
- Evil men refers to those who actively oppose righteousness and morality; those who live immoral and ungodly life styles, who curse, lie, steal, cheat, violate other, lovers of themselves more than lover of God. Gal. 5:19-21
- Seducers refers to imposters and deceivers; those who live hypocritical lives, they say one thing and do another—who call themselves Christians and join the church for what they can get out of it. They join the church seeking acceptability, a good image, friends, fellowship, popularity, business clientele, self-image, a following, and a host of other benefits.
- The point is, both evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse. This is how you will know them. They will be religious, professing belief in God, but they will deny the power thereof. 2Tim. 3:5-7
- Note: they will deceive themselves and deceive others. They will think that they are acceptable to God, and others will even think they are acceptable to God. But both they and their friends are deceived; Don't ever think Gods call to Holiness has ever changed. He is the same yesterday, today and for evermore. 1Peter 1:15-16, Heb. 12:14
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Knowing The Word Is Not Enough

- [14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
- Believers are to live by the every word of God. Timothy had been taught the Scriptures all of his life. When he was only a child, his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois had rooted him in the word. Matt. 4:4, 2 Tim.1:5;3:15
- Paul had also grounded Timothy in the word. But note a most critical point: it is not enough to have learned the word...it is not enough to be assured that the teachings of the word are true...it is not enough to know that your teachers teach the truth.
- Note the word “continue”. It means to abide, dwell, remain, and stay in the Scripture. Simply stated, Timothy had to *live* in the word—live, move, and have his being in the word. Act 17:28
- Jesus said to his disciples if ye continue in my word then are ye my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 8:31-32
- The true mentor is one whose doctrine is sound, whose life is holy, whose purpose is sure, whose faith is steadfast, whose love is pure, and whose patience is evident.

Spiritual Roots

- [15] And 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.
- Scripture makes a person wise unto salvation. If man needs anything, he needs wisdom, wisdom about how to be saved. James 1:5.
- Death and every other evil imaginable rushes about and floods the world of man. The strongest among men are swallowed up and drowned by, drugs, disease, broken homes, bad habits, pride, selfishness, greed, envy, war, murmuring, loneliness, immorality, bad health, lusts, prejudice, crime, accident, conceit, power, extravagance, gluttony, jealousy, death, no- purpose, discrimination, drunkenness, murder, gossip, emptiness.
- There is no end to the evil that is drowning man and his world. What man and his world need is wisdom, the wisdom to save himself and his world. Is such a wisdom available? “Yes!” The Holy Scriptures are able to make man wise unto salvation. The Holy Scriptures can save man and his world. How? “Through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” It is the Holy Scriptures that tell us about how God saves man through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ which connects man back to his spiritual roots and purpose. John 3:3-8, Gen. 1:26-28

The Scripture

- [16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- Scripture is inspired by God. This is an extremely important verse in understanding the nature of Scripture. It's this verse that gives the scriptures it's source and authority. 2Timothy was probably the last book of the Bible written when Paul declared all scripture both New and Old Testaments were inspired by God. 1Thes. 2:13
- Scripture is inspired by God; the phrase "inspired of God" means *God-breathed*. What does this mean? What does it mean to say that *God breathed* the Holy Scriptures? John 6:56-64, Heb. 4:12
- The idea is that *God breathed out* the Scripture or *God produced* the Scripture somewhat like He did creation. Ps. 33:6, Gen. 2:5-7
- Scripture is a divine revelation, which we may depend upon as infallibly true. The same Spirit that breathed reason into us breathes revelation among us: 2 Peter 1:21.
- If the Gospel makes us wise unto salvation; if it is not God's will that any man perish but that all come to repentance, we can rest assured that He has preserved and protected His Holy Scriptures down through the centuries! Anything we need to know about our relationship to God and His relationship to us is found in the Bible.

Everything You Need Is In The Word

- [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- Scripture perfects a man and equips him for every good work. By “perfect” is meant complete, matured, filled. No person is complete or mature apart from Scripture. Man was made for God and the manufactory provided us a manual of instruction. We are to live by the every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matt. 4:4
- If we try to live without God and His Word, man fails in life. He lives an incomplete, immature, and misfit life. John 15:5, Matt. 24:35
- “The study of the Scriptures trains a man in righteousness until he is equipped for every good work.
- Here is the essential conclusion. The study of the Scriptures must never be selfish; it must never be simply for the good of a man’s own soul. Any change, any conversion which makes a man think of nothing but of the fact that he has been saved is no true change and no true conversion at all.
- What a convicting statement: “We must study...that God will use us to help to save the souls and comfort the lives of others. No man is saved unless he is on fire to save his fellow men.” What an indictment that every man of God must heed. Mark. 1:16-17

Jesus and God Are Listening

- [4:1] I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the Word
- You must preach the Word, for God and Christ are listening to you.
- Note: the minister is not to be preaching his own ideas nor the ideas of other men. The message of the gospel is not the message of human philosophy, psychology, sociology, or education. It is not the message of self-image and personal development.
- “Some day Timothy’s work will be tested, and that test will be carried out by none other than Jesus Christ Himself. 1Corn 3:10-15
- The minister shall face Jesus at the judgment seat of Christ and give Him an account of his preaching. 2 Corn 5:10
- The minister’s place in the Lord’s kingdom will be determined by how faithful he was in preaching the Word. Mat 5:18-19
- Therefore, the charge is to preach the Word. Note two very significant points. The word “preach. It is the word that was used of the ambassador who was sent forth by the king to proclaim his message in all of the authority and dignity of the King himself. Matt. 12:37
- A Christian’s work must be good enough, not to satisfy men, but to be approved of God. We must work in such a way that we can take it and offer it to Christ. Only what you do for Christ will last.

Our Passion

- [2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- Preaching the Word is the consuming passion of the believers life.
- Be instant in season, out of season”: keep a sense of urgency; grasp the opportunities and make opportunities to preach. Preaching is to burn within your soul; a burning passion to preach the unreachable riches of Christ. Why? Preaching pleases God and the preacher is held accountable to preach. 1Cor.1:18, 21, 1Cor. 9:16.
- What is meant by “*the Word*”? The Word means the Scripture. It is the whole counsel of God. Act 20:26-27
- Reprove; The word means to put a person under conviction; to cause a person to see his sin and to feel guilt enough to repent.
- Rebuke. It is a “sharp censor or openly confronting a person about a matter. Even where the preacher has experienced failure after failure in bringing sinners or saints to forsake their sin.” 1Tim. 5:20
- Exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. The word “exhort” has the idea of; “please, I beg of you, I urge you”. It means to beseech, encourage, comfort, and help. It is not enough to reprove and rebuke people. The minister must encourage and comfort, help and carry the person to Christ. John 21:17, 1Peter 5:2-3

We Must Stay The Course

- [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- Preach the Word—for the great apostasy is coming. Even as Paul was writing these words some false teaching had already seeped into the church. This is a prediction of Scripture; Paul was prophesying that the false teaching was to spread. The day was coming when apostasy was to sweep throughout the church.
- We know from church history that this is exactly what happened to the churches in Asia. The Asian churches were the very churches who were warned in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:11-3:22).
- There were seven churches, and out of the seven only one remained faithful to the preaching of the Word—the Philadelphian church (Rev. 3:7-13). The other six became apostate; many of the people turned away from the pure preaching and teaching of God's Word. Why? What caused the apostasy? What caused so many people and churches to turn away from Christ and from the pure Word of God?
- Two clear reasons are given why people turn away from Christ and why churches turn away from the preaching of the pure Word of God.

Don't Wanna To Hear It

- [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- People turn away from sound doctrine because they do not want to hear the truth. What truth? the truth that none of us enjoy hearing.
- We do not enjoy hearing that we are sinful and depraved, dirty and unclean, selfish and immoral, unjust and unworthy, ever failing and always coming up short, even if it's the truth. Rom 3:23
- We do not enjoy hearing that we can do nothing whatsoever to become acceptable to God. This idea just does not make sense to most people, for there are self-righteous. Rom. 4:1-5, Gal. 3:10-11
- Most people do not like hearing that Jesus Christ is the *only Savior*, the *only Mediator*, the *only way* a person can be saved. John 14:6
- People turn away from sound doctrine for a very simple reason: They either do not agree with it, or else they do not want to be reminded or to think about it. John 8:43-47
- People will want teachers who will allow them to live like they desire. They want to live lives of fleshly lusts, cravings, lives that seek the gratification of the flesh through... sex and immorality. Such lusts will so dominate people's lives that they will seek ministers and teachers who will tickle their ears with the message of personal development and self-image. Gal. 1:6-9, Titus 1:10-11, 2 Peter 2:1

Lets Wear Out Not Rust Out

- [5] But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- How can we fill our ministries to the brim? Paul told Timothy that he had to do four things to complete his ministry.
- The minister must watch in all things. The word “watch” means to be sober, calm, and alert; to keep a cool, calm; to maintain a controlled and disciplined life and spirit. 1Cor. 10:12, 1Pet 5:8
- The minister is to “endure afflictions”. The word means to suffer hardships, troubles, problems. Matt. 10:22, 1Cor.15:58, Jam. 1:12
- The minister is to do the work of an evangelist. This does not mean that the minister is to become a traveling or professional evangelist. It means that his work is to be evangelistic—he is to seek to win souls in all that he does.
- He is to share the love and judgment of God in all of his preaching and teaching and in everything else he does. The very thrust of his ministry is to be that of reconciling people to God, that of sharing the glorious news of God’s love and of coming judgment: that God saves and shall judge people through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Matt. 9:10-13, 2Corn 5:17-19, Acts 1:8, 1Pet. 3:15

How Do You See Death?

- [6] For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- Paul says that his life is being offered to God in one last act of death. What a view of death! Seeing death as an offering and sacrifice being presented to God. Rev. 2:10, Phil 2:8-11
- When a person wanted to make a sacrifice to God, he often took a cup of wine or oil and poured it out at the base of the alter as a freewill offering and sacrifice to God. Num. 15:1-12
- The drink offering symbolized the Lord Jesus pouring out His soul for us. Isa. 53:12
- Paul says that the time for his departure from this world is at hand. The word “departure” is striking in its meaning. To depart is the picture of a ship hoisting the anchor and loosening the mooring ropes and departing one country for another country. Paul had been anchored and tied to this world, but the anchor and ropes of this world were now being loosed, and Paul was about to set sail for the greatest of all ports—heaven itself. John 3:16, Romans 14:8, Phil. 1:21-23,, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 116:15
- Death has been conquered. Jesus defeated death when he rose from the grave. Three days after the crucifixion, Jesus rose from the grave and asked death and grave a question. 1Corn. 15:55-58

A Dying Mans Testimony

- [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
- The way Paul describes his life is also full of meaning. He quickly glances back over his life and uses three pictures to describe it, the pictures of a soldier, an athlete, and a good steward.
- Paul says that he had lived life just like a faithful soldier: “I have fought a good fight.” Jude 3, 2 Tim. 2:4
- He had separated himself from this world, sacrificing all that he was and had to be a soldier for Christ. Therefore, he was being released from his service as a soldier for the King, released to go home to live at peace in the kingdom of his Lord forever and ever. Rev. 14:13
- Paul says that he had run and finished the course of his life; he had completed the race of life just like the athlete runs and finishes the course of his race. Paul disciplined and controlled his life to the utmost—just like the Olympian athlete. He controlled what he ate and drank and what he did with his body and mind. 1 Cor. 9:23-27, Titus 2: Gal 5:7, Phil. 3:14, Heb. 12:1.
- Paul says that he had kept the faith. He had looked after the faith just like a good steward looks after the estate of his master. He had faithfully managed the faith for his Master. Paul is saying that he had kept the terms of the contract; Luke 19:13, 17, 1Pet. 4:10

Pay Day Is Coming After While

- [8] 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.
- Imagine! There is a crown of righteousness. No person can ever be accepted by God unless he is crowned with righteousness, completely covered with righteousness and made perfect. Why? Because God is perfect and only perfection can live in the presence of God. Ps. 24:3-5
- The crown of righteousness will be given by the Lord, the righteous Judge. He is the only judge who knows the truth about all men. He knows the heart of every man, and He has seen every man every day and hour of his life. In fact, the Lord has seen every act and heard every word every person has ever done or spoken. He knows all.
- The crown of righteousness will be given to all who love and look for the Lord's appearing. This is a striking truth. Who is it that loves the Lord's appearing? The person who loves the Lord Himself. The person who truly believes in the Lord and the glorious salvation He has provided. Who is a true believer? The person who has committed his life to be a soldier, athlete, and a steward for Christ.
- It is not what we profess about Christ; it is what we do for Christ will be counted in the end. Only what you do for Christ will last.. Matt. 25:23, Jam. 1:12, Matt. 10:42