

Study 6: **His Light** through us to the World! “Discipleship”; **A Life of Purpose**
“You are **the light** of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matt. 5:14



Jesus taught His followers;
¹⁴ “**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.** ¹⁵ The homeowner does not light a lamp and put it under a basket; instead he puts it on a lampstand. From the lampstand, the lamp gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let **your light** so shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

John 5: 14 – 16

¹⁹ “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**, ²⁰**teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt. 28: 19 - 20

Discipleship beginning in the home ...

[Generational intentionality]

“Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.” Acts 16: 1

“...Tim, I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.” 2 Tim. 1: 5

Discipleship with Paul ... A Lesson for Tim : selflessness!

[Cultural intentionality]

Sacrificing self to ‘fit’ into the culture for legitimacy; limiting my freedom for the sake of others ...

² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, ³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, *he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek.*” Acts 16: 2- 3

“...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” 1 Cor. 9: 22

“It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.” Rom. 14: 21

“But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. ¹⁰ For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? ¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer **for whom Christ died** will be destroyed.” 1 Cor 8: 9 - 11

Lesson for Tim ... ‘solo’ to Thessalonica and Corinth **[FAITH in Christ intentionality; no ‘safety net’]**

Giving a disciple ‘room to grow’, to prove his training, to fail forward: I trust you to lead; **now ‘GO’!** ... Tim and Silas caught up with Paul in Athens, later sending him to Corinth to remind and to teach.

“Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, ² and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our **brother** and **God’s co-worker** in proclaiming the **Good News of Christ**. We sent him to **strengthen you, to encourage you** in your faith, ³ and to **keep you from being shaken** by the troubles you were going through. But **you know that we are destined for such troubles.**” 1 Thess. 3: 1 - 3

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"That's why I have sent Timothy, my **beloved and faithful child in the Lord**. He will **remind you of** how I **follow Christ Jesus**, just as I **teach** in all the churches wherever I go." 1 Cor. 4: 17
"When Timothy comes, don't intimidate him. He is **doing the Lord's work**, just as I am." 1 Cor. 16: 10

Passing the Torch Generationally

[*Enduring intentionality; '2-way investment and trust'*]

Paul is imprisoned a 2nd time in Rome, writing personal letters to Tim [1 Timothy, 2 Timothy], who is serving in Ephesus.

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, here are **my instructions** for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in **the Lord's battles**. ¹⁹ Cling to your **faith in Christ**, and keep your **conscience clear**. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked." 1 Tim. 1: 18 - 19

¹⁴ Timothy, I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, ¹⁵ so that if I am delayed, you will know how **people must conduct themselves in the household of God**. This is **the church of the living God**, which is the **pillar and foundation of the truth**."

1 Tim. 3: 14 - 15

As Tim's mentor-friend over two decades, Paul recognizes Tim's strengths and weakness. In the two last Letters to Tim, Paul pours out his heart for his friend, his friend's ministry and his friend's future. He gives advice on ministry, people, leadership and maintaining a vital **relationship with Christ**.

- to fulfill the assignment from God - 1 Tim. 1:3 – 4; to 'fight the good fight' - 1 Tim. 1:18
- to hold tightly to faith and a good conscience - 1 Tim. 1: 19
- on prayer; constantly and believing - 1 Tim. 2: 1
- on women – 1 Tim. 2: 9; on leadership – 1 Tim. 3; on apostasy – 1 Tim. 4: 1 – 3
- on discipline – 1 Tim. 4: 6 – 11; on widows – 1 Tim. 5:1- 3
- on elders/ministers in the church - 1 Tim. 5: 17 – 18,
- on spiritual maturity being pre-eminent over physical age : 1 Tim. 4: 12
- on using his spiritual gift(s): 1 Tim. 4 : 14; on taking care of physically: 1 Tim. 5: 23 [Rom. 12: 1]
- on taking care his spiritual self : 1 Tim. 6: 11

Knowing my Purpose in Christ

[*Enduring intentionality*]

¹³ Hold on to the pattern of **wholesome teaching** you learned from me—a pattern shaped by **the faith and love** that you have **in Christ Jesus**. ¹⁴ Through the power of **the Holy Spirit** who lives within us, carefully guard **the precious truth** that has been entrusted to you." 2 Tim 1: 13 – 14

² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others." 2 Tim. 2: 2

⁸ Always remember that **Jesus Christ**, a descendant of King David, **was raised from the dead**. This is the **Good News**. ⁹ And because I preach this **Good News**, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But **the word of God cannot be chained**. ¹⁰ So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and **eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those whom God has chosen**.

¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

If we die with **Christ**, we will also live with **Christ**. ¹² If we endure hardship, we will reign with **Christ**. If we deny **Christ**, **He will deny us**. ¹³ If we are unfaithful, **He remains faithful**, for **He cannot deny who He is**.

¹⁴ Remind everyone about these things, and command them in **God's presence** to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them." 2 Tim. 2: 8 - 14

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