

Acts 15:36-16:5 | INTRODUCING TIMOTHY

Date: AUG 3, 2025

Text: Acts 15:36-16:5

A. TEXT

(Acts 15:16, CSB)

16 Paul went on to Derbe and Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy.

B. REVIEW:

- Repentant/faithful Gentiles will inherit eternal life *AS GENTILES*
- And repentant/faithful gentiles will relate to the Torah *AS GENTILES*
- Repentant/faithful Jews will inherit eternal life *AS JEWS*
- Repentant/faithful Jews will relate to the Torah *AS JEWS*

C. THE APOSTOLIC HEART

36 After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit [BLB, "look after"] the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they're doing. [BHT, "see how their faith is coming along."]

Paul, like his Master, cares for the flock.

(2 Co 11:28, CSB)

28 Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches.

(Php 1:23-25, CSB)

I long to depart and be with [Messiah]—which is far better—²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary *for your sake*. ²⁵ Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith

CI. APPLICATION: LOVE THE FLOCK

D. THE DISAGREEMENT OVER MARK

37 Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take along **this man who had deserted them** in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work.

39 They had such a **sharp disagreement** that they parted company, and **Barnabas took Mark** with him and sailed off to Cyprus. 40 But **Paul chose Silas** and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord

E. INTRODUCING TIMOTHY

D1. WHO IS TIMOTHY? A DISCIPLE

16 1Paul went on to Derbe and Lystra , where there was **a disciple named Timothy**...2 The brothers and sisters at Lystra and Iconium **spoke highly of him.**

(2 Ti 1:5–7, CSB)

5 I recall your **sincere faith** that first lived in your **grandmother Lois** and in your **mother Eunice** and now, I am convinced, **is in you also.**

(2 Ti 3:14–17, CSB)

14 But as for you, **continue in what you have learned** and firmly believed. **You know those who taught you,** 15 and you know that **from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures,** which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in [Jesus the Messiah]

Paul doesn't credit himself or Barnabus with Timothy's fruitfulness and maturity as a disciple.

To whom does Paul give credit? A devout mom and grandma.

APPLICATION: MOMS & GRANDMAS MATTER

D2. WHO IS TIMOTHY? JEW-ISH

2 the ***son of a believing Jewish woman***, but ***his father was a Greek***.

Prior to the exile, Jewishness was "*patrilineal*" meaning, if your dad was Jewish but your mom was gentile, you were Jewish.

But during the end of the exile at the time of Nehemiah and Ezra, leading into Paul's day, and certainly after the next exile in 136AD, Jewishness was "*matrilineal*", determined according to the mother.

D3. WHY DID PAUL SNIP HIM?

3 Paul wanted Timothy to go with him ; so he took him and ***circumcised him because of the Jews*** who were in those places, since ***they all knew that his father was a Greek***.

So why did Paul circumcise him?

- **One view is that he's a coward.**

Like Peter in Galatians 2,

- **A better view is Paul is simply a Torah observant Jew.**

And he reckons that Timothy is a Torah observant Jew as well.

And therefore, Timothy should bear the sign of the covenant given to Abraham and be circumcised.

- **It's an issue of blessing and Paul wants the best for Timothy**

(Ro 3:1-2, CSB)

So what ***advantage*** does ***the Jew*** have? Or what is the ***benefit of circumcision***? 2

Considerable in every way. First, they were ***entrusted with the very words of God...***

(Ro 9:4-5, CSB)

...the Israelites, and to them belong the ***adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving***

of the law, the temple service, and the promises. 5 The ***ancestors are theirs,*** and from them, by physical descent, came the [Messiah], who is God over all, praised forever., Amen.

(Romans 11:29, CSB)

...regarding election, **they** (ethnic Israel) **are loved** because of the patriarchs, 29 since

God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable...

- For the sake of their witness

(Acts 21:21, CSB)

21....that you are **teaching all the Jews** who are among the Gentiles **to abandon Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or to live according to our customs.**

F. STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH: THE TIMOTHY MODEL

4 As they traveled through the towns (assumedly after Timothy had time to heal up), they delivered **the decisions reached** by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem **for the people to observe.** 5 So the **churches were strengthened in the faith and grew** daily in numbers.

F1. STRENGTHENING WITH THE MESSAGE

1) The message about the cross

(1 Timothy 1:15-16, CSB)

15: “[Messiah] **Jesus came into the world to save sinners**”—and I am the worst of them.

16 But **I received mercy** (understood through the cross) for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, [Messiah] Jesus might demonstrate his **extraordinary patience** as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life.

(1 Ti 2:5–6, CSB)

5 For there is one God and **one mediator** between God and mankind, the man

[Messiah] Jesus, 6 **who gave himself** (on the cross) **as a ransom for all**

2) The message about the kingdom

(2 Ti 4:1-2,6-8, CSB)

I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to **judge the living and the dead**, and **because of his appearing and his kingdom**: 2 Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching...7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me **on that day**, and not only to me, but **to all those who have loved his appearing.**

3) The Message About The Need for Endurance in the Meantime

(1 Ti 6:11-15, CSB)

11 But you, man of God, flee from these things, and **pursue righteousness**, godliness, faith, love, **endurance**, and gentleness. 12 **Fight the good fight** of the faith. Take hold of **eternal life to which you were called** and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13... 14....keep this command without fault or failure until (when?) **the appearing of our Lord Jesus**

F2. STRENGTHENING AS FATHERS AND SONS

There is no force so powerful on the earth as a young man, or old man for that matter, who has complete confidence that his father is for him.

(1 Tim. 1:2, CSB)

2 To Timothy, **my true son** in the faith.

(2 Tim. 2:2, CSB)

2 Timothy, my dearly loved son.

(2 Timothy 1:6-7, CSB)

6 ...I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you **through the laying on of my hands.** 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power,, love, and sound judgment.

(Phil 2:19-22, CSB)

19 Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to **send Timothy to you** soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. 20 For I have no one else like-minded who will [ESV, **"show genuine concern for your welfare"**] 21 all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus [Messiah] 22 But you know **his proven character**, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry **like a son with a father.**

(1 Cor 4:14-17, CSB)

14 I'm not writing this to shame you, but to warn you as **my dear children.** 15 For you may have countless instructors in [Messiah], but you don't have many fathers. For **I became your father in [Messiah] Jesus through the gospel.** 16 Therefore I urge you to **imitate me.** 17 (and so you actually know how to imitate me) This is why I have sent **Timothy** to you. He is **my dearly loved and faithful child** in the Lord. He will remind you about my ways in [Messiah], just as I teach everywhere in every church.

G. CLOSE