

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY
"Being a Bible-believing Mother"
2 Timothy 1:5

Introduction

1. One of the greatest blessings a child can have is Christian parents. What an inestimable possession! Obviously a born again mother is a spiritual treat!
2. To find out about a Bible-believing mother, turn to the only source: the Bible!
3. Take the case of Timothy. He was Paul's son in the faith (1 Tim. 1:2), suggesting that Paul was instrumental in bringing him to Christ. But Paul was not the only link in the chain. Something came from his home: Paul records, what he learned about Timothy's faith:
 - a. It was remembered. This means that Paul had his memory jogged about Timothy. The aorist tense of the verb shows that it came at one basic moment in Paul's experience. Other aspects of Timothy were not so commendable, but this one was!
 - b. It was possessed. This is a good word. The simple preposition "in" shows that the faith was "inside" of Timothy. There is no sense of failure here, but full expression of genuineness.
 - c. It was acknowledged. The perfect passive form of the verb shows that Paul stated: "I stand persuaded." There is no doubt as to his certitude concerning Timothy's salvation. Only here in the Pastorals does this verb occur and in v. 12. It is found often in Paul's writings.
 - d. It was described. The adjective "unfeigned" means "unhypocritical." This is used of love (Rom. 12:9; 2 Cor. 6:6; 1 Pet. 1:22) and of wisdom (James 3:17). Apparently there is an expression of faith which is far from true! Timothy did not partake of that kind at all.
4. All that Timothy had was sourced in a godly home. Look at the text and see the record for yourself. That home exhibits:-

1. SALVATION in Lois.

This is the wonderful truth taught about the grandmother of Timothy. Actually, the word for "grandmother" is employed here for another Greek term meaning this relationship. In reference to Timothy,

the true faith was in Lois before it was in him. "First" does not mean she was the initial believer in that family, but it does show she came to the Lord before Timothy. She may have come through our Lord's ministry. It may have been through Paul. On the other hand, she may have been one of those who came at Pentecost. If the latter is true, she was one like Mnason who is described as "an original disciple" (Acts 21:16). But one thing is certain--she knew the Lord. Blessed a millionfold are those who have godly grandmothers!

2. CONTAGION in Eunice.

Here is a glorious truth. Lois knew the Lord and she shared Him in her own home. It is a great word to read that one must learn to "show piety first at home" (1 Tim. 5:4). This is what Lois did and she had some family response. The Lord followed this pattern of witness in the home (cf. Mark 5:19). For those who practice their salvation far from home, here is an important principle. So Eunice caught what actually dwelt in Lois. That's the key. Faith was at home (so Greek here) in Lois! This is a unique phrase about faith in the entire N.T. Not found anywhere else. Sin dwells, Christ dedwells, etc., but only here does faith dwell in someone!

3. EXTENSION in Timothy.

This is exactly why Paul got his reminder from someone. What had moved from Lois to Eunice finally got to him. Apparently, Timothy's father had died. His mother and grandmother reared him. He got saved through seed sown there through Paul. We need homes like this. We need grandmothers and mothers like Timothy had.

Conclusion What is a Bible-believing mother like? She may be seen in Lois or Eunice. She is a soul winner. She is a pious woman in the home. She is one with true faith. She has one goal: the salvation of her children and that is worth more than anything to her. How is it with you, mother?!? Amen.