BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Make a Difference with your Life Philippians 2: 19-30

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Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The <u>weekly session</u> "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. <u>The Gathering Time Leader</u> will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. <u>The Bible Study Leader</u> will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. <u>The Worship Time Leader</u> has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the <u>Worship</u> <u>Time</u> that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

<u>Important for teaching:</u> Copy the verses about Timothy which are given at the end of the Sharing Time materials. You will use them during your actual teaching time. Also have ready a white board and marker, or bring large sheets of poster paper or newsprint to write on.

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Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

Come, Now is the Time to Worship, The Worship Hymnal # 30; CCLI # 2430948 In Christ Alone, The Worship Hymnal # 506; CCLI # 3350395 Jesus is Lord of All, The Worship Hymnal # 294; CCLI #26478 Thank You Lord, The Worship Hymnal # 582; CCLI # 577439

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Make a Difference with your Life

Focal Text Philippians 2: 19-30

Background Text

Philippians 2: 19-30

Main Idea

People who make a difference for Christ give of themselves in serving others for Christ's sake.

Question to Explore

What kind of people should we be honouring?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to determine to become people who make a difference for Christ.

Gathering together:

Sing Come, Now is the Time to Worship, The Worship Hymnal # 30; CCLI # 2430948

First thoughts:

Today's title reminds the author of a youth camp a number of years ago. The theme for the camp was "**Make a Difference**". Every camper was given a t-shirt with those words, **Make a Difference**. Every lesson and sermon was built around the theme. Of those young people at the camp, many today are in full-time ministry or are faithful lay people in their churches. Missionaries, pastors, pastors' wives are in the group. The current camp itself is planned and directed by some of the young adults who were at that camp. Although it was only one of many positive influences in the lives of these young people, one cannot help but wonder how powerful that challenge was that week – Make a Difference. We will challenge ourselves today to Make a Difference With Your Life. People who make a difference for Christ give of themselves in serving others for Christ's sake. Two of those people were Timothy and Epaphroditus. These men were friends and helpers of Paul's and are the focus of our study today.

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Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the "<u>Teacher Preparation</u>" for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the "<u>Bible Study Plan</u>" for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Make a Difference with your Life

Focal Text Philippians 2: 19-30

Background Text Philippians 2: 19-30

Main Idea

People who make a difference for Christ give of themselves in serving others for Christ's sake.

Question to Explore

What kind of people should we be honouring?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to determine to become people who make a difference for Christ.

Introduction to your personal study:

Today we will consider the importance of making our lives count for the Lord. We will examine the lives of two faithful servants – Timothy and Epaphroditus. It is easy to see that both of these men were faithful over time. Some of the tasks they had were larger than others. Some may have seemed more significant to the kingdom of God. As you prepare to teach this lesson, consider how your preparation and teaching is part of your faithfulness. Ask God to bless your study and the people with whom you will meet in a special way.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the "**Introduction**" article found at the beginning of this series of Bible Study and Worship sessions (Bible Teaching #....). The person who downloaded this session should have that material for you, as well.

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Focusing on the Meaning:

Notes Regarding Timothy

Timothy was a key New Testament figure. He aided Paul in his missionary journeys and helped him during his imprisonment. Timothy had the privilege of growing up in a Godly home. Several Scriptural references help us know more about Timothy.

Acts 16: 1-3 "He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek."

Acts 17: 13-15 *"When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. The brothers immediately sent Paul to the Coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. The men who accompanied Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible."*

Acts 18:5 "When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ."

Acts 19:22 *"He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer."*

Acts 20:4 *"He (Paul) was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and from the province of Asia Tychicus and Trophimus."*

Romans 16:21 *"Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives."*

1 Corinthians 4:27 *"For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church."*

1 Corinthians 16:10 *"If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am."*

2 Corinthians 1: 1, 19 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother". "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not 'Yes' and 'No' but in him it has always been 'Yes'".

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Colossians 1: 1 *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother."*

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 3:2, 6 *"Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you."*

"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith..." "But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you."

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-2 "Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Timothy 1: 1-2 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Timothy 1: 18 "Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight."

1 Timothy 6:20 *"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith."*

2 Timothy 1: 1-2 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philemon 1:1 "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, our brother."

From the verses we see the following descriptive phrases which give us a good picture of Paul's relationship to Timothy.

"The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him."

"He (Paul) sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus."

"Timothy, my fellow worker..."

"Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord."

"He is carrying on the work of the Lord."

"Timothy, our brother ... "

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"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ."

"To Timothy, my true son in the faith."

"Timothy, my son"

"To Timothy, my dear son"

"Timothy, our brother"

There is no doubt of both Paul's affection for Timothy and his respect for his faithful service to the Lord. It is natural then that Paul is sending Timothy to minister to the church in Philippi in his place. Paul would like to go himself for this church is very dear to him. But his imprisonment and his failing health make that unlikely. Instead he is sending Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19-30). Paul wants the church to know that these men speak with the authority with which Paul himself would speak to them. This is the church which Paul loves best and he is immensely proud of it, but he feels it is in danger and something must be done to set things right before the mischief has gone too far. The whole book of Philippians must be read against the background of this anxiety for the Philippians which is mingled with his affection for them.

Timothy had been one of Paul's companions on his first visit to Philippi (Acts 16:1) and is well known to the church. Paul does not express his full concern for the church but says that he is sending Timothy so that Timothy can bring back good news about how the church is functioning. Timothy sees eye to eye with Paul and will be concerned about any issues in the church just as Paul would be concerned.

A small bit of criticism creeps into Paul's writing in verses 20-21. *"I have no one like him (Timothy) who will be genuinely anxious for your welfare. They all look after their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."* Paul was, after all, human and had obviously been disappointed in other Christians who had not been so faithful. But in Timothy he had total confidence and he expects the church in Philippi to have that same confidence.

We need to note that Timothy had the privilege of having both a godly mother and grandmother. In Paul's admonitions to Timothy in 1 and 2 Timothy, this heritage is noted. 2 Timothy 1: 5 says *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you, also."* 2 Timothy 3: 15 says *"and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*

Every faithful parent and grandparent who has sought to teach their children and grandchildren since infancy the truth of Scripture should be encouraged by these words. Timothy was uniquely equipped to be of service to the Lord and to Paul because *"from infancy, he had known the Scriptures."* The careful nurturing of our children is one of the most important tasks we have.

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Notes Regarding Epaphroditus

Another person is involved in ministering to the Philippian church. Paul also has confidence in him. His ministry with Paul is more limited than Timothy's, but we find the following references to Epaphroditus.

Philippians 2: 25-30. "I think it is necessary to send back Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed, he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore, I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me."

Philippians 4: 18b-19. *"I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*

Paul thought it necessary to send Epaphroditus to the Philippian church. Perhaps, Timothy is not able to go immediately. Epaphroditus had conveyed a gift of money from the Philippian church to Paul (4:18). He was one of the leading men of the Philippian church and was so much identified with it that he had been chosen for a highly responsible task. Apparently, he was sent not only to carry their gift, but to stay with Paul in his captivity and assist him in every way possible. Paul speaks of his representing them (v. 25); in one man the whole church ministered to Paul. Paul is lavish in his praise of Epaphroditus describing him as my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier.

Apparently, Epaphroditus suffered a grave illness while with Paul. Paul rejoices in his recovery for everyone's sake. Epaphroditus, of course, is glad to have recovered; Paul was spared the sorrow of losing this friend and helper and the Philippian church will be glad to see him well again. We don't often understand the reason for a person's recovery from a serious illness which might have been fatal, but certainly one of those reasons is the joy it brings to loved ones.

Nothing is told us of the cause and nature of Epaphroditus' illness, but it was evidently the consequence of his difficult journey, or of the hardships he suffered after his arrival. He had attested to his fidelity by incurring the risk of death and Paul says we are to honour people like him.

This brief passage is an excellent portrait of two faithful servants – people who made a difference. They made a difference to Paul personally, to the Christian message in general and to the local congregation at Philippi.

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Two Faithful Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ

Both men exhibit a long history of faithfulness. Timothy had learned Scripture as a child from his mother and grandmother. He was spoken of as a young man as being of good character. He ministered in the early stages of Paul's ministry, pastored at Ephesus and received the advice written in 1 and 2 Timothy. Later, he laboured alongside Paul and was with him during Paul's prison experience. If we call Timothy a man who made a difference, it is because of a lifetime of faithfulness rather than one spectacular event or achievement.

Epaphroditus, too, was faithful over time. He had earned the respect of his fellow church members. He was entrusted to take a monetary gift to Paul. Since this was not in the form of a cashier's cheque or money order, a less scrupulous person might have disappeared with the money or used a small portion of it for his own needs. Epaphroditus had the confidence of the church that whatever was entrusted to him would arrive safely at its destination inasmuch as was possible for him to keep it safe. Epaphroditus not only brought money, he worked alongside of Paul and encouraged him. We do not know how long his stay with Paul was, but during that time he suffered a serious illness. He nearly died. The picture Paul paints of Epaphroditus was one of constancy. He was a man who made a difference because over time, in a variety of circumstances, he was faithful to God.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Our study today is an encouragement to us to steady faithful living out of our Christian faith. Our theme, Make a Difference With Your Life, encourages us to look for ways in which we make our world a better place to live by being faithful to the tasks God has given to us. A few of us may have spectacular, well-known places of ministry. But most of us will make a difference over a lifetime of faithful, ongoing service to God and to others.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

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What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Make a Difference with your Life

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the <u>Focal Text</u> in their Bibles. Also, share with them the <u>Main Idea</u> to be learned from the Scriptures, and the <u>Questions to be</u> <u>Explored</u> by the group.

Focal Text

Philippians 2: 19-30

Background Text

Philippians 2: 19-30

Main Idea

People who make a difference for Christ give of themselves in serving others for Christ's sake.

Question to Explore

What kind of people should we be honouring?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to determine to become people who make a difference for Christ.

Connect with Life:

Share the following: These questions that I am going to ask may be some that not all of you could answer. However, these are good questions for some. Here they are and please don't answer aloud:

- If you were asked to write the biography of the most faithful Christian you have ever personally known, About whom would you write?
- What makes you think that he or she was (or is) the most faithful Christian you have known?

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- If you really think about it, does that person have to be famous for his or her faith?
- Did or does that person have to be greatly skilled in some type of ministry?
- <u>What made or makes that person faithful?</u> Finally, in your own mind, is there a difference between being a "great" Christian and being a "faithful" Christian?

Guide the Study:

Ask the person who prints out this session for you to make a copy of the Scripture verses which tell about Timothy (See end of Sharing Time) for each participant. You can look the verses up one by one in your Bibles. However, since there are several verses you will be able to use your time more efficiently if you can make copies of the verses ahead of time.

Go verse by verse and choose descriptive phrases. Write these on a white board or large piece of paper. (Use an older child or young person to do the writing).

These phrases should include:

"The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him."

"He (Paul) sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus."

"Timothy, my fellow worker..."

"Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord."

"He is carrying on the work of the Lord."

"Timothy, our brother ... "

"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ."

"To Timothy, my true son in the faith."

"Timothy, my son"

"To Timothy, my dear son"

"Timothy, our brother"

Explain: <u>Paul would like to go to Philippi himself to give encouragement to the church</u> and to deal with any problems which may exist. He is in prison, however, and his health is poor. So Paul will send Timothy. He knows Timothy will understand the problems and try to resolve them as Paul would have done. He has great confidence in Timothy.

Have someone read 2 Timothy 1:5 and 2 Timothy 3:15.

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Ask another person to describe how they think Timothy's early years were like based on these verses.

Encourage the group to comment on this question: <u>What does this say to us today</u> about nurturing our own children and the children of our church in faith?

State: <u>Another person is also being sent to the Philippian church.</u> Read Philippians 2: 25-30.

Ask: <u>What are words Paul uses to describe Epaphroditus.</u> (Write these on the white board).

Have someone read Philippians 4: 18b-19.

Ask: What task did Epaphroditus have on behalf of the Philippian church?

Ask a youth or older adult: <u>How does Paul describe Epaphroditus' recovery from</u> <u>illness?</u> (God had mercy on him; God spared Paul sorrow upon sorrow; the church will be glad to see him again)

Ask: Do you think these two men made a difference with their life because of one large, spectacular incident or because they were faithful in many tasks over a long period of time?

Now search for suggestions on this: <u>Who do you remember in the New Testament who</u> were not of the 12 apostles but were mentioned by one of the writers as having been faithful to carry out Christian ministries and tasks. (Think about those like Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, and others while Jesus was living on earth. Then think of some like Lydia, Barnabas, Silas, and others who served Christ after his ascension).

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the <u>Youth!!! Take Ten</u> page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Suggest this thought to the group: <u>Sometimes we wait for large opportunities to make a</u> <u>difference in our world and ignore the smaller day-by-day opportunities.</u> We would all <u>like to make a difference in environmental issues, but we may throw our candy wrapper</u> <u>on the ground or fail to compost our kitchen scraps because it is too much trouble.</u>

Also emphasize this sad but true fact: <u>We may imagine ourselves being great soul</u> <u>winners and participating in a mission opportunity where hundreds come to Christ, but</u> <u>we seldom talk about spiritual things with our best friend.</u>

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Encourage a serious discussion of this: <u>What practical thing can we do this week</u> individually and as a church to make a difference for Christ in the world?

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten **Bible Study Application for Youth**

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Make a Difference with your Life Philippians 2: 19-30

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Timothy has been a positive role model for many young people. Paul's admonitions to Timothy which are contained in 1 and 2 Timothy speak clearly to young people today even as they did in Timothy's day.

One of the favourite verses of youth is found in 1 Timothy 4:12. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

We may be a little stronger on the part which says "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young" than we are on the part which says "but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity".

Discuss this!!! How can the young people of your house church set an example for the others in the church who are older and those who are younger?

And discuss this!!! Think of concrete ways in which you are an example in your own setting: School, home, sports, down time, work, etc.

Copy this section for the Worship Time leader.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Make a Difference with your Life Philippians 2: 19-30

Beginning the Service:

Sing In Christ Alone, The Worship Hymnal # 506; CCLI # 3350395 Jesus is Lord of All, The Worship Hymnal # 294; CCLI #26478

Offering:

Praying for the World:

The Aukan people are rejoicing over those who have come to know Christ as their Saviour. They are really excited about their faith and are growing bolder in their walk with Christ. They have been discipled about baptism, but so far, none have been baptized. Please pray for the new believers to take this step of baptism. Please pray that it will be a witness to the people and others will come to know Christ as their Saviour.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

> **Sincere Faith** 2 Timothy 1:5

Introduction:

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When Paul writes his second letter of admonition to Timothy he begins by telling Timothy that he prays for him *"I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am also persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give you a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."* (2 Timothy 1:3-7)

1. A sincere faith brings joy to others.

Carman and Ethel Anderson were in their 70's when they began a new church in a growing area of southwest Calgary, Alberta, Canada. With a handful of other equally dedicated Christians, none of them pastors or seminary-trained leaders, they began to pray and give towards this church plant, their third in the city. Difficulties arose and it looked like the church plant would never come about. A large excavation hole served as a reminder of the failed hopes and dreams of this couple.

They faithfully continued to believe that God would provide the means to continue. And he did so by sending a group of people from other churches who felt called to minister alongside the original group. A long-time pastor and denominational leader retired earlier than expected to give leadership to the group. Soon the excavation hole began to grow a building. Many, many hours of labour by church members went into the construction and finishing of the building. Through it all the Andersons gave leadership and encouragement. Ethel's warm greeting and firm handshake was many people's first contact with the church. Both Carman and Ethel have now died from old-age related problems but their faithful service is still an example for people of the church and community.

2. A sincere faith is transmitted from generation to generation.

Timothy found having faith a normal and natural reality. His grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, had shared Scripture with him since he was a child. When the message of Jesus was heard, he must have found it easy to accept. When the call of God to missionary service came, he did not hesitate.

The Andersons have shared their faith with their children and grandchildren. Like their parents, their sons have devoted hours of service to Christian service of every kind. One granddaughter is Children's Minister in a large, vibrant church.

3. A sincere faith is a gift from God and a gift to God.

We do not understand the mystery of faith. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2 tells us "So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret

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things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

We have been entrusted with the secret things of God. We were open to the message of salvation when others struggle to accept. We may have been like Timothy and have been raised in an environment where faith was as real as life itself. We may have gone through a difficult experience and emerged on the other side with an abiding faith in God. However our faith experience emerged, it is a gift of God.

Call to Commitment:

Our faith is also a gift to God. Our topic today has been "Make a Difference with your Life". Whatever difference we make is our gift to God. It may be establishing a home where children are raised knowing and loving God. It may be consistent witness to our friends and neighbours. It may be a life of purity and service. Or, it may be all of these things and others. It is a gift to God.

Paul would remind us even as he reminded Timothy "to fan into flame the gift of **God**". Like Lois, Eunice, Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, Carman and Ethel and scores of other faithful believers we must fan into flame the gift of God. We must make a difference with our life this week.

Concluding the Service:

Sing Thank You Lord, The Worship Hymnal # 582; CCLI # 577439

Scripture verses about Timothy

Acts 16: 1-3 "He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek."

Acts 19:22 "He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer."

Romans 16:21 *"Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives."*

1 Corinthians 4:27 *"For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church."*

1 Corinthians 16:10 *"If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am."*

2 Corinthians 1: 1, 19 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother". "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not 'Yes' and 'No' but in him it has always been 'Yes'".

Colossians 1: 1 *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother."*

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 3:2, 6 "Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you."

"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith..." "But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you."

1 Timothy 1: 1-2 *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."*

1 Timothy 1: 18 *"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight."*

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1 Timothy 1: 1-2 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philemon 1:1 "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, our brother."