

# Eastern Bible Conference

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## *Young Peoples Bible Study 2012*

Our exercise is to spend this week looking at the Assembly as seen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of Paul to Timothy. Oh that he could have written another epistle like that written to Timothy earlier. How helpful the instructions had been as to maintaining order in the Assembly and as to the behavior that our God desires from all in His house. But sweeping changes had come about and others were looming in the future. The young man Timothy was no doubt discouraged and his ministry had not been affected. But how do we approach such a subject? Do we want to study “the ruin” that had come in or might we be better served to spend a little time in the introduction by looking at how the Assembly functioned from her inception.

No doubt we are all aware that these were the last recorded words of the apostle Paul. Perhaps we are also to gain instruction by seeing that they are NOT written to an assembly of believers. The day was fast approaching when a letter could not be sent to all believers in one city because of divisions that had come in. The faithfulness of you and I as individuals becomes very prominent! Early in the history of the Assembly, it is recorded that “they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2 vs 42. We also know from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians that the gifts given by our risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ were functioning – even if they were being misused in some cases. The men in Ephesians 4 were working under the control of the Holy Spirit for the “perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ” – Ephesians 4 vs 12. In short, the mass of believers were faithful and a very small number were not faithful. Those who were unfaithful were dealt with by the Assembly and when necessary, were put out. But the situation now is just the opposite. Most were not faithful but there were small numbers of believers who were faithful. Now instead of the faithful putting the unfaithful out, we find that the faithful must “go out” if they are to walk in happy fellowship with our Lord. Thus the size of this company becomes comparatively smaller and this small remnant makes up the company that is set before us in this epistle.

## **Chapter 1**

- 1) Why does the apostleship of Paul play such a roll in this epistle?
- 2) How is the “promise of life in Christ Jesus” affected by these changes?
- 3) Why did Paul not go personally to Timothy?
- 4) What do the “tears” tell us about Timothy?
- 5) Let’s speak of the faith of his Mother and Grandmother?
- 6) What would you have to “stir up” as gift?
- 7) Before telling Timothy what he does possess, Paul tells him what does not come from God. Discuss. What is its source?
- 8) Discuss “Power, love, and a sound mind”. Are they used in conjunction with one another or do they stand alone?

- 9) Discuss the two (2) things Timothy stood in danger of being ashamed of?
- 10) Timothy what to be a “willing participant” in the afflictions of the Gospel” – Discuss
- 11) What do God’s purposes have to do with our stability as a believer?
- 12) Discuss the three tremendous things our Lord Jesus has done in verse 10 and how man comes into the good of these things?
- 13) Why was Paul not ashamed in verse 12? – Discuss
- 14) What is the significance of “That day” to Paul and to you and I?
- 15) What do “the form of sound words” refer to?
- 16) What is the “Good deposit” of verse 14 referring to?
- 17) As you think of the condition of things as discussed in the introduction, what is happening in verse 15? Aare these people still Christians? What does Paul mean when he says they have turned away “from him?” Aare we better than this company that no longer walk in what Paul could refer to “my doctrine?”
- 18) Discuss the efforts of Onesiphorus and what he did? Discuss the fact that he was not ashamed “of my chain.”

## Chapter 2

- 1) Paul reminds Timothy that there is only ONE THING that can give victory this enemy – and then reveals what Timothy already knew – the source! Discuss
- 2) Verse 2 reveals the only succession known to the New Testament scriptures. Discuss this succession in verse 2. What is the only thing we have authority to pass on to others. Discuss
- 3) He then reminds Timothy of three occupations of men as such and how they apply to this battle
  - a) Soldier – Discuss vs 3 & 4 Endurance
  - b) Athlete – Discuss vs 5 Who makes the rules? Where are they found?
  - c) Farmer or husbandman – Labor
- 4) What is the area we are to consider in verse 7 and who gives it? Can this come from teachers or instructors?
- 5) Verse 8 thru 12 tell us of three things we are to do – Discuss
- 6) Were these things just for Timothy or were they for others too?
- 7) Verse 15 stands by itself in importance. Timothy as not studying to show others although others would know. What kind of workman would he be ashamed? What does it mean to “cut the truth in a straight line?”
- 8) How do we recognize “babblings”? Can’t we help these people? What does shun mean?
- 9) Verse 19 is a critical verse for us. Discuss the “solid foundation of God.” Why do we take such comfort in the first part about the Lord knowing them that are His? Discuss. Discuss our responsibility as seen in the second part. Is this second part optional in any way? What if we think the Lord is using or can use us in this area?
- 10) Verse 20 is a Kodak moment. It is a snapshot of the professing church from the days of Paul writing this epistle to this present day. Anyone who can be in the professing church is in this verse. Real believers whose life is an honor to our Lord are here – real believers whos life is not honoring to our Lord are also here! Professors who do not even belong to the Lord are also here. What is the

thought of a vessel? Think of how many vessels the Lord can choose from? What are vessels used for? Discuss the two words “not only” in this verse.

- 11) In verse 21 we see an individual acting. What is the one criteria that will mark a real believer as either a vessel unto honor or a vessel unto dishonor? Whose decision is it? Discuss “sanctified”, “ready for the masters use” and “prepared unto every good work”. Are those who have been exercised and acted BETTER than those who did not act? What is the one word that would describe them.
- 12) The believer who has been exercised about his or her pathway and has acted according to the Lord’s instructions now finds the tense is changed in verse – the individual of verse 21 becomes part of a company in verse 22. Discuss. What is a divided heart?
- 13) What is the attitude of the believer who has acted to be in regards to those who have not acted. This believer who has acted is called a servant and certain characteristics or features of Christ are seen in him. Discuss
- 14) Many of those who would not “depart from iniquity” are true believers. Who do they oppose according to verse 25. They do not apparently need to be “saved” – they need repentance – not to salvation – but to “the acknowledgement of the truth”. Discuss

## Chapter 3

Timothy has now been prepared by the Spirit of God through the Apostle Paul for the present day in which he was living. He has instructed how to find a company with which he can gather. He has instructions from the Lord about vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor and what is expected of him as an individual. Now the Spirit of God is going to prepare him for the storms that are ahead. He is going to be prepared to go forward – not to quit – not to let gift lay idle!

- 1) What is the difference between the list of sins committed here and the listing given to us in Romans – Chapter 1?
- 2) What is apostasy? Perhaps we could discuss the meaning of the word. Were apostates ever saved? What is the difference between an apostate and someone who is saved but believes some form of error? What would you do to help this person who believes some form of error? Who is our position to be towards those who have given up the foundation truths of Christianity but still would tell us that they are Christians? There are many mainline denominations who preach the Gospel and meet with sincere – saved individuals? Would we ever refer to these as apostates?
- 3) <blank>
- 4) Could any of these characteristics seen in verses 2 thru 4 ever be seen in a real believer?
- 5) Verse 5 gives us the two characteristics of these people and tells us what we should do – Discuss
- 6) Jannes and Jambres are specifically mentioned. What were they noted for in particular.
- 7) Paul mentions his “doctrine” and is “manner of life”. How are these two areas linked? How do you know the doctrine someone holds?
- 8) Timothy “fully knew” Paul’s doctrine – which books give us this truth in particular. Discuss the nature of most of Paul’s writings.

- 9) Discuss "Purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, afflictions" as seen in the life of the apostle.
- 10) Let's discuss the future of things in this world – Discuss 12 & 13
- 11) The great point of vs 14 is to \_\_\_\_\_. Discuss three main points in this verse. When did this process begin? What kind of "salvation" is referred to in verse 15?
- 12) Verse 16 tells us that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" or literally is "God breathed". Discuss.
- 13) Discuss the four points of verse 16:
  - a) Doctrine
  - b) Reproof
  - c) Correction
  - d) Instruction in righteousness
- 14) What is "the man of God" - Discuss

## Chapter 4

The "soldier" of chapter 2, the "vessel – meet for the Master's use", now receives his charge. His appearing and His kingdom are just ahead! We are to work now – in this day – in view of the day to come. Discuss the thought of "His kingdom"

- 1) "Preach the word" – listen to the urgency of this verse! Verses 3 & 4 tell us why. It is always a great thing to know how things will end. Discuss
- 2) Verse 4 is what others will do – verse 5 is what I should do! Discuss
- 3) Paul does not say – "I am going to be offered" but he says "I am now ready to be offered" – Discuss
- 4) Verses 7 & 8 allow us to hear the heart of a many speak who has honored his Lord. He can say the following:
  - a) I have fought the good fight!
  - b) I have finished my course!
  - c) I have kept the faith! What do these statements mean to us? Discuss
- 5) In verse 8 Paul lays his own heart open. What made him go forward as he did? Let's break this verse down:
  - a) The crown is "laid up" – nothing can touch this!
  - b) It was personal – it was "for me"!
  - c) It is a "crown of righteousness"!
  - d) Who will give it?
  - e) What kind of a judge is He?
  - f) It is unique for me or can others have such a crown also?
- 6) Verse 10 – what is the lesson of Demas?
  - a) Philemon – vs 24 "My fellow laborer!"
  - b) Colossians 4 – vs 14 – Just Demas – nothing else
  - c) 2 Timothy 4 – vs 10 – Demas "has forsaken me!"
  - d) How could such a thing happen – Our God says "I want you to know how!"

- 7) Let's look at Mark and his history – Listen to what Paul says about one who had left the pathway.  
*"He is profitable to me – for the ministry"* Discuss
- 8) Verse 16 we see the Spirit of Christ in His servant as he speaks of those who did not stand with him.  
Listen to the last words of this verse – discuss.
- 9) If men did not stand with Paul – he was not alone! Discuss