"Timothy: The Goal of Discipleship" Romans 16:21-23 & Matthew 28:18-20

What is discipleship? It is teaching your children the Word of God. It is encouraging your spouse to continue to put Christ first and foremost in their life. It is a husband growing in his knowledge of the Word and sharing this with his wife and children. It is praying with your wife and children. It is the faithful and exegetical preaching and teaching of the Word of God built on the foundation of holy living. It is encouraging our brothers and sisters with the truth of God's Word. It is addressing sin in the lives of our brothers and sisters and confessing our sin to our brothers and sisters. It is being an example to other Christians and to the world of obedience to God's Word, no matter the cost. It's being hospitable, available, consistent and disciplined in our words and our lives. It is loving the body of Christ, both when it is easy and when it is hard. It is giving every ounce of yourself to Christ in the hope that others would do the same. "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:9)

Are you making disciples?????

"Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us....Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith....For I have given you an example, that you should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them....Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ....I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in the church."

(Philippians 3:17; Hebrews 13:7; John 13:15-17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16-17)

- Paul's tested ministry team: Romans 16:21-23
 - Jason (Acts 17:5-9); Lucius (Acts 13:1-3); Sosipater (Acts 20:3-4); Tertius, who was Paul's scribe for the book of Romans (1 Corinthians 16:21; Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 4:17-18; Philemon 1:18-19 An author could dictate to a scribe who would write out the dictation and work with the author to create the final form of the document. Tradition tells us that Tertius may have been Phoebe's slave; Tertius was a popular slave name during this time period.); Gaius, who is hosting Paul's ministry team and hosts a local church in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17); Erastus (Acts 19:22; 2 Timothy 4:20); and Quartus.
- Timothy: The goal of discipleship (Philippians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:14-15).

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 2:19-22
 - Timothy and Paul were like-minded, they were single-minded, they were gospel focused (Ephesians 4:1-3; Psalm 86:11-13). They were kindred in their passions for souls.
 - Timothy, like Paul, had an anxiety for the sheep (2 Corinthians 11:28). He had their spiritual best interest in mind (Philippians 1:25). Timothy preached Christ out of love for God and others (Philippians 1:15-16).

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- Timothy was proven and tested by his continual faith in Christ (Romans 1:16-17). Time and time again, Paul sent Timothy to represent him to the churches and the churches benefited from his faithful service (2 Corinthians 8:22; 1 Timothy 3:10).
- Timothy was known as a servant of the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:10; Philippians 1:1). Timothy's allegiance was to Christ.
- o 1 Timothy 4:11-16
 - A holy life is the foundation that the house of faithful preaching is built on. A pastor and a Christian's life brings power to their message (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9).
 - The Word of God is the means of salvation (Romans 10:17) and the means of sanctification (John 17:17). Timothy was devoted to the Scriptures.
 - Timothy had the gift of shepherding, (teaching, preaching, leading) and it was confirmed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-3) and through the leaders of the church. Today men are called by God into the ministry through their God-given desire and the testimony of their holy lives and their giftedness (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
 - The private discipline's are the means to a zealous serving of Christ. We must practice and immerse ourselves in the Word and work of God. The overflow of this is seen in our public lives.

Announcements:

- BAPTISMS: Our next Baptism Service will be Sunday, January 30th! If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please talk to Pastor Jeremey, Pastor Joel, or one of the Elders.
- DONATIONS: Throughout the month of January we will be collecting donations for Heartbeats. They are in need of the following items: baby wash, baby shampoo, diaper rash cream, new sippy cups, 0-3 months clothing for boys and girls, and 2T clothing for boys and girls. Please put your donations in the tote by the back table.
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We will be having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, January 16th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something for the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay and join us for dinner and fellowship!