

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

June 2019

No. 402

BE AN EXAMPLE

Timothy was a young man when the apostle Paul wrote to him the following exhortation, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation [conduct], in charity [love], in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Tim. 4:12). Just as Timothy was to be an example to other believers, you and I are to be examples to other believers. People watch you to see how you live your life. They look to see if you are sincere, to see if you are hypocritical, to see if you have integrity, and to see if you are following the spiritual principles laid out in the Bible. People discover what kind of

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Christian you are by how you live your life. The new believers typically look to those who have been Christians for a longer time to learn how they should act or react in the different situations of life. I remember Christians that I have looked up to and have taken as examples. I learned from them how to walk in faith; I learned how to react to trials and temptation; I learned from them how to preach and teach; I learned from them how to pray; I learned from them how to love my fellow brother and sister in Christ. Many things I have learned from the example of other Christians.

Timothy was instructed to be an example to the believers in six areas. These same six areas apply to you today. The first area is “*in word*”; I understand this to be the words that you use – your speech. People judge you by what you say and how you say it. Are you often critical of other people? Do you use sarcasm? Are you frequently telling jokes with some being in bad taste? Do you swear or curse? Do you tell lies?

What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. (Psa. 34:12-13)

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. (Jas. 1:26)

Instead, be an example to others by edifying with your words and by being thankful and praising God.

The next area is “*in conversation [conduct]*”. Jesus showed his apostles how to be servants when he washed their feet. Jesus was an example to us in other ways.

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed him-

self to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Pet. 2:21-24)

As Jesus is your example, you must be an example to other believers with the conduct of your life. Cheerfully be a servant to those about you. Show joy in your life. Freely give to those in need. Demonstrate self-control when tempted or tried. There are many areas in your life where you can be an example to others in your conduct.

The next area is “*in charity* [love]”. Again, God and Christ are our examples of love.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Eph. 5:1-2)

From 1 Corinthians 13 we learn the characteristics of true love. One of the most important characteristics of love is that it “*seeketh not her own*”. When you truly love others, you show that you are not selfish but that you seek their good and want the best for them. Are you being an example of love by demonstrating your care and concern for others?

The next area is “*in spirit*”. You are an example in this area by your manner of living - by your disposition and attitude. You should show with your spirit that the Holy Spirit is living within you.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness [kindness], goodness, faith, Meekness [gentleness], temperance [self-control]: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-25)

You are an example in spirit when you show love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in your life.

The next area is “*in faith*”. The apostle Paul told the Romans in Romans 1:8, “*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*” Your faith may not be spoken of throughout the world, but others will see your faith by how you live. You show your faith by your obvious trust in God and His promises. You demonstrate your faith when you put yourself into God’s hands in the time of trial and by being a prayerful person. You are an example in faith when you walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

The last area is “*in purity*”. Perhaps this was especially important for Timothy as a young unmarried man. He needed to be an example in sexual purity. Whether you are unmarried or married, you also should be an example in sexual purity. But sexuality is not the only area where you should demonstrate purity. You should have a pure heart towards God in all areas of your life and not be partly good and partly sinful in any area. Be an example of a pure, genuine follower of Jesus Christ.

When the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to be an example in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith and in purity, I do not believe that Paul wanted Timothy to be a hypocrite and pretend to be good in all these areas. No, he wanted Timothy to be careful in his actions and not do anything that might be misinterpreted as unrighteous. Jesus taught us in Matthew 5:14-16,

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Mat. 5:14-16)

Live your life so that you will be the example that causes others to glorify your Father in heaven.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. According to Proverbs, what is the beginning of knowledge?
2. The apostle Paul told the Philippians to “do all things without” what?
3. In Ephesians, we are told to have no fellowship with what?
4. What does Paul say happens to a man “if he think himself to be something, when he is nothing”?
5. Who was “sick nigh unto death” in Paul’s writing to the Philippians?

Questions submitted by
DEWAYNE PENDERGRASS

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month’s questions?

1. Which of Leah’s sons brought her mandrakes?
REUBEN (Gen. 30:14)
2. How did Rahab let the invading Israelites identify her house?
SHE TIED A SCARLET THREAD IN THE WINDOW (Josh. 2:18)
3. What god did the Philistines offer sacrifices to?
DAGON (Jdg. 16:23)
4. Who was the king of Judea at the time of Jesus’ birth?
HEROD (THE GREAT) (Matt. 2:1)
5. What relation was John Mark to Barnabas?
SISTER’S SON/COUSIN (Col. 4:10)

PHILIPPIANS 3

(Part II)

Paul continues by saying that we need to all make sure that we have the same mindset. That we are thinking and acting in a way that is truly pleasing to God and not focused on this world.

Philippians 3:15-16 - Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

A similar thought can be found in the first letter to the Corinthians. Talking of people who see themselves as perfect, but knowing that these people are not.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 - Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The Philippians are implored to follow Paul's example. He knows that there are many who follow enemies of Christ. Those who only care about making sure that they have their desires. Paul knows that their end is destruction, they do not have hope.

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Philippians 3:17-19 - Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

We should make sure that we are looking to heaven, and that we are continuing towards our true end goal.

Colossians 3:1-4 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

We know that our sinful bodies will no longer exist. We know that we will take on a new form. Are we living with that in mind, or are we only worried about our present situation?

Philippians 3:20-21 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

As you continue working to serve Christ, remember that this body and this life are temporary and that you should always keep your eyes looking above.

1 Corinthians 15:43-45 - It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spir- it.

A. D.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
June 2 - 7	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	David Burnham, Mark Carpenter, Scott Carpenter, Joseph Crow, Allan Daniel, & Brandon Turner
June 7 - 9	Junction City Junction City, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
June 9 - 14	Mount Carmel Woodland, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 16 - 21	Ephesus Ephesus, GA	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 21 - 23	Mount Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Timothy Lewis, Danny Griffin, & Mark Carpenter
June 21 - 23	Freefield Stateline, MS	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
June 28 - 30	Antioch Douglasville, GA	Ron Scott (Bloomington, IN)
June 28 - 30	Verona Verona, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

PSALM 27:14

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*