

Timothy the Faithful – “O man of God” 1 Timothy 6:11

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” 2 Timothy 2:3



“Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God” 1 Samuel 17:36¹

Picturing 2 Timothy 2:3, 1 Samuel 17:36 is a “Timothy” called at age 20 to:

- ***“endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”***
- face ***“the lion and the bear”*** and the ***“Philistine”***
- be faithful ***“that thou...mightest war a good warfare”*** 1 Timothy 1:18:

*A flood of thoughts came across my mind regarding the different fields I had fought on, and the many hair-breadth escapes I had had. I thought of the Alma and my Christian comrade who lay buried beside the river. I thought of the wild charge of our handful of cavalry at Balaclava, of our desperate fight at Inkerman, of our terrible work in the trenches. And after all I had gone through - death staring me in the face in a thousand shapes, both in the field and in camp, for upwards of twelve long months...yet a merciful God had thought fit to throw His protecting arm of love around me - truly I had much for meditation; verily I had much to be thankful for... – Sergeant Major **Timothy** Gowing, Royal Fusiliers².*

Like David and S/mjr. Gowing, Timothy did ***“endure hardness,”*** face ***“the lion and the bear”*** and the ***“Philistine”*** and ***“war a good warfare.”*** *If you will, Timothy’s your man ☺!*



Timothy the Follower

Timothy means *Honouring God*³, from his full name “***Timotheus***,” found 17 times in scripture. The embedded word “*theus*” is God. With God in his name, Timothy followed God in his life. He alone is called “***O man of God***” 1 Timothy 6:11 in the New Testament.

Timothy was from Lystra in Asia Minor and Paul first meets him in Acts 16:1. “***Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:***”

Thank God for “***a certain woman...which believed.***” Paul identifies her in 2 Timothy 1:5. “***...I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.***” Timothy became a follower of the Lord via believing generations. “*You may be the first link in a person’s conversion, you may be the last link. Make sure you’re not the missing link!*”⁴

Timothy the Fellowlabourer

Timothy became a “***fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ***” 1 Thessalonians 3:2 but some things threatened his labour. Timothy’s *past life* threatened his labour⁵. Galatians 3:28 says “***There is neither Jew nor Greek...in Christ Jesus***” but Acts 16:3 states “***Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.***” Self-explanatory. Timothy therefore overcame his *past life* to be a “***fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ.***”

Timothy’s *ill-health* threatened his labour. Paul even advises him in 1 Timothy 5:23 “***Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.***” Yet Paul says of Timothy in Philippians 2:22 “***he hath served with me in the gospel.***” Timothy therefore overcame his *ill-health* to be a “***fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ.***”

Timothy’s *fear of shame* threatened his labour. Paul urges him in 2 Timothy 1:8 “***Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;***” Foxe⁶ states that Timothy was Bishop of Ephesus in A.D. 97. There he rebuked a procession of pagans, like a Notting Hill Carnival, for their idolatry. They beat him to death. Timothy therefore overcame his *fear of shame* to be a “***fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ***” no matter what.

So despite *your past, ill-health, fear, whatever, you can be* a “***fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ***” because the Lord said “***Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world***” John 16:33.

Timothy the Faithful

Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:10-11 “***But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.***” The 9 aspects listed may be 9 roots for the 9 fruits of Galatians 5:22, 23. Fruitfulness comes from faithfulness. Timothy was faithful because he *lived through* experiences like 2 Timothy 3:10-11 with Paul and he did “***endure hardness,***” face “***the lion and the bear***” and the “***Philistine***” and “***war a good warfare.***” He could say with Paul in 1 Timothy 1:12 “***And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;***” So, how are you “***counted...faithful***”?

Being “***counted...faithful***” includes *cross-generation witness* like Lois to Eunice to Timothy, as Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:2 “***And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.***”

Being “***counted...faithful***” also includes *learning* “***the holy scriptures***” 2 Timothy 3:14-15:

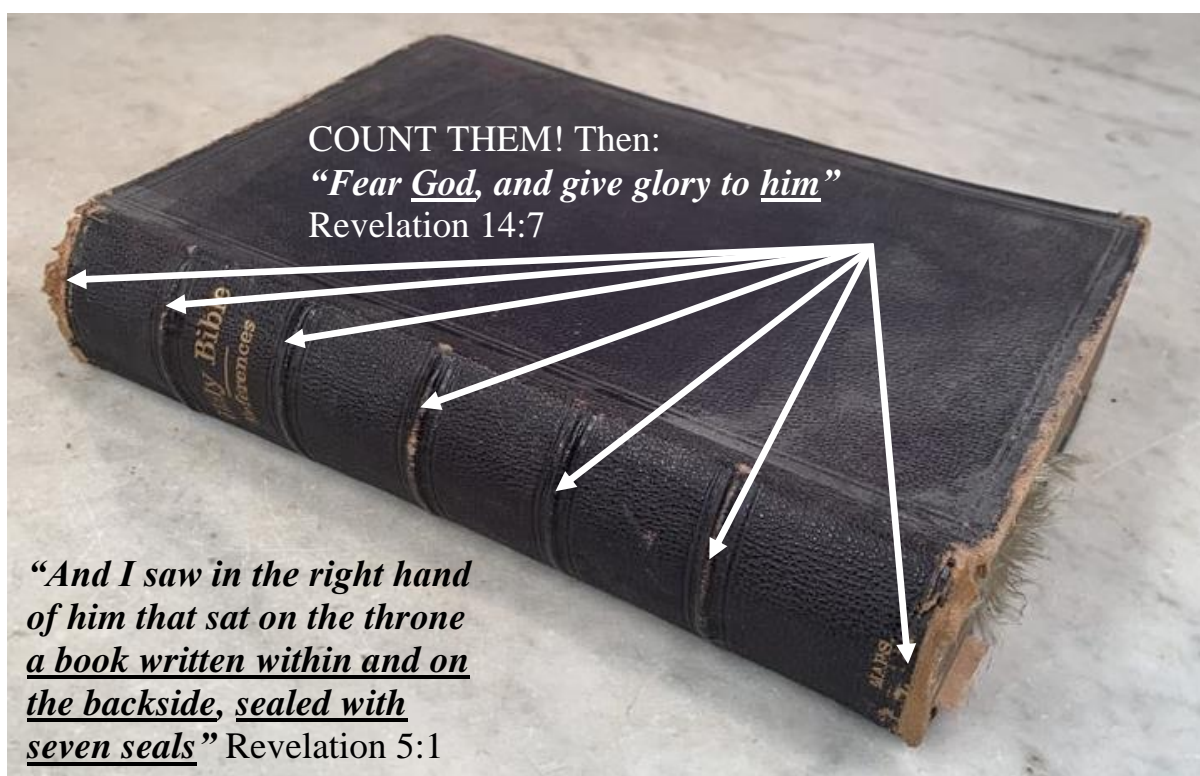
“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

The hymn *My Mother’s Bible* is Timothy’s Testimony:

My Mother’s Bible⁷

*Blessèd Book, precious Book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweet(er) day by day, as I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above*

What Book is that? See below:



*“A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t”
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon⁸.*

Paul therefore exhorts Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15. It should be memorized:
“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

You must rightly divide the Book⁹ because you must learn it - THE BOOK is:

The Timothy’s Charter: How to Follow, Work, Wage War, Be Faithful.

May it be yours.

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Web references were current at the time of writing. See shop.timefortruth.co.uk/ruckman.html for Dr Ruckman's books.

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