TIMOTHY’S RELATIVES

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Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. The scriptures provide us the names of Timothy’s mother and grandmother. As a child, Timothy was taught the Holy Scriptures by his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:5, “I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” Notice that it is these two maternal figures in Timothy’s life who are praised and acknowledged for the excellent example they provided at home for young Timothy. The faith of Timothy’s mother is also mentioned in Acts 16:1, “He (referring to Paul) 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.”

It is believed that Timothy was young, perhaps a teenager, when he met Paul. Timothy observed and assisted Paul as he taught in Ephesus. Paul thought of Timothy not only as a faithful friend, but also as his spiritual son. In 1 Timothy 1:2 Paul addresses Timothy as “my true son in the faith.” In 1 Corinthians 4:17 Paul wrote “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 agree with what I teach everywhere in every church.” I found no evidence that Paul and Timothy were related, but it is apparent that Paul knew Timothy’s family very well.

As a result of the teachings of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, Timothy grew up to be one of the ministers in the early church to the Gentiles and a faithful companion and coworker alongside the Apostle Paul.