The Proven Character Of Timothy
Phil. 2:19-24

Introduction:
A. Timothy was especially useful because he had proven himself to Paul and Phillipians .(v. 20-22).
1. Influential and responsible positions need people of proven character.
   a. Deacons must have proven themselves. (1 Tim.3:10).
   b. Elders must have proven themselves as suggested by various qualifications.
   c. Teachers/preachers should have proven themselves faithful. (2 Tim. 2:2).
2. Influential and responsible positions in the church should not be given prematurely.
   a. Without giving them time to prove faithfulness and qualification.
   b. Without giving them time to establish reputation needed for good influence.
   c. Without giving them time to prove their change genuine, if past unstable.
3. Influential and responsible positions should go to people of proven character for 2 good reasons.
   a. To help insure the quality of the work.
   b. To help insure the church against scandal.

B. Timothy proved several traits of character that we all need in order to maximize our usefulness:

Discussion:

I. Timothy Proved The Spirituality Of His Character.
   A. By seeking the things of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:21).
   B. By learning the will of God. (2 Tim. 3:14,15).

II. Timothy Proved The Unselfishness Of His Character.
   A. By not seeking his own. (Phil. 2:21)
      1. This demonstrated love. (1 Cor. 13:5).
      2. This imitated Christ. (Phil. 2:1-11; Rom. 5:8).
   B. By placing good of Cause above personal rights. (Acts 16:3; cf. 1 Cor. 9).

III. Timothy Proved The Greatness Of His Character.
   A. By serving. (Phil. 2:22).
   B. Greatness in Kingdom differs world's concept of greatness.
      1. Servants are the greatest. (Matt. 23:11)

IV. Timothy Proved The Compatibility Of His Character.
   A. A fellow worker. (Rom. 16:21 cf. Phil. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1).
   B. Fellow workers must be compatible and peaceful.
      1. Such cannot be self-centered.
      2. Such cannot be over-bearing.
   C. Fellow workers must be on same wave-length.
      1. One cannot not walk in truth and other in error.
      2. One cannot not be firm while other compromises.

V. Timothy Proved The Genuineness Of His Character
   A. Held to same genuine faith of mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).
   B. Held to faith while others made shipwreck of theirs. (1 Tim. 1:19,20; 2 Tim. 2:15-18).
   C. Held to word of God while other perverted it. (cf. Gal. 1:8,9).

Conclusion:
A. Are you trying to develope the kind of character Timothy had?
B. Are you willing to prove your character so that good brethren have confidence in you - to commend you and trust you with responsibility?
“But you know his proven character.....”