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WORTHY WOMEN

Quick - who's the most important woman in your life? That question can get a different answer from every person you ask. You wouldn't be here reading this if it weren't for a woman! Throughout the Bible, women feature prominently as irreplaceable figures in the history of the redemption of mankind. We can learn much from their example.

In the book of 2 Timothy, we meet two of these important women, named Lois and Eunice. The apostle Paul mentions them in relation to his protegee Timothy, who is carrying on his missionary work. The apostle credits Lois and Eunice for teaching the Scriptures to Timothy, as well as faith in God.

Paul met this family while on his first missionary journey, in the city of Lystra (in modern Turkey). The name Lois means "agreeable or desirable" and she was Timothy's Jewish grandmother. She must have been married to a Greek, because the name of her daughter Eunice means "conquering well" and is related to Nike, the Greek goddess of victory. Eunice also married a Greek, and their son was named Timothy, which means "one who fears God."

Though they lived in a pagan culture which had no synagogue, this family converted to Christ, a risky commitment in a society which worshiped many pagan deities. It was at Lystra that Paul healed a lame man, and caused so much commotion that he was stoned and left for dead. But his testimony and the message of Christ bore much fruit

Later, in Acts 16, we meet a grown-up Timothy, now a disciple of Christ, spoken of highly by everyone. He becomes an assistant to Paul on his second missionary journey. Now, years later, Paul is in prison for his faith, writing to Timothy to encourage this young pastor in his labors.

Timothy likewise faced much tribulation and persecution. In 2 Timothy 1, Paul remembers with great fondness the legacy of faith that Timothy shares with Lois and Eunice. In verse 4 he writes "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."

Their perseverance in faith and Timothy's calling to ministry leads the apostle to make a play on words. Timothy's name means "one who fears God" and Paul reminds him that God has given him "a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." Because of this, Paul says, do not be ashamed of your testimony of faith in Christ, but willingly "share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God."

The faith of Lois and Eunice remain in the back of his mind as he writes. In 2 Timothy 3, the apostle says persecution should be expected, and again points Timothy to the reason he can persevere in the Spirit's power. In verse 14 he says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you 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."

Women like Lois and Eunice are not only worth watching, they are worth following. Why? Because they base their lives and their teaching, not on personal opinions or ambitions, but on the Word of God. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." Women who teach God's Word are wielding the tools which can raise children who grow up to love and serve Him.

All this brings great encouragement, not only to women, but to everyone who labors to train children in the Word of God, at home and church. THANK YOU to our Sunday School teachers, our Awana workers, those who help with Vacation Bible School, confirmation classes, Bible studies, and every form of religious instruction.

Thank you, women, for your faithful teaching of Scripture! And keep praying! It will bear good fruit, all in God's time.