

Shadows In the Bible

Timothy

Occasionally in literature, an interesting phenomenon appears. A famous person enters our lives through the writings of another. What makes it interesting is that the famous person has no writing and very little history. You could almost say they don't exist. Take for instance Socrates. He was a famous philosopher of ancient Greek. Yet, his saying and ideas only show up in Plato, one of his students. Here in the Bible we have another of these shadowy characters that literally says nothing. His name is Timothy.

There are two books of the Bible named after this man. Actually, these are the writing of Paul to his young protégé Timothy. I look at these two letters as church leadership doctrine. This is really tough teaching. Leaders must be almost pure, honest, and kind. We all want that but it's a tall order even for the church. Timothy is an example of what the best leaders should act like. They are influential in their calling just like Timothy was.

We don't get to know Timothy as a person. Instead we get to see his deeds. We have Paul's opinion of him. Timothy is dedicated, kind, and Godly in Paul's eyes. This Paul had trouble with a few people in his words. Yet, he has no trouble with Timothy. We call Timothy

one of the Fathers of Christianity. I believe it. He helped Paul with his letters. He set up and strengthened many churches. We don't have Timothy's thoughts and teaching, but we do see his heart and devotion to God.

Some people say that Socrates did not exist. Plato uses this name to give credence to his points in philosophy. In many ways Paul has done something similar. Who is Timothy? However, Paul does not make Timothy exist. We don't have the best teachings of young Timothy. Instead Timothy exists in his deeds. I think that this boy made an impression on the older Paul. Although Timothy has no sayings or thoughts, we sort of know him don't we. He is the best example of the church leader. It's tough writing but good writing. We have the dedication of Timothy to thank for that.

Is he a shadowy figure in the Bible? I doubt it. Paul had a somewhat tumultuous relationship with many. I believe that for the most part he was a loner. A very opinionated man. Yet, he liked Timothy greatly. What Timothy is to many of us is ourselves. As Christians we need a mentor. We need wisdom and guidance from our elders. People who can teach us the ways of God and Jesus properly. Timothy might not say anything but his devotion to his mentor does. If Paul liked Timothy then Timothy must have been a very good student of Gods word. We all need that.