

BIBLE CHALLENGE: *Getting to know Timothy and Paul*

In what city is Paul in this passage?

Who are some people that Paul meets and works with in Corinth?

A _____

P _____

T _____ J _____

C _____

Who came from Macedonia and joined Paul?

T _____

S _____

What did Paul do every Sabbath?

How did the people respond to Paul's message?

What did God say to Paul in a night vision?

What do you think Timothy might have learned from Paul in Corinth?

Acts 18.1-11

Later, Paul left Athens and went to the city of Corinth. There he met a Jewish man named Aquila, who was born in the country of Pontus. But he and his wife, Priscilla, had recently moved to Corinth from Italy. They left Italy because Claudius had given an order for all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers, the same as Paul, so he stayed with them and worked with them. Every Sabbath day Paul went to the synagogue and talked with both Jews and Greeks, trying to persuade them to believe in Jesus. But after Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time telling God's message to the Jews, trying to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah. But they disagreed with what Paul was teaching and started insulting him. So Paul shook the dust from his clothes. He said to them, "If you are not saved, it will be your own fault! I have done all I can do. After this I will go only to the non-Jewish people." Paul left the synagogue and moved into the home of Titius Justus, a man who was a worshiper of the true God. His house was next to the synagogue. Crispus was the leader of that synagogue. He and all the people living in his house believed in the Lord Jesus. Many other people in Corinth also listened to Paul. They, too, believed and were baptized. During the night, Paul had a vision. The Lord said to him, "Don't be afraid, and don't stop talking to people. I am with you, and no one will be able to hurt you. Many of my people are in this city." Paul stayed there for a year and a half teaching God's message to the people.

From One Generation to the Next: Wage the Good Warfare

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1 Timothy 4 underline the word *training, trained or train*

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being **trained** in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train** yourself for godliness; for while bodily **training** is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, **devote yourself** to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. **Practice** these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. **Persist** in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

*Look at the other words in the scripture that are in bold print. How do the words '**devote yourself**' '**practice**' and '**persist**' relate to the word 'training'?*

From One Generation to the Next

Make a list or draw some pictures of things you must TRAIN to do, something that you wouldn't be able to do straight away. Examples: run a 5 K race, play a musical instrument

Train Yourself to Flourish

We need training in the Christian life because it is more difficult to flourish in life now than ever in recent history. Paul is coaching Timothy about how to flourish in his life and leadership.

1. Consecrate your living. (make your life 'holy,' set apart for God)

If you want to be really great at anything, you need to set your life apart for it

- Affirm the goodness of God's creation, God created the world good!
- Receive life – its blessings and challenges – with thanksgiving
- Make life holy by the word of God
- Make life holy by prayer

2. Train yourself for godliness.

'physical training is good, but training for godliness has value in every way in the present life and in the life to come.'

1 Timothy 4.8 paraphrase

➤ Trust this fully and accept this – even when it doesn't seem important!

- Know your faith and right teaching
- Avoid 'stupid stuff'
- Work hard and strive for godliness

Train **daily**

Practice spiritual disciplines

Prayer

Worship

Bible study

Repentance

Forgiveness

Giving

Fellowship

Learn and DO what pleases God

What 'stupid stuff' should we avoid?

3. Watch carefully how you live and what you say

- Set an example in the way you speak and live even though you are young
- Do not neglect your spiritual gifts. Use them!
- Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture
- Devote yourself to encouraging others
- Persist in the faith. KEEP GOING! Don't give up!



Name TWO things you will do daily as part of your TRAINING in the Christian faith...