

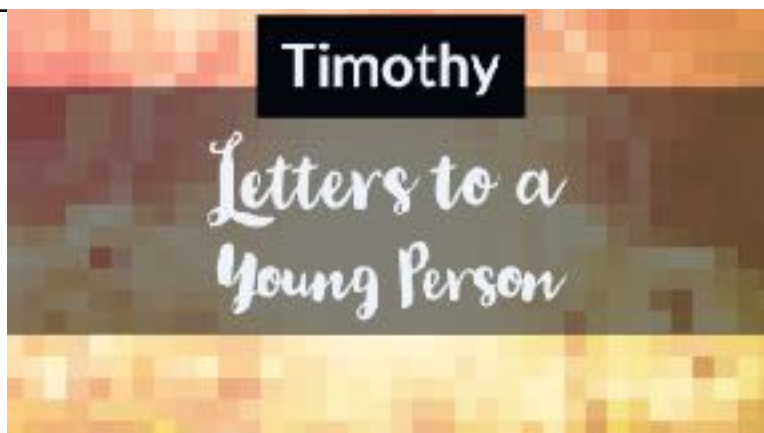
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## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.



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## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about Paul, Timothy and Timothy's mission in Ephesus.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because Timothy's mission in Ephesus is one that we can share in today in our community.

### What is the good news?

The good news is that the light of Christ lives in you.  
Jesus lived, died and rose again that we might have life that really is life.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to teach the faith and set an example.

### What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of a series focused on 1 and 2 Timothy. It has been prepared with help from a series preached by Adam Hamilton at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in November 2011.

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## Metadata

### Topics

- Change Lives
- Develop Leaders
- Share
- Share Christ

5th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

February 5, 2017

Timothy: Letters to a Young Person - Set an Example Sermon

1 Timothy 4:8-16

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,109

## Sermon Books of the Bible

- 1 Timothy

- Matthew

## Tags

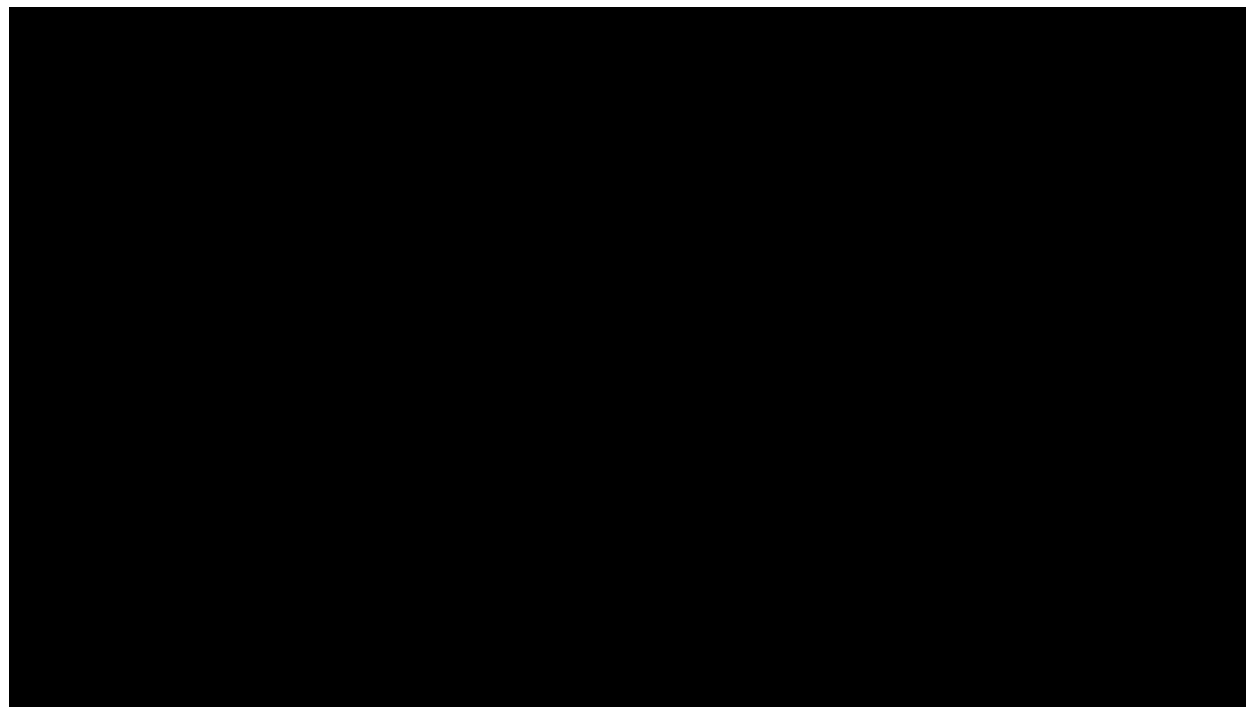
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, Timothy, Paul, mentor, mentoring, example

## Sermon Audio

*9 a.m. Worship*

*11 a.m. Worship*

## Sermon Video



**Introduction** **5**

1 Timothy 4:8-16, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

**How to Teach** **5**

Super Bowl

New England Patriots vs. Atlanta Falcons

Watching Film and Studying Game Plans

Practice Field

Transition

Many Different Learning Styles

Paul to Timothy

**Timothy in Ephesus** **6**

Compilation or Composition?

Compilation?

Composition?

1 and 2 Timothy is Paul's Thoughts

Context of 1 and 2 Timothy

Paul's Encouragement for Timothy

Timothy Sent to Ephesus

Location of Ephesus

The Church in Ephesus

Ephesus at the center of Christianity

False Teaching in Ephesus

Pagan Teaching and Christianity

Different Teaching

Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:3-5

**Timothy's Mission in Ephesus** **8**

Example: Learn the Right Way

Elementary School

Driving a Car

Your Trade or Craft

Timothy's Mission

Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:11-13

Command and Teach

More than Teaching

Timothy's Youth

Set an Example

Transition

### **Our Mission in Butler County**

**10**

Help Others Be Faithful to God's Way

Command and Teach doesn't always Work

Bad Examples

Set an Example

Light of the World

### **Conclusion**

**11**

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

Not ready to pray

Ready to pray

Logistics

Closing Prayer

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## Introduction

### 1 Timothy 4:8-16, CEB

<sup>8</sup>While physical training has some value, training in holy living is useful for everything. It has promise for this life now and the life to come. <sup>9</sup>This saying is reliable and deserves complete acceptance. <sup>10</sup>We work and struggle for this: "Our hope is set on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially those who believe." <sup>11</sup>Command these things. Teach them. <sup>12</sup>Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, faith, and by being sexually pure. <sup>13</sup>Until I arrive, pay attention to public reading, preaching, and teaching. <sup>14</sup>Don't neglect the spiritual gift in you that was given through prophecy when the elders laid hands on you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these things, and live by them so that your progress will be visible to all. <sup>16</sup>Focus on working on your own development and on what you teach. If you do this, you will save yourself and those who hear you.

### Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

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## How to Teach

### Super Bowl

#### *New England Patriots vs. Atlanta Falcons*

Tonight is the final game of the season in the National Football League - Super Bowl LI.

New England Patriots and Atlanta Falcons

Tom Brady and Matt Ryan

The players have spent weeks preparing to take on their opponent.

#### *Watching Film and Studying Game Plans*

Part of their preparation has been watching film of their opponent and studying the game plans. They have listened to their coaches teach them about the tendencies of the other team and what to expect in this or that situation. They have learned in what you might call a classroom.

#### *Practice Field*

The teams have also prepared on the practice field. This is where the information and theory that they have learned about the other team is made real. The starters go up

against a practice team who is focused on being as much like their real opponent as possible. They have prepared by putting their preparation into practice.

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*Pause*  
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## Transition

### ***Many Different Learning Styles***

These are just two ways that someone can learn. You can teach someone how to do something and you can show them. You can be an example. These are two of many different learning or teaching styles.

### ***Paul to Timothy***

The Apostle Paul knew them and gives guidance to his protégé, Timothy, in these ways in the scripture passage for today. Let me remind you of some of the context of this passage of scripture.

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*Pause*  
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## Timothy in Ephesus

### Compilation or Composition?

#### ***Compilation?***

Some scholars believe that 1 Timothy was written after Paul’s death. Perhaps, it was a compilation of things that Paul had written to Timothy while he was alive which were later collected and put together into what is now 1 Timothy.

#### ***Composition?***

Other scholars believe that it is written just as it says, in 1 Timothy 1:1-2:

“<sup>1</sup>From Paul, who is an apostle of Jesus Christ by the command of God our savior and of Christ Jesus our hope.

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my true child in the faith.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.”<sup>1</sup>

This was a letter written from Paul to Timothy after Paul was released from a Roman prison.

#### ***1 and 2 Timothy is Paul’s Thoughts***

We don’t really know and really it doesn’t make a difference. It is Paul’s thoughts that are being put together for us in this letter. We are going to take it as it is and assume that Paul is writing to Timothy before the end of Paul’s life.

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*Pause*  
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<sup>1</sup> 1 Timothy 1:1-2, CEB.

## Context of 1 and 2 Timothy

### ***Paul's Encouragement for Timothy***

When we look at the letters of both 1 and 2 Timothy we see that Paul is mentoring and encouraging Timothy. This is a continuation of the encouragement and guidance that Paul has offered Timothy as he was a companion on one of his missionary journeys and when, perhaps, they met when Timothy was a young boy in Lystra and Paul was a traveling preacher who had come to town.

### ***Timothy Sent to Ephesus***

Paul has assigned Timothy to go to the church in Ephesus, which is in trouble.

### ***Location of Ephesus***

Let me remind you of where this was:

Show map

Ephesus is in Western Turkey.



### ***The Church in Ephesus***

Paul had started the church in Ephesus. He was there for two years and three months - the longest that he ever spent in one place. It soon would be the most prominent church in all of Christianity.

### ***Ephesus at the center of Christianity***

The church began in Jerusalem, on to Antioch and finally Ephesus, in Asia Minor, would be the center of Christianity. It was two or three decades later that Rome would become the center of Christianity.

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*Pause*  
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## False Teaching in Ephesus

### ***Pagan Teaching and Christianity***

Paul has sent Timothy, his best young associate, to take care of the problems in Ephesus. There was false teaching that was going on in the church. There were people who had become Christians and started teaching, but they had brought in Pagan influences and philosophies and were trying to meld these with Christianity.

### ***Different Teaching***

You had people in the church who had become these prominent teachers, yet in hearing what they are teaching, Paul is concerned that they are teaching things that were different than the gospel that he had taught while he was there.

**Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup>When I left for Macedonia, I asked you to stay behind in Ephesus so that you could instruct certain individuals not to spread wrong teaching. <sup>4</sup>They shouldn't pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. Their teaching only causes useless guessing games instead of faithfulness to God's way of doing things. <sup>5</sup>The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith."<sup>2</sup>

Wrong teaching...

Useless guessing games...

Paul doesn't waste his words.

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*Pause*  
.....

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## Timothy's Mission in Ephesus

### Example: Learn the Right Way

Of course, you understand what this is like.

If you are teaching someone something, you want them to learn the right way.

#### **Elementary School**

In elementary school, children learn reading, writing, math and more. You want them to be able to know how to do these things the right way. It is important, not just of the test, but for the rest of your life.

#### **Driving a Car**

When I was learning to drive a car, I learned to drive a manual transmission. If I didn't want the car to jerk, jump and stall out, I had to know the right way to use the clutch.

I don't know if they make those anymore, much less teach it in Driver's Ed.

Even with an automatic transmission, knowing the right way is important.

#### **Your Trade or Craft**

Consider your trade or craft – something that you do for a living or for fun. It saves time and just makes things better to teach and to learn the right way.

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*Pause*  
.....

### **Timothy's Mission**

Timothy has a clear mission: to help the people of Ephesus be faithful to God's way of doing things.

How is he going to do that?

We find some clues in our scripture passage for today.

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Timothy 1:3-5, CEB.



**Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:11-13**

Hear these words again from 1 Timothy 4:11-13:

<sup>11</sup>Command these things. Teach them. <sup>12</sup>Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, faith, and by being sexually pure. <sup>13</sup>Until I arrive, pay attention to public reading, preaching, and teaching.

**Command and Teach**

Command these things. Teach them.

Paul tells Timothy that you gotta to do some teaching.

There are some things going on in the community there at Ephesus that you just have to get straightened out.

They are doing it one way and it needs to be another way.

They are being told that *this* is true, when actually *that* is the truth.

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*Pause*  
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Part of Timothy's role in Ephesus is to tell the truth.

To speak the truth when others are not.

To listen for where people are being shown the wrong way and to teach them.

**More than Teaching**

Of course, Paul knows this church. He knows this community. He knows that telling them that they should stop doing something and start doing something else won't work by itself.

**Timothy's Youth**

Timothy is young.

Probably younger than most of the congregation there in Ephesus.

Paul encourages Timothy not let anyone look down on him because he is young.

Don't let them intimidate you, Timothy.

You have to teach them the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And words, may... not... work...

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*Pause*  
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**Set an Example**

Instead, set an example for the believers. Show them what it is like to be someone who follows after Jesus.

Whenever you open your mouth to speak...

Whenever people see the way that you act...

let them see your love for them.

let them see your love for God.

This, Timothy, this is how you will help the people of Ephesus be faithful to God’s way of doing things.

**Transition**

Paul’s words to Timothy might also be written to us.

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*Pause*  
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## **Our Mission in Butler County**

### **Help Others Be Faithful to God’s Way**

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We can help the people of El Dorado and Butler County be faithful to God’s way of doing things.

Just like Paul and Timothy did in Ephesus.

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*Pause*  
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### **Command and Teach doesn’t always Work**

Except, perhaps even more so today, words don’t always work very well.

**Bad Examples**

There are more than enough examples of evangelists, teachers, preachers, and people who call themselves Christian who say things and do things that just aren’t helpful. There are plenty of examples of people who claim to be Christians living in ways that are not faithful to God’s way of doing things.

Command and teach doesn’t always work.

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*Pause*  
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### **Set an Example**

We can always set an example.

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*Pause*  
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The example that Paul was asking Timothy to set for the Ephesians and the example that we can set for our friends and neighbors is that of following Jesus Christ.

**Light of the World**

Jesus said to his followers:

“You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house.”<sup>3</sup>

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## Conclusion

### Good News

The good news is that the light of Christ lives in you.

Jesus lived, died and rose again that we might have life that really is life.

### Call to Action

So, set an example by the way that you live.

Because it is Christ that lives in you.

### Invitation

You may find yourself saying, I think I want a life like that.

I want my faith to be evident in the way that I live my life.

I want to follow Jesus and experience the power of the resurrection.

You can.

All you have to do is ask.

### ***I’m sorry. Thank you. Please.***

It’s a very simple thing to pray – I am sorry. Thank you. Please.

Turning away from the things that we know are wrong, saying “I am sorry”.

Thanking Jesus for dying and being raised for us; putting our faith in him.

And finally asking, ‘Please come and fill me with your Spirit.’

### ***Not ready to pray***

You may not be sure if you want to pray a prayer like that and that’s okay.

### ***Ready to pray***

And, if you would like to pray, then:

it may be the very first time in your life to pray something like this,

it may be the first time for you in a long time, or

it may be a prayer that you have prayed every day for a long time.

### ***Logistics***

You do not have to pray it out loud, but just quietly under your breath.

You can repeat after me.

I’m sorry, thank you, please.

So, set an example by the way that you live.

Because it is Christ that lives in you.

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 5:14-15, CEB.

God is with us.

Jesus is alive.

You can follow him today.

Will you pray with me?

## **Closing Prayer**

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

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*And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.*  
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Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.