



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“SETTING THE STAKES”

John Galbreath
Bible Study Series

Text: I Timothy 4:11-16
Date: February 6, 1949

About Westminster's Galbreath Bible Study Series:

This lesson is one taken from a sermon preached by John Galbreath at Westminster Presbyterian Church on February 6, 1949.

To complete the lesson, we suggest that you begin by reading the designated Bible passage (I Timothy 4:11-16).

Next, review the outline of the sermon. Reflect on the chosen scripture and how you would “fill in” the remainder of the message from the chosen passage.

Then, review the study questions posed about the lesson — whether by yourself or in your small group.

Finally, share your thoughts on the Galbreath Bible Study blog on the Westminster Intranet.

That Sunday was Westminster Fellowship Day and conducted in co-operation with the United Christian Youth Movement and in observance of Youth Week. The bulletin notes that "Westminster Fellowship, as the official, over-all, inclusive youth program of the Presbyterian Church, unites half a million young people in the common purpose 'to become such complete disciples of Christ that we will discover God's will for our lives and do it.'"

The hymns that morning were "O Master Let Me Walk," "In the Hour of Trial," and "Just As I Am."

There was a note in the bulletin: From time to time we have been asked about assisting displaced persons in Europe, by adopting a child, offering domestic employment, etc. A booklet giving information in this regard is available at the door. Our Roman Catholic and Jewish friends have been ahead of the Protestants in offering homes and employment to displaced populations.

The final announcement noted: Only you can make this a friendly church. Speak to those sitting with you, after the service.

I. Our young people chose Timothy as Scripture background for this morning's service. Timothy admired by young people -- and young ministers alike.

II. Timothy

A. Born in Asia Minor, Lystra.

1. Born to a Greek father, Jewish mother, probably of merchant class.
2. Mixed religions.
3. Strong Hebrew background, but not circumcised.

B. Paul's visit.

1. Paul persecuted at Lystra.
2. Timothy, a boy, decides to follow Paul.

C. Becomes one of Paul's lieutenants.

1. Followed up Paul's preaching with teaching.
2. Taught at Ephesus, Corinth, two of the principal churches of the day.

D. In prison with Paul.

1. Letters to Colossians, Phillipians, Philemon, "Paul and Timothy, to the church at ..."

E. Death under Domitian, around 90 A.D.

III. Timothy's Training

A. Heir of his mother's faith.

1. Can't help but think of Lincoln -- who inherited a mother's faith.

B. Setting the Stakes.

1. Engineers had to set church stakes, lest any mistake occur.
2. Timothy's stakes were set right.
3. We wish to set the stakes of our children and young people.

- a) *New Curriculum, to be implemented.*
- b) *New presbytery camp.*
- 4. **Proposed Child Welfare legislation.**
 - a) *To help set the stakes for Pennsylvania's displaced children.*

IV. Timothy's Initiative

- A. **It takes more than a good start to become a person of the caliber of Timothy.**
 - 1. **Lincoln cannot be explained as merely the product of inheritance and environment.**
 - 2. **Other youngsters of Lystra had Timothy's background, but cut no ice.**
- B. **Repeatedly checking the measurements with the transit.**
 - 1. **It is not enough, in building a building, to know that it was started right.**
 - 2. **Our young people have demonstrated that they have initiative of their own.**
 - a) *This morning's service.*
 - b) *Other projects, some of whose outcomes were of question in my mind.*
 - c) *Their part in our new church.*
 - (1) The fund drive.
 - (2) The projector.

V. Conclusion

- A. **To young people -- we won't let you down.**
- B. **To our older membership -- you can be proud and confident in the young people of our church and community.**

Study Questions -- Part I

Bible Reading: I Timothy 4:11-16

I Timothy 4:11 and 12 say: ¹¹Prescribe and teach these things. ¹² Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

- In what ways did people look down on you in your youthfulness?
- In what ways might you be looking down on young people today?

I Timothy 4:13 and 14 say: ¹³ Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading *of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

- Why does this passage focus on the importance of public reading of scripture?
- How do you avoid neglecting your spiritual gifts?

I Timothy 4:15 and 16 say: ¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

- How do you absorb yourself in using your spiritual gifts?

Study Questions -- Part II

Sermon :

Setting the Stakes

II.B. -- There is a handwritten note: first visit, taken as a god (Zeus, Hermes) stoned nearly to death.

II.B.2. Who do you think today's young people would be likely to "follow?" How can we get them to follow people who are more like Timothy?

II.B.2. Do you follow anyone on Facebook or Twitter? How did you decide who to put on your list? Does this sermon make you think about changing your list? Who might you add?

III.B.3. How can we as a church help to "set the stakes" for our young people? What can we do to reset our own?

IV.B.2.c. Clearly, in 1949, the youth of Westminster were active and took on projects. What kinds of projects do you think our youth of today might be eager to take on? How can we support them in those projects?

II.C.2. -- Handwritten additions to the list were Berea and Thessalonica