

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on the messages given by Charles Price on the subject of "The Growth Of A Disciple".

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

**The Growth of a Disciple
Part 1 – Timothy’s Conversion
Acts 16:1 – 3 & 2 Timothy 1:1 – 9a**

1. What does the word ‘Disciple’ bring to your mind?

2. Read Matthew 28:19, and pick out a significant word

3. As the church is made up of individual disciples we need to ask;
What does it mean to make a disciple?

4. What do you know about Timothy and his relationship with Paul?

5. What was it that Timothy saw in Paul according to 2 Timothy 3:10 – 11?

6. From 2 Timothy 1:8 & 3:12 name some things that Timothy knew from the start.

7. Read and consider Acts 14:15b. What is the significance of what is being said here?

8. So what is Paul NOT preaching?

9. Consider this :

A weak Gospel	produces a	_____	_____
A weak church	produces a	_____	_____
A weaker Gospel	produces a	_____	_____

10. Read and consider Matthew 19:16 - 26

Final Thoughts

Tragically, too many churches are focused on becoming 'socially acceptable'.
 We feel the need to be liked by everyone,
 in the mistaken thought that this will then make them like what we believe.

In our desire to 'convert' people, to 'save' people, we lose sight of the fact that we are called first of all to be pleasers of God - not people - and to 'make disciples' of all nations.

What is the quality of your personal discipleship?

What is its cost?

What is the measure of your surrender?

Has there been an unconditional surrender?

Are you truly born again?

Our next study will look deeper into the life and character of Timothy.
 His human frailties will encourage you to see that you too can be greatly used by God.

Message Guide & Questions

The Growth of a Disciple Part 2 – Timothy’s Consecration 2 Timothy 2:1 – 10

1. This study is going to take a closer look at the character of Timothy. Please read and consider 2 Timothy 2:1 – 10.
2. As we look today at the ‘consecration’ of Timothy we need to ask just what does the word ‘consecrate’ mean?

3. Many of us can relate to Timothy as he was not bold, strong or confident as we might imagine.

Read the following scriptures and determine some of Timothy’s characteristics.

2 Timothy 1 v.7 He was t _____

2 Timothy 1 v.6 He had a tendency to be s _____

1 Timothy 4 v.12 He had a tendency to be i _____

2 Timothy 1 v.8 He was even sometimes a _____ o _ t _ g _____

1 Timothy 5 v.23 He was o _____ s _____

2 Timothy 1 v.8 He needed to t _____ u _

4. What are the 3 images that Paul gives as being the ‘discipline of a disciple’?

5. And what are the attributes associated with each of these categories of people?

6. In this message Charles only had time to look at ‘A Soldier’. The athlete and farmer will be for another time.

The idea of having to be like a soldier is probably far from most Christian’s minds, and yet it is a recurring picture in Scripture. Please read Ephesians 6:11 – 13
What are the 2 issues identified here?

7. In our study time here we do not have the time to delve into these too deeply but it would be good to ask ourselves

1. To what extent do we think we will have to 'endure hardship' for the sake of the Gospel in our own culture?

2. Is the scripture actually saying that we should not get involved in any social [civilian] issues in our community?

Final Thoughts

If we try to be non-offensive and non-confrontational
we are in danger of being non-effective.

This, of course, does not mean we should be
deliberately offensive and confrontational;
but we do need to hold on uncompromisingly
to the standards in the Gospel.

As verse 16 says
we need to guard against *godless chatter*;
verse 23 says we should *avoid foolish and stupid arguments*.

Sadly we see too many
armchair disciples,
armchair theologians,
with lots of opinions
but very little involvement.

Message Guide & Questions

The Growth of a Disciple Part 3 – Timothy’s Commitment 2 Timothy 2 v.1 – 10

1. To recap the previous study, can you remember the 5 not-so-flattering attributes of Timothy?

2. Can you remember the 3 images of discipline of a disciple?

3. Do you remember what were the attributes of a soldier that Paul refers to?

4. So now we take a look at the other 2 images:

- a. An Athlete
- b. A Farmer

5. What 2 attributes of an Athlete does Paul focus on?

6. What was the essence of each of the 2 letters that Paul wrote to Timothy?

7. Read the following verse from 1 Timothy and list by each verse what Paul is saying to Timothy about the church.

i 1 Timothy 1 v.3 _____

ii 1 Timothy 3 v.9 _____

iii 1 Timothy 4 v.1 _____

iv 1 Timothy 4 v.13 _____

v 1 Timothy 4 v.16 _____

vi 1 Timothy 6 v.3 – 4a _____

8. Read the following verse from 2 Timothy and list by each verse what Paul is saying to Timothy about himself [Timothy]

i 2 Timothy 1 v.14 _____

ii 2 Timothy 2 v.2 _____

iii 2 Timothy 3 v.16 – 17 _____

iv 2 Timothy 4 v.2 _____

9. What was Paul's second point about an Athlete?

10. In this 'Athlete's metaphor' what is Paul saying?

11. And what are the attributes of a Farmer does Paul extol Timothy to emulate?

Final Thoughts

So Timothy was exhorted to be [as we are exhorted to be]

- a. Like a **Soldier** - Enduring, and not getting sidetracked.
- b. Like an **Athlete** - Playing by the rules, and understanding the need to be a 'team player'.
- c. **Farmer** - Hardworking, who is patient and perseveres.

Added to this, Discipleship needs two other things in equal measure.

1. The *internal presence* of Christ by the Holy Spirit –
Expressed in our dependence on Him.
2. The *external discipline* of being a worker with Him –
Expressed in our obedience to Him.

Message Guide & Questions

The Growth of a Disciple Part 4 – Timothy’s Challenge 1 Timothy 4:12 - 16

1. As the last in the 4-part ‘Growth of a Disciple’ Series this study has special emphasis towards youth; but there is still much for all ages to learn from this. Please read and consider 1 Timothy 4:14 - 16

2. How old do you need to be to qualify as being ‘old’.

3. There is a dramatic and revolutionary thought that is presented early in these verses. Can you see what it is?

4. At this point it would be good to briefly consider just what do we understand today by the word ‘culture’

5. Read and compare 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Timothy 4:12-16.

6. There are 3 things that Paul tells Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 6:12 - 16. Can you list them?

7. It may seem remarkable that Paul should say that young people should set an example; but consider some things that young people are better at than older people.

8. What are the 5 areas in which Timothy was to ‘set the standard’.

9. Consider the full implications of 'Study The Scriptures' v.13

10. Consider what it means to '*stir up your gift*'. v.14.
Some may even ask, "what gift?"

Final Thoughts

Beware of just consigning this message to the young people
and deciding that it really doesn't apply to you.

It is possible to sit passively in a pew for 10, 20, 30, 40, even 50 years
and never stir up your spiritual gift.

It is never too late to take this responsibility seriously.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Part 1 – Timothy's Conversion

1.
 - i Do you think of 12 men pictured on stained glass windows?
 - ii An ancient painting of 12 men sitting at a long table with Jesus?
 - iii A 'learner' [the literal meaning] at the feet of Jesus?
 - iv Maybe a fanatic?

But did you think of yourself?

If asked the question, "What is a disciple?", would you answer, "I am one".

2. The significant word is 'make'. We are called to 'make disciples'.
 - Not to get people to 'make decisions'.
 - Not to 'make members' for your church.
 - Not to get people into heaven by the skin of their teeth
 - but to MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

Take a look at your life, and your church, and ask if what you're doing – if the programs in your church – are directed towards that goal.

3. This study – and the 3 that follow – are all looking into the life of Timothy as a case study in the Growth of a Disciple.
Please read again Acts 16:1 – 3 and 2 Timothy 1:1 – 9a
4. The following biographical can be shared and discussed - it is all relevant

 - i Timothy was ethnically mixed. Mother a Jew, and Father a Greek.
Grew up in a mixed tense environment. Mother was a strong believer, as was his grandmother. Lois, but by all accounts his father was not a believer.
Acts 16:1 and 2 Timothy 1:5

As far as his faith was concerned Timothy did not have a father to lead and mentor him.
 - ii Timothy was converted probably on Paul's first visit to Lystra in southern Turkey.
 - iii On Paul's next visit to Lystra – his 2nd missionary journey - Paul took Timothy with him as his assistant.
 - iv Later, Paul sent Timothy to help the church in Philippi; to Thessalonica; and to help lead the church in Ephesus.
 - v Whilst Timothy was in Ephesus Paul sent him two very important letters:
1 Timothy – was about how to manage the church.
2 Timothy – was about how to manage himself.

All of this is very relevant to us today.

5. What Timothy saw in Paul according to 2 Timothy 3:10 - 11 was –

- i His teaching
- ii His way of life
- iii His purpose
- iv His faith
- v His patience
- vi His love
- vii His endurance
- viii How he endured persecutions
- ix How he endured sufferings

As all these things of Paul were witnessed by Timothy they obviously had a profound part to play in Timothy's eventual conversion.

So too, as people see these things in use, as disciples, it will affect their journey towards conversion.

6. From 2 Timothy 1:8 and 3:12 Timothy knew from the start that there is a *Cost to the Christian Life, involving opposition, persecution and trouble.*

7. There is a 'turning from' and a 'turning to' involved here.
Many people want a 'cleansed conscience' and the liberty of 'being forgiven'
But they don't want to turn to God in *full surrender.*

8. Paul is NOT preaching a weak Gospel in which nothing needs to change except your destination.

9. A weak Gospel produces a weak church
A weak church produces a weaker Gospel
A weaker Gospel produces a weaker church

A weak Gospel ultimately produces empty churches.
A strong Gospel produces strong churches.

Because of His strong uncompromising message Jesus lost many potential disciples, [see John 6:66] some of whom, it could be argued, would have been valuable – but the church grew strong through preaching a strong gospel

10. There was no compromise, no re-negotiation. The terms of the Gospel are set.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Part 2 – Timothy's Consecration

1. Verses read.

2. The word 'consecrate' means: to 'dedicate formally to a divine purpose'.

We will look at what this involved for Timothy, and by extension what it involves for us.

3. Some of Timothy's characteristics were:

2 Timothy 1:7 He was *timid*

2 Timothy 1:6 He had a tendency to be *slack*

1 Timothy 4:12 He had a tendency to be *intimidated*

2 Timothy 1:8 He was even sometimes *ashamed of the Gospel*

1 Timothy 5:23 He was often *sick*

2 Timothy 1:8 He needed to *toughen up*.

He does not sound like a good candidate for being a disciple, much less one who would be entrusted to leadership; but remember, these are all natural attributes – when God takes charge of a person all these can change.

There is hope for us all!

4. The 3 images that Paul gives as being the 'discipline of a disciple' are :

i A Soldier 2 Timothy 2:3 - 4

ii An Athlete 2 Timothy 2:5

iii A Farmer 2 Timothy 2:6

5. The attributes associated with each of these categories of people are :

i A Soldier - Enduring hardship

ii An Athlete - Competing according to the rules

iii A Farmer - Hardworking – but first to receive a share of the crops

6. The two issues identified are –

a. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier. This is not fun!!!

b. Do not get involved in civilian affairs. This is interesting!!!

7. a. As we discussed in a previous study, many Christians in an effort to 'attract'

people to the gospel want to make 'church' so socially acceptable that they end up compromising the Gospel itself.

The simple fact is; the Gospel WILL cause offense. Read Matthew 13:57 and Galatians 5:11 as just two of many examples of this.

- b. To best understand this we need to remember that Paul is using a 'military metaphor', and he is talking about *not getting sidetracked*.

What form would the sidetracking take? Read 2 Timothy 2:14

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Part 3 – Timothy's Commitment

1. The 5 not-so-flattering attributes of Timothy are :

He was timid.
 He had a tendency to slack a little.
 Sometimes he was ashamed of the Gospel.
 He was often sick.
 He needed to toughen up and be willing to suffer.

2. A Soldier
 An Athlete
 A Farmer

3. **Endurance** - Standing for the Gospel is not a popular thing to do. If we try to be non-offensive and non-confrontational we would become non-effective.

Do not be sidetracked Read again 2 Timothy 2:14 – 16
 Stay away from godless chatter, and foolish and stupid arguments.

4. Discuss the disparity between a Soldier, an Athlete and a Farmer in terms of the calling, commitment and physical attributes required.
 You may be surprised to discover there are more similarities than first thought.

5. a. An Athlete 'Plays According to the Rules'
 b. An Athlete must work in partnership with others, even if his sport is not a team sport. More on this later.

6. 1 Timothy was concerning the church. Read 1 Timothy 3 v.15
 2 Timothy was about Timothy himself; how he needs to stir up his gifts, not be timid, and get on with the job.

7. i 1 Timothy 1:3 Command men not to teach false doctrine.
 ii 1 Timothy 3:9 Elders and Deacons must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.
 iii 1 Timothy 4:1 Look out for those who will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits, being taught by demons.
 iv 1 Timothy 4:13 Devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.
 v 1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them.
 vi 1 Timothy 6:3–4a Timothy should watch for this in the church.

8. i 2 Timothy 1:14 With the help of the Holy Spirit, guard the good deposit in you.
 ii 2 Timothy 2:2 Don't make up your own script as you go along.

- Stick with what Paul has taught.
- iii 2 Timothy 3:16–17 Exactly as it says.
 - iv 2 Timothy 4:2 Exactly as it says.

Although this is totally applicable to all Christians, it is especially so to those who are called to teach and lead.

9. In a team sport it is obvious that all have to work together; but even a solo athlete has a team of trainers, physiotherapists and doctors who all work together to help the athlete compete to the best of his/her ability. In 2 Timothy 4 Paul lists 14 people who are on his 'team' other than Timothy.
10. It is not 'winning' that is all-important; but how you compete.
11. Hard work, perseverance and patience.
The Farmer deservedly receives the first share of the crop.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Part 4 – Timothy's Challenge

1. Read
2. You can have some fun with this.
To a teenager, 30 is old; but when you are 60, 40 is young.
3. Paul says that Timothy, as a young person, should '*set an example for the believers*' - yes young people are exhorted to set an example in the church.
4. Not so very long ago 'culture' was geographical determined by nationality, but in today's society much of culture is 'generational'.
With the advent of things such as Facebook, iPods, MP3s, Texting, My Space, and You Tube young people across the world – Canadian/German/Japanese/Indian etc. – are all listening to the same music, watching the same movies etc., and developing much of the same values from these mediums that have a great influence over them.

Young people today are faced with entirely new challenges than were faced even in the recent past
5. Paul shows that Youth is a time of *danger and opportunity*, He says there are temptations that are not necessarily unique to youth but certainly strong and fresh, and you face them for the first time in your youth. But there are opportunities when you are young to have an impact.
6.
 - a. Set the Standard
 - b. Study the Scriptures
 - c. Stir up the gifts.
7.
 - i Young people are more likely to change things than are older people.
 - ii Older people are more likely to settle for the 'status quo'.
 - iii Older people can get stuck in a rut.
 - iv Older people settle for the quiet life.
 - v Older people like the way it has always been.

Change is harder for older people, but we must remember that in scripture and in history many of the great movements started through young people.
Youth With A Mission (YWAM) was started by Loren Cunningham when he was 20.
Operation Mobilization was started by George Verwer when he was 18.
These are just 2 of many examples.

8. The areas in which Timothy was to '*set the standard*' are –
 - Speech - Do not be ashamed of the gospel.
 - Do not get involved in 'godless chatter'.

- Life - What you say and how you live should be the same.
Love - This is not 'romance', but rather the kind of agape love that seeks the good of others,
Faith - A willingness to trust God and step out in obedience.
Purity - Whilst this obviously refers to sexuality, it also applies to our degree of honesty and integrity. Dispense with the 'little white lies', let your word be one that is trusted.

9. It is not just a question of studying [reading] the scriptures. Read again verse 16. Your doctrine and the way you lead your life must go together in harmony.
10. You do not have to be old to have a spiritual gift and to exercise it. You do not have to go to Bible College or get a degree to exercise it.

Spiritual gifts are not just natural abilities and strengths.
They are the means by which **God brings life to other people through you.**

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to hear your thoughts about this Message Guide. Would you please help us by filling in the questionnaire below and sending it to us. In appreciation, we will send you a complimentary DVD of a message by Charles Price.

- 1. Did you use this Message Guide for:
 Personal Study Group Study Both

- 2. For Group Study, approximately how many attended each session _____
and what was the approximate average age of those who attended
_____?

- 3. Did you find the Message Guide to be:
 Very helpful Somewhat helpful Mildly helpful Not much help

- 4. What did you like most about the Message Guide?

- 5. What did you find difficult or awkward about the Message Guide?

- 6. Other comments:

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