

The Sunday School Lesson.

A Ministry of the
Burnt Swamp Baptist Association

by Rev. Lawrence P. Hardy,
Pastor, Burnt Baptist Church
TIMOTHY, PAUL'S TROUBLESHOOTER
Focal Passages: Acts 16:1-3; 1
Corinthians 4:4-2; 16:10, 11; 1
Thessalonians 3:1-10; 2 Tim-
othy 1:3-7

The Apostle Paul was looking for someone to take young John Mark's place since Paul felt that Mark had failed him. However, more than an assistant, Paul needed a companion. No one is entirely self-sufficient, and the greater the person the more he needs someone with whom he can share the heights and depths of his experiences. Paul found such a person in young Timothy. Timothy was in every way an outstanding young man, well suited for the

enviable place which he was to take by the side of Paul as his troubleshooter in the newly established Gentile mission churches.

Timothy had in the first place the advantage of a good background, a godly heritage. Paul knew his grandmother, Lois and his mother Eunice. They were both women in whom religion was a natural and spontaneous thing. From his Greek father Timothy inherited the Greek love of knowledge and beauty, and that added to the strong Hebrew and Christian strain of faith which came from his mother's side of the family, gave him a rich heritage. He was brought up on the Hebrew scriptures so that the Old Testament was in his

blood. He was young and had all the enthusiasm of youth-an enthusiasm that had not been soared by life.

But Timothy had one big disadvantage he came from a divided home. His mother was a Jewess and a Christian; his father, a Greek and unbeliever. Even though Timothy had the advantage of a Christian mother and grand mother, how much more helpful it would have been had his father also been a devout believer. Sometimes, Christian young people have to break through their disadvantages. We who are older and more mature must always be on the look out for break throughs and do everything we can to foster the spiritual nature of these exceptional young people no matter what their background. It is not so much where you come from that counts but rather where you are going. God's selective process is very mysterious. Some of those whom he calls are from unlikely back grounds. It is to Paul's everlasting credit that he did

not let Jewish prejudice stand in his way. In point of fact by accepting Timothy as a Jew and having him circumcised. Paul showed how much he was emancipated from Jewish prejudices and all prejudice. As has been noted, Timothy was the result of a mixed marriage. The strict Jew would have refused to accept that as a marriage at all. In the case of a really strict Jew, if a Jewish girl married a Gentile boy, or a Jewish boy married a Gentile girl, that Jewish boy or girl was regarded as dead. So much so, that sometimes their funeral was actually carried out. By accepting the child of such a marriage as a brother Jew, Paul showed how definitely he had broken down all national and racial barriers for he knew, "God is no respecter of persons." A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Timothy was in a very special relationship to Paul. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he called Timothy his beloved son. When Paul wrote to the Phillipians he

is no one except Timothy was so much of the same mind and apparently Timothy never disappointed him.

Paul realized that the Church of Corinth needed more than his admonition. They needed an example of the Christian life around whom they could rally. Therefore, Paul sent to them his son in the faith and in the ministry, young Timothy. He was in essence saying, "you want to know what it's like to be a real Christian? Then look at Timothy." Timothy embodied the teachings of Paul and the Christian ideal. In deed, the world is judging Christianity by the lives of Christians more than they are by what they read the Bible or Christian literature. Everywhere a Christian goes for good or ill he or she is putting Christianity on display and in the spotlight. Whether people accept it or not depends upon how favorably the Christian displays it. A hint to the wise is sufficient. Amen.

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Bowens Family Reunited



The children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Warren Albert Bowen of the Hopewell area, recently gathered together for the first time in 35 years.

Those descendants are shown above. First row left to right they are: Eva Jacobs of the Shannon area; Marie Rafford of Lynchburg, Virginia; John Bowen of High Point, N.C. Second row left to right: Rev. Buck Bowen of Pembroke; Murray Bowen of High Point; Florence Bowen of the Shannon area; and Marshall Bowen of Pembroke.

Tony Brewington speaks to Pembroke Kiwanis

Garth Locklear, Chairman for the evening introduced the Reverend Tony Brewington who spoke concerning the Indian Religion Museum which is located near the PSU Performing Arts Building in Pembroke.

Reverend Brewington is a native Robeson County Lumbee Indian. He attended Pembroke State University, received his B.A. degree from Furman University, Greenville, S.C. and his M. Div. degree from Southeastern Seminary in 1970. He has been pastor of the Pembroke First Baptist Church and since 1970 has been the Director of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Asso. His wife, Peggy Barnes Brewington is a graduate of PSU in Music Education.

The Indian Religion Museum will be dedicated in October. The Burnt Swamp Baptist Asso. started in 1881, located near what is now the Converse Rubber Co. It began with just three churches and now has 51 churches. It also includes a church in Baltimore Md. The work of the Asso. is progressing well and wishes to honor those men and women who have worked so hard over the years to bring the Asso. to its present status. Thus the Museum has been erected to honor those hard working, faithful people in God's work. Pictures of all the churches will be displayed in the Museum as will profiles of church leaders and the founders of each congregation. Also included will be all the

Moderators, the Conventions the Mission Fields, from 1881 to the present time. The Convention considers all of this area as a mission field.

Pictures of many of the early leaders were saved by Miss Mary Livermore who for many years was the librarian at PSU. These will be shown in a special section of the Museum.

This museum is not in competition with the Old Main Museum but rather separate history of the religious aspect of the Lumbee Indians.

The Museum is in need of financial contributions and the Museum Committee is chaired by the Reverend Sanford Locklear and Committee members Dr. Dalton Brooks, Mr. Bruce Barton, the Rev. Michael Cummings, and the Rev. Tony Brewington. All donations are invited to join in this effort to establish the Lumbee Indian Religion Museum. Contributions are tax deductible and checks can be mailed to: Baptist Building, P.O. Box 997, Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

Presiding at the meeting was Club President John L. Carter. Theodore Maynor gave the invocation and Lankford Lowry led the singing accompanied by Ira Pate Lowry, pianist.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to Patty Bullard, our cook and waitress at the "Town and Country Restaurant", and she was presented a purse of money.

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