

## Lois & Eunice

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a **2 Timothy 1:1-5**

b Introducing the ladies

*<sup>1</sup> From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. God sent me to tell about the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, a dear child to me:*

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*<sup>3</sup> I thank God as I always mention you in my prayers, day and night. I serve him, doing what I know is right as my ancestors did. <sup>4</sup> Remembering that you cried for me, I want very much to see you so I can be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I remember your true faith. That faith first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I know you now have that same faith.*

This text is the only time the Bible identifies Lois and Eunice by name. However, other verses in the Bible give us more information about them.

c Their famous son/grandson

Timothy.

For many years Timothy was Paul's chief assistant. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy while he was in prison in Rome, probably near the end of his life. Timothy was working as the pastor in Ephesus, not far from Timothy's boyhood home.

d Their godly heritage

*<sup>5</sup> I remember your true faith. That faith first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I know you now have that same faith.*

Paul recognizes these two women as strong Christians, who had a big influence in Timothy's character. The faith of these two women were Timothy's Godly heritage.

e **Acts 16:1-3**

Paul first meets Timothy early in Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. (See Bible map of Paul's missionary journeys.)

*<sup>1</sup> Paul came to Derbe and Lystra, where a follower named Timothy lived. Timothy's mother was Jewish and a believer, but his father was a Greek.*

**<sup>2</sup> The believers in Lystra and Iconium respected Timothy and said good things about him. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him, but all the Jews living in that area knew that Timothy's father was Greek. So Paul circumcised Timothy to please the Jews.**

f Where was Dad? and Why?

***Timothy's mother was Jewish and a believer, but his father was a Greek***

Eunice she married a gentile unbeliever. She may have done this when she was young and foolish and "in love" with a man who was not right for her. Her husband prevented Timothy from becoming circumcised according the Jewish law.

It for a good reason that the Bible counsels Believers to marry only Believers -- so husband and wife can share their faith together with their children.

g Eunice's task:

h (1) Teach her son by word & example  
Scripture's truth and wisdom...

...without the support of her husband.

i (2) Remain loyal to her unbelieving husband.

Even though Timothy's father was an unbeliever, Eunice remained faithful to her husband and she respected her husband's wish not to have Timothy circumcised.

j (3) Enlisted the support of her own godly mother, Lois.

Fortunately Eunice did not need to work alone in teaching Timothy the Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament). 2 Timothy 1:5 suggests that Eunice got help from her own mother, Lois.

k (4) Enlisted the support of other godly men.

***<sup>2</sup> The believers in Lystra and Iconium respected Timothy and said good things about him.***

Acts 16:2 tells us that Eunice and her son were active in their Christian fellowship. Godly Jewish men may have been a role model for Timothy.

Timothy showed a deep knowledge and understanding of Jewish Scripture. The results of the training he received from his mother and grandmother made him an outstanding Bible teacher and counselor. Paul recognized that, too. Because...

**<sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him.**

It is interesting to note that Paul began this missionary journey by breaking up his partnership with his mentor, Barnabas. Barnabas wanted to train his nephew, John Mark, but Paul felt that John Mark was not ready and not reliable as a missionary. (See Acts 13:13 and 15:36-40) Barnabas and Paul separated; Barnabas took John Mark as his missionary partner, and Paul took Silas. Later Paul met Timothy, whom Paul recruited to join his team.

Timothy became an extension of Paul's ministry. Often Paul wanted to be in two places at once. With Timothy helping him, Paul could do that.

See:

Acts 17:14  
Acts 19:22  
1 Corinthians 4:17  
1 Corinthians 16:10  
Philippians 2:19  
1 Thessalonians 3:2-6  
1 Timothy 1:3

***l* 2 Timothy 3:10-11 (and Acts 13 & 14)**

***m* The family's first exposure to Paul.**

As we saw in Acts 16, Lois, Eunice, and Timothy lived in Lystra. Paul visited Lystra twice before. His first visit began this way:

***<sup>8</sup> In Lystra there sat a man who had been born crippled; he had never walked.<sup>9</sup> As this man was listening to Paul speak, Paul looked straight at him and saw that he believed God could heal him.<sup>10</sup> So he cried out, "Stand up on your feet!" The man jumped up and began walking around.<sup>11</sup> When the crowds saw what Paul did, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like humans and have come down to us!"<sup>12</sup> Then the people began to call Barnabas "Zeus" and Paul "Hermes," because he was the main speaker.<sup>13</sup> The priest in the temple of Zeus, which was near the city, brought some bulls and flowers to the city gates. He and the people wanted to offer a sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas. (Acts 14:8-13)***

This praise from the people really upset Paul and Barnabas. They tried to stop the people from worshipping Paul and Barnabas as false gods. They told the people about Jesus. Soon everything turned sour, and their visit ended this way:

***<sup>19</sup> Then some Jewish people came from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the people to turn against Paul. So they threw stones at him and dragged him out of town, thinking they had killed him.<sup>20</sup> But the followers gathered around him, and he got up and went back into the town. The next day he and Barnabas left and went to the city of Derbe. (Acts 14:813)***

It is possible that it was during that first difficult visit Paul made to Lystra that Lois and her family trusted Christ. Or they may have learned about Jesus later from the first Lystran believers after Paul left.

Paul and Barnabas did not stay away from Lystra. They stopped there again on their way back home.

*<sup>21</sup> Paul and Barnabas told the Good News in Derbe, and many became followers. Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, <sup>22</sup> making the followers of Jesus stronger and helping them stay in the faith. They said, "We must suffer many things to enter God's kingdom."<sup>23</sup> They chose elders for each church, by praying and giving up eating for a certain time. These elders had trusted the Lord, so Paul and Barnabas put them in the Lord's care. (Acts 14:21-29)*

Later, Paul remembered those experiences in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Timothy:

*<sup>10</sup> But you have followed what I teach, the way I live, my goal, faith, patience, and love. You know I never give up. <sup>11</sup> You know how I have been hurt and have suffered, as in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I have suffered, but the Lord saved me from all those troubles. (2 Timothy 3:10,11)*

## *n* **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

### *o* Paul's assessment of Timothy's training

*<sup>14</sup> But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know they are true, because you trust those who taught you.*

Who had taught Timothy? Of course, it was his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois.

*<sup>15</sup> Since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. <sup>17</sup> Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work.*

### *p* **The meaning of Eunice's Greek name:**

*q* Eu-Nika: "Good Victory"

Lois and her husband were Jewish, but they gave their daughter a Greek name. This was because they were living in a culture where Greek was spoken. They were not living in Israel.

In spite of Eunice's youthful choice of a husband, her life eventually fulfilled the meaning of her name, as she passed on to her son Timothy the things she had learned from Scripture, from her experience, from her parents.

For more about Lois, Eunice, and Timothy, go to [www.christdeaf.org/bible](http://www.christdeaf.org/bible). Click on the link to "Great Unknown People of the Bible."