

A Few Good Men and Women

Character Traits of Good Servants

Not exhaustive

The Plan of Good Servants

Paul would stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost

Paul would make quick visits through Macedonia

Paul would winter in Corinth and teach, review and make application of all that he had taught.

Before Paul got there, Timothy would arrive, 16:10, 4:17

After Timothy arrived, Paul learned that things were worse than he thought, which prompted the "painful" quick visit, 2 Cor 2:1ff.

Paul would be flexible with his plan

Paul's plans are made with this caveat: "If the Lord wills..." 1 Cor 16:7, "Perhaps..." 16:6. "If the Lord is willing...", 4:19

One unwilling to fail in the determination to find some way to get the problem solved will never get started, nor will the person afraid to try and try again make much progress.

The Humility of Good Servants

Timothy

Timothy worked under the authority of Paul, 16:10

He is carrying on the work of the Lord just as I am, 16:10

I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord, 4:17

The "if" of 16:10

Paul said of Timothy: “I have no one else like him...,” Phil 2:20

Was Timothy “timid?”

Perhaps not...

He didn’t need to have top billing.

He was willing to go wherever he was sent.

Paul often sent him somewhere

He saw serving under Paul as a great matter.

Apollos

He didn’t want to upstage Paul’s ministry, 12, cf. Acts 19:1, see also Acts 18:24ff.

The Courage of Good Servants

“No one should refuse to accept him”

Better translated: “to treat with contempt”

Timothy would face some contempt and disapproval, there was tension between Paul and some in Corinth.

His many travels suggest his courage. Travel was often dangerous.

He was not afraid to be associated with Paul in 2 Tim 4:9

Go to Rome, be associated with Paul

The Trustworthiness of Good Servants

He is carrying on the work of the Lord; Paul could trust him to do the work God’s way.

Timothy had proven dependability, see Phil 2:25

Timothy was Dokimos, tested and approved, one who had repeatedly been in difficult situations and handles them well. He had been in difficult situations before, and had proven over and over again himself to be trustworthy, dependable, no excuses! If he said, the job

will be done, it was done. If he said he'd be in church for his responsibility, he was there, no excuses, no failed efforts but good intentions.

Cal Ripkin last summer broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2130 consecutive games, over 13 years without missing a single game, not one! Besides Gehrig's record which he just broke, the third place ballplayer is 900 games behind, Chevrolet, like a rock

There when he was sick

There doing his best when nobody else cared or was. One year, Orioles were hopelessly out of the race, end of season, Kept doing that.

Tired

Discouraged, team was in a slump, he personally was in a slump when the team was going well, not going well.

In pain, if you will be a teammate must play the game with pain, strained muscles, flu, twisted ankles.

When he didn't feel like it. Nobody cheered

Baseball was his highest priority

Sorrow, disappointment, father fired as manager.

So what?

The Kingdom of God calls for your very best. Off with your excuses. Ask God to grow you this week in an area.