

## Last Day's Motherhood

### 2 Timothy 3:1-17

**INTRODUCTION:** It's always a challenge to know what to do when we are so deeply focused on the study of a book like Revelation, and yet we encounter a holiday like Mother's Day.

- I considered talking about the implications of Mothering a 3 Year Old and using the "Anti-Christ" text.
- Pastor Dan suggested I focus on Mother-in-Laws and use, "the Beast from the Abyss" scripture. I didn't feel that would be appropriate.

So I asked myself - is there any place where the Bible speaks of Being a Mother in the Last Days. Turns out there is... Turn with me to 2 Tim. 3.

**CONTEXT:** This is **Paul's** second letter of which we have record to his young protege in the faith, **Timothy**. Timothy had taken the mantel of leadership as the Senior Pastor of the **Church at Ephesus**, a church Paul planted many years earlier.

Paul is imprisoned in Rome and awaiting execution probably around 67 or 68 AD. As Paul writes his mind begins his personal final days... as well as the final days of Earth as we know it.

#### **TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:1–17 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

<sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

#### <sup>10</sup> You, however,

These two words, this qualifying conjunction encapsulates the totality of a parents will toward their children.

**ILLUSTRATION:** When each of our children were born we bought them a special gift, a little treasure that they could keep. For my son, Elijah Cole, I bought a old fashion

gold pocket watch - to remind him to redeem the time for the days are few. I had a single verse engraved on it. **Proverbs 31:4**, "It's not for Kings on Lemuel". That means - there are some things that other boys will be able to do, but you won't be able to do. There are some areas of foolishness that you do not partake in, why? Because you are to be a leader - so foolishness is not for you.

That is exactly what Paul is conveying to Timothy in those two words, "You however"

They reach back and draw a contrast over each of the previous **adjectives** that were used to describe the "last day's people"... Here is how it can be understood...

10b. have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

There in verse 17 you have the most concise yet thorough definition of motherhood ever penned by the hands of men. You are to do what you do, so that your sons and daughters may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The goal of Motherhood is not travel ball.

The goal of Motherhood is not dance team.

The goal of Motherhood is not the accumulation of toys for our kids.

Of Motherhood is to reflect your CREATOR. You remember Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

In the same way, the mind, soul, and body of that little creature God gives you is without form and void. Yet a mom hovers over that child until ORDER comes out of CHAOS... and the result is something VERY GOOD.

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it**

Well, from whom had taught Timothy the sacred writings from childhood? Paul told us earlier in the letter.

## 2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother **Lois** and your mother **Eunice** and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

We do not know if this was a Mother/Daughter or Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law team... it could have been either. But rather than criticize and tear down one another - they partnered together for a common goal, the goal was to PRESENT YOUNG TIMOTHY COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

There is tremendous power to a father and mother being on the same page, with the same goals in mind. Add to that the full support of grandparents on both sides, and a coalition forms that causes the gates of hell to tremble.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Around the year 1095, the Roman Empire defeated, the Holy Roman Empire fighting, different people arguing over who was Pope and who was to be the Emperor... As things were falling apart at the seems, **Pope Urban II** had a brilliant idea. He shifted the entire focus of the Holy Roman Empire from the debates within, to the enemy without. He said, ***“Have any of you guys noticed those Muslim Turks that are occupying the Holy Land? Somebody ought to do something about that”***. Immediately, the attention of these political leaders was shifted and unified - and what followed we know as the Crusades. They formed one of the greatest Military coalitions the world has ever know.

***The key to family solidarity is to unite around a common GOAL and to identify a common FOE. If you don't share the same enemy, and you don't share the same goal... there will be no unity.***

**Lois and Eunice had that** - now we no nothing of Dad and Grandad... maybe they weren't on bored. But Mom and Grandma were... and they took care of business.

*Four Principles I want to teach you from the Motherhood and Grand-motherhood of Lois and Eunice -*

## **1. Have the right SOURE -**

### 2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**\*We live in a culture that loves to contract out responsibilities.**

- We don't want to clean house, so we contract that out.
- We don't want to mow our lawns, so we contract that out.
- We don't want to walk our dogs, so we contract that out.

So what do we do when it comes to teaching our kids the scriptures? We contract it out. We get a children's director and a student director and we expect them to get the job done.

Our staff is there to support you in your goals, but the goal and the responsibility **MUST BE YOURS.**

**Pastor I didn't go to Seminary – How much Bible do you have to know to teach your children – About a week more than they know!**

**W.A. Criswell Pastor of the great FBC Dallas, TX said this,** *"Possibly the most theologically accurate, intellectually deep, morally inspiring song ever penned by the hands of men goes like this*

*Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the bible tells me so"*

- How can you believe that all of this was created in 6 days? The Bible tells me so.
- How can you believe in a Flood that destroyed the old earth? The Bible tells me so.
- How can you believe that forgiveness is possible and available? The Bible tells me so.
- How can you believe that if you confess your sins, God will forgive? The Bible tells me so.
- How can you believe that after you die, you will see God? The Bible tells me so.

**Dear Mothers - may the Word of God be held in your home in the highest esteem.**

- Turn to it in difficulties
- Celebrate it in victories
- Quote it often
- Stand on its truth
- Trust its Author

May the slogan of our women's ministry be, EVERY WOMAN a THEOLOGIAN. BTW, every woman is a theologian. You determine if you are a good one or not, by study.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

- a. Read your Bible Daily, Start to grasp the flow of the story and the logic of the arguments.
- b. Find trustworthy commentaries to assist you in understanding. I recommend the MacArthur Commentary Series for a good general grasp of the text.
- c. If you are reading a christian book, or watching a teaching video that doesn't get into the scripture pretty quick, your spidy sense needs to be going off.
- d. You will begin to develop a familiarity with the teaching of scripture so you can notice that there are some who hold the Bible, seem to be teaching the Bible, but they do so in a dangerous and unbalanced way that doesn't resonate with the heart of the text you have become so familiar with.

Have the Right Source...the Bible is your source.

## 2. Seek to **CONVINCE**

### 2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned **and have firmly believed**, knowing from whom you learned it

**Firmly believed** is the word - pistoo /pis-t U-o/] Means 1 to make faithful, render trustworthy. to make firm, establish. to be firmly persuaded, to be assured of.

Lois and Eunice did not just communicate facts, they persuaded young Timothy to believe them.

They likely had struggles and doubts from time to time, but rather than give in to them, they sought answers, they dug deep, they talked to leaders, and in turn they **CONVINCED** Timothy.

- This sort of child...is like those mentioned in **Colossians 1:23 (ESV)**  
He or she... continues in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...
- **So mother, do as Peter said in 1 Peter 3:15**  
<sup>15</sup> ... always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.

**REMEMBER:** For hours out of the day, many of our children will be under the influence of people that do not share our world view. You have to make the time you have with them count.

**This ACADEMIC Discipline is called APOLOGETICS. The word doesn't mean to make an apology for the faith, but rather to give a defense of.**

**There are THREE PRIMARY TYPES of APOLOGETICS:**

- a. **Classical** - This is Philosophical Approach to Apologetics. It follows natural human reason and makes the arguments for God's existence in much the same way the Greek Philosophers would make their points. **Thomas Aquinas** is a good example.
- b. **Evidential** - This argues for truth as a Lawyer Argues a court case. It doesn't claim to PROVE God's existence, but it seeks to garner enough evidence that any reasonable person would be convinced beyond reasonable doubt. This is the sort of Apologetics done by Answers in Genesis, Ken Hamm, Josh McDowell.
- c. **Transcendental** - This the the sort of Apologetics that looks for Presuppositions that believers and unbelievers share that make unbelief illogical. For example, Morality - if there is no creator, it is impossible to make a solid argument for Morality.

Inevitably, you place yourself or someone in the creators role. Tim Keller is a good source for this sort of argument.

Mothers, I challenge you to become acquainted with these authors and approaches. So that as you kids and grandkids as questions you may provide good answers.

Have the Right Source...Seek to Convince...

### 3. Be PATIENT -

**3:15** and that *from childhood* you have known the sacred writings

#### Two mistakes I see parents make in teaching their children truth

1. Not starting early enough –they started from **childhood**. *The other mistake is*
2. Stopping to soon – **from** childhood. That is, they continued into Adulthood.

Instruction in the faith is a lifelong pursuit. When you child graded out of Vacation Bible School, the journey was just beginning.

Some of the most significant conversations we have had with our kids happened after they graduated high-school.

Later Paul would tell Timothy that he was to **2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;

When is that - all the time, it's either IN or OUT of deer Season... so all the time...

2b. reprove, rebuke, and exhort, **with complete patience** and teaching.

**LISTEN:** One of the primary ministries of a Pastor is the ministry of repetition. I learned a long time ago, people will not remember what I say in a particular sermon... ***they will remember what comes up in practically every sermon.***

Your kids will remember those things you harp on. Now listen, ***they may wander from the truth, but the truth will never wander from them.***

**When you can no longer be there for them - the things you championed will be.**

Have the Right Source...Seek to Convince...Be Patient....

### 4. Live the MESSAGE -

**2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in **what** you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from **whom** you learned it

The "WHOM" qualifies and lends credibility to the "WHAT".

Lois and Eunice lived the message.

**John Maxwell said it this way-**

*I teach what I know, I reproduce what I am.*

**Steve Farrar was right, *In Parenting like bowling, error increases with distance.***

**Less time = Less influence**

**Is Quality Time or Quantity time more important?** – We would all agree that Quality time is the best, but the fact is, you can't make quality time happen; therefore **Quantity** time produces more **Quality** time.

**Every true learner is asking the question verbally or intrinsically, “WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?”**

You must be able to say with Paul, “Follow me as I follow Christ”

**Suzanna Wesley was a great mother-**

***Suzanna Wesley was the mother of nineteen children***; among them were John and Charles Wesley the founder of Methodism. It has been said that the Methodist faith was born on the lap of a mother, Suzanne Wesley.

**One of Suzanna Wesley's prayers gives a glimpse of her faith:**

*"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Your presence... May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity of exercising some goodness and daily learning and growing toward Your likeness."*

- **Your life is the Gospel without parable**
- **Your life is the Gospel without hyperbole**

**CONCLUSION/INVITATION:** Mother, to live the message means that often you will combine the two most powerful secret weapons in your Divine Arsenal. What are they you ask? Prayer and Tears.

The tearful prayers of a mother can literally change the world.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Augustine of Hippo, the namesake of our first city to the South, was born to a devout Christian Mother - MONICA and a Pagan father (meaning he worshipped the pantheon of Roman gods, and kept their ceremonial festivals).

Augustine was extremely gifted, but very far from the Lord. He was caught up in all manner of sin. As a matter of fact, he moved to Milan to be in the center of the action. His godly mother Monica had also moved to Milan in hopes of winning her son to Christ. During this time she was a member of the Church in Milan under the Great Pastor AMBROSE.

**MONCIA** went to her Pastor **AMBROSE** to seek counsel about her son's soul. Ambrose told Monica, ***"I don't think God would so greatly burden a mother if He doesn't not intend to save her son... keep praying for him"***.

Monica prayed and tolerated his immoral life. Until finally Augustine officially joined the heretical Manichaeans Sect a sect that was hostile against Christianity. At that point Monica kicked him out of the house. It was said, **"She could tolerate his whores, but not his heresy"**.

In the summer of **386**, he decided to go and **hear AMBROSE preach**. Not out of religious curiosity simply out of a professional desire to master the craft of good communication. However while he was there he felt under deep conviction.

The prayerful tears of that precious mother fell as seeds of faith, until ultimately it produce the fruit of conversion.

I wonder how many mothers have prayed for some of you. I wonder if some are praying now. I wonder if some are praying even in glory.

Let us pray.