

Pastoral Encouragement

14 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it* **15** *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.* **2 Timothy 3:14-15**

Today the Berean youth group travels to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville for Winter Retreat. I encourage you to pray for the Word of God to be faithfully preached by the conference speakers and for our students to hear, understand, and respond in faith to the Gospel by the power of the Spirit. Also, please pray for the Lord to orchestrate spiritual conversations during our free time and meals together.

Our hearts long for our young people to be converted and sanctified, but this won't happen apart from the sacred writings. This is why the primary aims of our children's and youth ministries are to acquaint young people with the Bible and show them how all of Scripture testifies to Christ. And, the Lord has blessed us greatly in allowing us to see many young people put their faith in Christ and be obedient to God's command to be baptized.

I don't think it's clear who Paul has in mind when he tells Timothy to know who he learned the Gospel from. Perhaps it's Paul or Timothy's mother or grandmother. Clearly, all of them were faithful in their ministry to Timothy and God used this faithful witness to bring Timothy to faith and prepare him for ministry. May we all continue to be such witnesses to the next generation in order that God would receive all the glory, honor, and praise.

Pastor Rich