

Handwriting

on the Wall

That's

GOOD!



I. My experience has been that the phrase “handwriting on the wall” is used in a positive sense too!

Let’s look at some examples!

A. There had to have been good handwriting on the wall about John the Baptist as he grew up!

1. His parents were both righteous- Luke 1:6.

2. The hand of the Lord was with him-Luke 1:66.

3. He was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb-Luke 1:15.

4. He was great in the sight of the Lord-Luke 1:15.

5. Jesus said among those born of women there had no one risen that was greater than John the Baptist-Matthew 11:11.

6. John didn't compromise God's word even before king Herod who finally killed him.

“But Herod the tetrarch, being reprovved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done”-Luke 3:19.

PLEASE PUT THIS PASSAGE IN ITS CONTEXT OF REPENTANCE-Luke 3:7-14.

From a personal vantage point, I can only say that the greatness of John the Baptist is a daily inspiration for me to draw nearer to God each day!

Surely the neighbors of John the Baptist as a boy, said of him, “The handwriting is on the wall! This young man is destined for spiritual greatness in the sight of the Lord!”

B. Wasn't there good handwriting on the wall for Timothy as he was taught by two godly women?

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also”-II Timothy 1:5.

The word “unfeigned” (anupokritou) is a key word in the verse. It means that there was no hypocrisy in Lois or Eunice.

Both of them lived the teaching of God’s word in their lives daily, and Timothy had been under this godly influence since he was a very young child.

“But continue in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”

-II Timothy 3:14 & 15.

The word “child” (brephous) refers to the entire span of what we might call “childhood.”

Bullinger says of the word, “Brephos, the child while yet in the mother’s womb-Luke 1:41 &44; 2:12 & 16;” “Brephos, child, (young)-II Timothy 3:15”-A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament, pgs. 148 & 149.

The point to stress here is that Timothy had been taught God’s word from the time he was born.

Children can understand and learn God’s word and know what to do in order to be saved!

Please note that inspiration says, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

It has been my observation that dedicated Christian parents begin to be somewhat concerned if their child/children are not baptized by the time they are twelve years of age!

And, they should be!

Of the word “child,” Webster says, “1. A person between birth and puberty”-Webster’s II New College Dictionary, pg. 194.

Timothy is called a disciple in Acts 16:1. The word disciple is a synonym for Christian-SEE Acts 11:26. So, apparently Timothy had been baptized prior to Paul’s second missionary journey.

Since Timothy is called Paul’s “son in the faith,” this would be indicative of the fact that Paul baptized Timothy 2 or 3 years earlier on his first missionary journey.

Read and study I Corinthians 4:17 & I Timothy 1:2 for references to Timothy as Paul's "son in the faith."

Timothy was apparently 17 or 18 years old when he was baptized into Christ.

It is very significant that he was well reported of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium at such an early age-see Acts 16:1 & 2.

It was at this very young age that Paul chose Timothy to be his traveling companion and co-laborer.

For all practical purposes, Timothy remained with Paul for the rest of Paul's life!

Of Timothy, Paul gave this very high accolade, "*I have no man likeminded who will genuinely care for your state*" -Philippians 2:20.

GOOD HANDWRITING WAS ON THE WALL FOR TIMOTHY FROM THE TIME HE WAS A LITTLE CHILD!

C. There was good handwriting on the wall for the prodigal son when he came to himself!

“AND WHEN HE CAME TO HIMSELF”-Luke 15:17.

THIS ATTITUDE IS MANDATORY FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO OBEY THE GOSPEL, OR AS A PRODIGAL SON, RETURN TO THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER!!

AND WHEN THIS ATTITUDE COMES, IT IS INDEED “GOOD HANDWRITING ON THE WALL!!”