

## The Measure of a Man, “Building a Good Reputation” By Gene Getz

To begin, the portion of the title, “a good reputation”, is to represent that which is “good” before God...and not necessarily before men. Consider that Paul emphasized that if he were trying to please men, than he would not necessarily be able to please God – and sometimes both a practically impossible...

The problem of please men – or attempting to impress them with a reputation – is that they may not appreciate or value such; and if they do happen to appreciate such a model, other issues may cloud the effort. **In short, only God knows the heart and thus, is able to measure the man in full view and by way of *honest scales*.** The believer should have his sights set on pleasing God first and foremost – and let the rest be the result of his changed life and Christ-centered life.

One of Paul’s pupils (or disciples) was a young man named Timothy. Coincidentally Paul named two books after this young man of whom he considered to have a good reputation.

In Acts chapter 16, Paul first meets Timothy:

Paul came first to Derbe, then Lystra. He found a disciple there by the name of Timothy, son of a devout Jewish mother and Greek father. Friends in Lystra and Iconium all said what a fine young man he was. Paul wanted to recruit him for their mission...

Timothy was not the *discovery* of Paul; for God had been preparing Timothy for *such a time as this*; and while a child, Timothy’s mother had instructed and nurtured him in the scriptures.

Having such a background is not necessary to be used as God’s disciple. Look at Paul who described himself as the *worst of sinners* in the first book of Timothy:

Here’s a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I’m proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever.

**Thus God is able to use anyone whom He chooses.** The question for the “anyone” is whether they want to know God as Lord – as both Paul and Timothy did...whether by a radical road conversion or by preparation and reputation as a young man. Either and all other ways, God is able...

