## "And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven." -- 2 Kings 2:11



Lorenzo Serrano, Billings, MT a fine young man who aspires to do the work of an evangelist who spoke at the MT Family Camp and enjoyed his time along with his wife Morgan Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

"And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:4





## Question of the week:

According to Isaiah's account of Sennacherib's invasion of Judah and his threats to King Hezekiah, what did God say would eventually happen to Sennacherib?

Last week's question: At the council at Jerusalem concerning whether the Gentiles had to be circumcised, James and Cephas and John offered something to Barnabas and Saul, What was it? *Answer: the right hand of fellowship (Galatians 2:9).* 

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 77 Morning Assembly – 113 Evening Assembly – 65

## Wednesday Night (9/21) – 79 Butte Lord's Day – 10 GF Lord's Day – 70,86 *Wed. - 56*



The Epistles to the Evangelists

## **Interpersonal Relations**

Working with the lost and working amongst the saved involves working with people. Many of the Bible's examples, true history, and teachings have to do with making saints more effective in working through these "people issues." Although the brethren have been called out of this world, they often are in states of growth toward putting on the full character of Christ, and thus all the instruction on how to handle these interpersonal relations has great meaning and importance. Timothy is going to get some of these instructions from the aged Paul, Timothy's father in the faith.

 Older men – There are "older men" and there are "younger men"; the difference sometimes depends on the age of the individual assessing that difference. In countries where the average age of death is higher,

then "older men" is going to be an expression for men of older chronological age than in societies where the average life expectancy is 55, for example. In America, the language even provides the term "middle-aged" to buffer the movement from "younger man" to "older man." In any case, the apostle instructs Timothy, "Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father" (1 Timothy 5:1). One of the themes running strongly through scripture is the idea of honoring older people. "You shall rise up before the grayheaded," was some of the instruction in Moses' law, "and honor the aged" (Leviticus 19:32). Without that honor for the older generations, the younger generation has no appreciation for the labors that made their lives possible, and they become a bunch of entitled brats. Hence, as Timothy, even as an evangelist, were to approach an older man to rebuke him, he is told not to rebuke that man sharply but to appeal to him, maintaining the respect that is so important to God.

Appeal – The operative word in Timothy's interactions with the brethren is "appeal." The picture this word generates is one of having someone sit down alongside on a bench for a rational conversation. So when the younger evangelist is instructed in dealing with older men, he is not to sharply rebuke them, but with respect intelligently guide the conversation in the direction it eventually needs to go.

• Younger men – Timothy is exhorted to appeal "to the younger men as brothers." If Timothy's

goal is to be effective in giving some correction, it is better for him to approach the younger guys from a position of brother-to-brother. Talking from a position of standing on the same ground is much more effective than talking from an elevated platform if the goal is to get someone to what he is supposed to do because he wants to rather than because he has to.

 Older women – Yes, it is true, sometimes older women need a mid-course correction. If that conversation has to take place, Paul's son in the faith is to appeal to "the older women as mothers" (1 Timothy 5:2). Once again, the elements of These instructions are necessary in order to be effective.

respect for older people is to be maintained. If Timothy can get the older lady to a spot where she is feeling respected and he is sort of having a son/mother conversation, then he can bring up the issue that needs to be discussed in a delicate fashion, and make real progress in getting a positive resolution.

Younger women – If a younger single man is going to have a discussion with a younger woman, many factors could pop up in that interaction. Timothy is exhorted to appeal to those "younger women as sisters, in all purity." The picture is sitting down over a cup of coffee, and having the conversation—with all the elements of personal concern—eventually directed toward the issue where the rebuke is necessary. "In all purity" emphasizes that the interaction needs to be professional, while at the same time personal and businesslike.

When a rebuke is necessary, it is one of the more difficult situations with which a person in charge has to deal. In his second epistle, Paul told Timothy to "reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). The instructions for dealing with older men, younger men, older women, and younger women would remind Timothy about what would be effective, rather than his just checking a box on the "to do list."