

# New Testament Survey

## The Pastoral Epistles

### 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus

#### I. Attestation and Authorship<sup>1</sup>

Since the Pastoral Epistles of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are so much alike, and often treated together, we will look at all three together as well.

##### A. External

1. Universally accepted as genuine by the early church.
2. Clement of Rome, in his *Epistle to the Corinthians*, alludes to Titus 3:1 (chapter 2), Titus 2:10 (chapter 26), and 2 Timothy 1:3 (chapter 45).
3. The *Epistle of Barnabas* seems to allude to 2 Timothy 4:1 (chapter 7) and to 1 Timothy 3:16 (chapter 12).
4. Irenaeus first mentions 2 Timothy by name and ascribes it to Paul when speaking of 2:8-9 in *Against Heresies* (III.vii.2).
5. Clement of Alexandria 1 Timothy 6:20-21. He also states that “Convicted by this utterance, the heretics reject the Epistles to Timothy.”
6. Tertullian cites 1 Timothy 6:20, 2 Timothy 1:14, 1 Timothy 1:18 and 6:13. He ascribes all of these verses to Paul.
7. Irenaeus quotes extensively from the Pastoral Epistles.
8. The Pastoral Epistles appeared in the Muratorian Canon, the Old Latin, and the Old Syriac.

##### B. Internal

1. The writer calls himself Paul in each of the Epistles (1 Timothy 1:1, 2 Timothy 1:1, Titus 1:1).
2. There are a good many references in the Epistles to Timothy. In fact, 2 Timothy has 23 personal allusions. Someone who was a forger would not have used so many personal references.
3. The affection and authority appear to be definitely Pauline in nature.
4. The doctrine and theology are Pauline.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Co., 1987), p p. 253-260.

### C. Critical Objections

#### 1. The Chronological Objection.

- a. These epistles do not fit into the chronology of Acts.
- b. The answer to this objection is that Paul was released from prison for a period of time before being arrested again. The Pastoral Epistles were written while Paul was free.
- c. Clement of Rome writes concerning Paul, "After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects."
- d. Paul's trip to Rome is also supported by the Muratorian Canon and Eusebius.

#### 2. The Linguistic Objection.

- a. The Pastoral Epistles are linguistically unique. There are 175 *hapax legomena* in the Pastorals: 96 in 1 Timothy, 60 in 2 Timothy, and 43 in Titus. This is about twice as many as Paul's other epistles.
- b. The answer to this objection is that we would expect a lot of *hapax legomena* since these epistles were written very late in Paul's life and dealt with subject matter much different than his other epistles.
- c. It would not make sense for a plagiarist to deviate so much from the person he was trying to forge.
- d. The use of unique words and phrases can provide no clue as to the authorship of a work.

#### 3. The Ecclesiastical Objection.

- a. Some say the Pastoral Epistles are forgeries because they deal with matters of the Church. Moreover, the picture of the Church presented is much more organized and formal than existed in the first century.
- b. In response to this objection, note the following:
  - 1). In Acts 14:23 we are told that Paul ordained elders in every city on his first missionary journey.
  - 2). In Ephesians he speaks of pastors and teachers - Ephesians 4:11.
  - 3). In Philippians he addresses himself to the bishops and deacons - Philippians 1:1.
  - 4). Pastor, bishop, and elder are used interchangeably. Pastor refers to the activity, bishop to the office, and elder to the spiritual maturity of the leaders of the church.

### II. Background, Addressee, and Date

A. 1 Timothy<sup>2</sup>

1. This was the first book of the Pastoral Epistles written. It was written sometime after Paul's first imprisonment at Rome (60-63 A.D.) and before his second, and final, imprisonment (65-66 A.D.)
2. Tradition tells us that after his release he visited the churches in Macedonia and Asia Minor. While visiting Ephesus he noted some problems (1 Timothy 1:3) and as a result urged Timothy to stay and straighten things out (1 Timothy 1:3). He wrote this letter to Timothy in order to encourage him in his task.

B. Titus<sup>3</sup>

1. Titus was written at almost the same time as 1 Timothy. It was written to the second of Paul's "sons in the faith" in order to encourage Titus as he labored in Crete. Tradition has it that Paul left Titus in Crete some time after visiting the churches in Asia Minor.

C. 2 Timothy<sup>4</sup>

1. This is undoubtedly the last book penned by Paul. Shortly after the completion of this book he was beheaded for his faith (2 Timothy 4).
2. This book is Paul's "swan song." In it, he passes the baton of the faith to his successor, Timothy, and encourages him to pass it on to other faithful men (2 Timothy 2:1-5).

## III. Timothy and Titus

## A. Timothy

1. Timothy is mentioned more than any other of Paul's companions. Some representative passages are:

Acts 16:2-3	lived in Lystra and Derbe area (Galatia)
Acts 17:14	in Thessalonica with Silas
Acts 18:5	in Corinth with Silas
Acts 19:22	sent to Macedonia (Thessalonica and Berea?)
Acts 20:4	sent to Macedonia
1 Corinthians 4:17	sent to Corinth by Paul
2 Corinthians 1:19	sent to Corinth
2 Corinthians 1:1	with Paul when writing 2 Corinthians
Philippians 1:1	with Paul when writing Philippians
Philippians 2:19	sent to Philippi by Paul
Colossians 1:1	with Paul when writing Colossians
1 Thessalonians 1:1	with Paul when writing 1 Thessalonians
1 Thessalonians 3:1	sent to Thessalonica
2 Thessalonians 1:1	with Paul when writing 2 Thessalonians

2. Paul considered Timothy his son in the faith. In fact, Paul often used Timothy as a general trouble-shooter and messenger. Timothy was sent to Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3), Macedonia (Acts 19:22), Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:17), Philippi (Philippians 2:19), and Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1).

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<sup>2</sup> Thiessen, p. 261.

<sup>3</sup> Thiessen, pp. 264-266.

<sup>4</sup> Thiessen, pp. 268-269.

3. Timothy was with Paul in the writing of at least five New Testament books: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and 2 Thessalonians.
4. Timothy was Paul's hand-picked successor, the one who was to carry the baton of Paul to others (2 Timothy 2:1-5). Paul considered Timothy to be his "mirror image." - Philippians 2:19-23.

B. Titus

1. Titus is mentioned 13 times in the New Testament.  
2 Corinthians 2:13, 7:6, 7:13, 7:14, 8:6, 8:16, 8:23, 12:18, Galatians 2:1, 2:3, 2 Timothy 4:10, and Titus 1:4.
2. Titus is the second of two men that Paul called his "son in the faith." - Titus 1:3, 1 Timothy 1:2.
3. From the scant information we have regarding Titus, we can determine the following:
  - a. He was an encourager - 2 Corinthians 7:6, 8:6.
  - b. He was a fellowlaborer with Paul - 2 Corinthians 8:23.
  - c. He mimicked Paul - 2 Corinthians 12:18.
  - d. He cared for the church - 2 Corinthians 8:16.
  - e. From the book of Titus, we know that at one time he labored among the believers at Crete - Titus 1:5.
  - f. At one time Paul sent him to Dalmatia, a province in northern Asia Minor - 2 Timothy 4:10.
  - g. Titus probably was Paul's second-hand man next to Timothy.

IV. Purpose and Plan<sup>5</sup>A. 1 Timothy<sup>6</sup>

1. To encourage Timothy to oppose false prophets - 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 18-20; 6:3-5, 20, 21.
2. To instruct Timothy on how men ought to behave in the house of God - 1 Timothy 3:14-15.
3. To furnish Timothy with necessary apostolic credentials to do his task - 1 Timothy 1:3-4.
4. To exhort Timothy to be diligent in his service and ministry - 1 Timothy 4:6-6:2.

B. Titus<sup>7</sup>

1. To urge Titus to complete the work of organizing the churches on Crete - Titus 1:5.
2. To instruct Titus as to the qualifications for elders - Titus 1:6-9.
3. To insist that Titus take a strong stand against false teachers - Titus 1:10-16.
4. To inform Titus how to deal with various domestic relationships - Titus 2:1-10.
5. To encourage Titus how such a life is made possible - Titus 2:11-15.
6. To encourage Titus to be a good citizen - Titus 3:1-2.
7. To inform Titus why believers ought to be good citizens - Titus 3:3-8.
8. To warn Titus of false teachers and doctrine - Titus 3:9-11.
9. To give some personal thoughts and plans to Titus - Titus 3:12-15.

C. 2 Timothy<sup>8</sup>

1. To appeal for brave adherence to the Gospel - 2 Timothy 1:3-18.
2. To give Timothy instructions regarding his personal life and ministry - 2 Timothy 2:1-10.
3. To warn Timothy about the grievous times to come - 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
4. To urge Timothy to follow his example - 2 Timothy 3:10-13.
5. To encourage Timothy regarding his early training - 2 Timothy 3:14-17.
6. To appeal for the faithful preaching of the Word - 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

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<sup>5</sup> Thiessen, pp. 198.

<sup>6</sup> Thiessen, pp. 263-264.

<sup>7</sup> Thiessen, pp. 266-267.

<sup>8</sup> Thiessen, p. 270.

7. To express to Timothy his personal longings and greetings - 2 Timothy 4:9-22.

V. A Basic Outline<sup>9</sup>

A. 1 Timothy

1. Introduction - 1:1-2
2. Purpose - 1:3
3. Paul's charge to Timothy regarding false teachers - 1:4-11
4. Paul's gratefulness to God for choosing him for ministry - 1:12-17
5. Paul's second charge to Timothy - 1:18-20
6. The place of prayer - 2:1-8
7. The role of women in the church - 2:9-15
8. Leadership in the church
  - a. Elders - 3:1-7
  - b. Deacons - 3:8-10
  - c. Deaconesses - 3:11-13
9. Behavior in the church - 3:14-16
10. The coming apostasy - 4:1-5
11. Personal exhortations to Timothy - 4:6-16
12. Order in the church
  - a. Relating to elders - 5:1
  - b. Relating to others - 5:2
  - c. Relating to widows - 5:3-16
13. Charges regarding elders - 5:17-25
14. Relationship of masters and slaves - 6:1-2
15. Warnings to the rich - 6:3-10
16. Final exhortations to Timothy - 6:11-21

B. 2 Timothy

1. Introduction - 1:1-2

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<sup>9</sup> Thiessen, p. 198-199.

2. Personal exhortations to Timothy - 1:3-14
  3. Paul's first defense before the emperor - 1:15-18
  4. Pictures of Christian service
    - a. The exhortation - 2:1-2
    - b. The picture of the soldier - 2:3-4
    - c. The picture of an athlete - 2:5
    - d. The picture of the farmer - 2:6-7
  5. Suffering and the Christian - 2:8-13
  6. The importance of scripture - 2:14-18
  7. The necessity of purity in service - 2:19-26
  8. The great apostasy - 3:1-9
  9. The character of Paul and his ministry - 3:10-13
  10. The foundation of our faith - 3:14-17
  11. Final exhortations to Timothy - 4:1-5
  12. Paul's swan song - 4:4-8
  13. Friends and foes - 4:9-22
- C. Titus
1. Introduction - 1:1-4
  2. Elders in the church - 1:5-16
  3. Roles in the church, elders, women, young men - 2:1-8
  4. Relationship between masters and servants - 2:9-10
  5. Praise regarding God's salvation - 2:11-15
  6. The Christian and government - 3:1-4
  7. Faith and works - 3:5-11
  8. Benediction - 3:12-15

## VI. Chapters To Remember

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|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Timothy 2 | The Role of Women in the Church       |
| 1 Timothy 3 | Qualifications for Elders and Deacons |
| 2 Timothy 3 | Perilous Times                        |

2 Timothy 4      Preach the Word and Itching Ears

Titus 2            Living Soberly

#### VII. Points and Peculiarities

1. The Pastoral Epistles are the most personal Epistles of Paul.
2. The Pastoral Epistles give us a close look as to the organization and function of the church.
3. The Pastoral Epistles make a great deal about false teachers and false doctrine.

#### VIII. A Closer Look

##### A. 1 Timothy

1. Chapter 1
  - a. Warnings Regarding False Teaching - 1 Timothy 1:3-7.
  - b. Paul's Personal Testimony - 1 Timothy 1:12-17.
  - c. Deliverance to Satan - 1 Timothy 1:18-20.
2. Chapter 2
  - a. Evangelistic Prayer - 1 Timothy 2:1-8.
  - b. The Role of Women in the Church - 1 Timothy 2:9-15.
3. Chapter 3
  - a. Qualifications for Elders - 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
  - b. Qualifications for Deacons - 1 Timothy 3:8-10.
  - c. Qualifications for Deaconesses - 1 Timothy 3:11-13.
  - d. How to Behave in the Church - 1 Timothy 3:14-16.
4. Chapter 4
  - a. The Coming Apostasy - 1 Timothy 4:1-5.
  - b. A Good Minister - 1 Timothy 4:6-16.
5. Chapter 5
  - a. Widows in the Church - 1 Timothy 5:1-16.
  - b. Duties to Elders - 1 Timothy 5:17-25.
6. Chapter 6
  - a. Beware of False Teachers - 1 Timothy 6:1-10.
  - b. Fight a Good Fight - 1 Timothy 6:11-21.



## B. Titus

## 1. Chapter 1

- a. Qualifications for Elders - Titus 1:5-9.
- b. Warnings Regarding False Teachers - Titus 1:10-16.

## 2. Chapter 2

- a. Domestic Relationships in the Church - Titus 2:1-10.
- b. The Power Behind a Christian Life - Titus 2:11-14.

## 3. Chapter 3

- a. Model Citizens - Titus 3:1-2.
- b. Disciplining Heretics - Titus 3:9-11.

## C. 2 Timothy

## 1. Chapter 1

- a. Exhortation to Endurance - 2 Timothy 1:6-14.

## 2. Chapter 2

- a. A Good Soldier, Runner, and Farmer - 2 Timothy 2:1-13.
- b. Personal Conduct and Relationships - 2 Timothy 2:14-26.

## 3. Chapter 3

- a. The Coming Apostasy - 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
- b. Follow Me! - 2 Timothy 3:10-13.
- c. Steadfastness in the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

## 4. Chapter 4

- a. Preach the Word - 2 Timothy 4:1-5.
- b. Paul's Swan Song - 2 Timothy 4:6-18.