

Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

1 & 2 Timothy / Titus

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The Pastoral Epistles were written to encourage the strengthening of God's Church and the appreciation of its existence.

I. Who?

A. Authorship

- 1. Conservative/Evangelical Scholars: Paul (Saul) the Apostle**
- 2. Liberal/Critical Scholars: "Pious" forged in 2nd Century AD**

B. Liberal Arguments Against:

- 1. Different vocabulary**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- 2. Ecclesiastical organization is too "advanced"**
- 3. Doesn't "fit" with Acts events**
- 4. False teachings being addressed sound like 2nd century Gnosticism**
- 5. Theology "different"**

C. Conservative Arguments For:

- 1. Claim to be written by Paul**
- 2. Accepted by the Church for 18 centuries**
- 3. Believed to be written after Acts ends**
- 4. Personal details**

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners among whom I am foremost of all." (1 Timothy 1:15)

"Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses." (1 Timothy 5:22)

- 5. Vocabulary appropriate (recipients/subjects/brevity)**
- 6. Theology is not inconsistent (practice not doctrine)**

7. Ecclesiastical structure is appropriate

8. False teachings developed over time

D. Recipient(s)

1. Timothy/Titus (young pastors solving problems)

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. (Acts 16:1-5)

2. The churches in their cities

Grace be with you all. (1 Timothy 6:21b)

3. The Church of God in all times

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

II. What?

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

A. Themes:

1. Refuting false teachers

2. Church government and structure

3. Appropriate teaching in the Church

B. Ecclesiology: What is the Church and how should it function?

III. Where?

A. Paul is likely writing from Macedonia

B. Timothy is in Ephesus / Titus on the island of Crete

IV. When?

A. 63-66 AD (most likely 64)

V. Why?

A. To encourage and charge Paul's assistants in straightening out and strengthening the churches

B. To clarify to the Church how it is to operate and the God-given authority of its pastors

VI. The Salutation (v. 1-2)

A. Paul was chosen and sent by God as His messenger with His authority (v. 1)

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22)

B. Timothy was Paul's beloved under-shepherd (v. 2a)

C. Paul extends a benediction of

1. Grace = getting what we don't deserve

2. Mercy = not getting what we do deserve

3. Peace = tranquility with God and men

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Ephesians 2:13-18)