

A Word About Pastoring: Paul's Pastoral Letters... 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Paul had two young men that he mentored in the ministry, Timothy and Titus. (see **1 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4**) They were his sons in the faith and fellow labors for God as they served various churches as pastor. Paul wrote three letters to these two men. These are known as Paul's pastoral letters. The reason he wrote these letters is found in **1 Timothy 3:15** "...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..."

Paul addressed the pastor and church order in two of these letters, (**1 Timothy** and **Titus**) and apostasy of the church in the other (**2 Timothy**). These letters have not been studied as much as some others by the church but speak to our situation today. They were written as the church moved from a few believers to an institution. The structure of the church was beginning to develop and those who devoted their life to service are seen here supported by the church.

Allow me to not give an outline for these books but simply to note various key teachings as we work through the books.

1 Timothy

Paul talked about church order in the first part of this book and gave instructions for the local pastor in the last part.

I- Sound Doctrine:

Paul exhorted Timothy to say at Ephesus and exhorted them to say true to sound doctrine. (**1:3-4**). Paul encourages Timothy to wage a good

warfare against false doctrines (**1:18-20**).

II- Public Worship:

2:1-8 is an exhortation to public prayer to be made. **2:9-15** has been a source of much debate and controversy over the years. Some see Paul as a woman hater. We can better understand these verses if we realize that a woman who spoke publicly in the days of Paul was usually a woman of soiled reputation. We see here that God's Word teaches that men are the head of the race and women should not rule over them.

III-Qualifications of Bishop and Deacons: 3:1-16

This area was important enough to be included by Paul to both Timothy and Titus. (See **Titus 1:5ff**). You will notice that these men were to be above reproach and have a good report among the lost. Many focus on only one or two of the qualifications and neglect the others in this section. It is just as important that a man be apt to teach as the husband of one wife or that he rule his own house well and be given to hospitality.

I remind us all that the positions here are positions of service not overlords. We earn the right to lead only by our servant hearts and desire of God's will and best for those we lead. Please read these verses carefully now.

IV- Signs of the Last Times: 4:1-5

Paul teaches us that in the "**latter times**" some will depart from the faith and be deceived by Satan. We see

these things have come to pass. We will see more concerning this in **2 Timothy**.

V- Wise Counsel:

Paul gives advice that we could call wise counsel. Notice the following:

a- Be a good minister- **4:6-11** He told Timothy to preach and teach the things of God and to be a good minister.

b- Be an example- **4:12-13** Timothy was probably younger than most of those he was trying to lead in spiritual matters. Paul told him to be an example in **"word...conversation...charity...spirit...faith...purity."**

c- Stir up your passion- **4:14-16** The advice here is to stir up the gifts and not neglect to use what God has equipped us to do with.

d- How to treat Elders- **5:1-25** Personal relationships are discussed in this section. The care of widows, and taking care of our own is clearly taught here. (**5:8-16**).

e- Contentment- **6:6-10** The lust for bigger and better is rampant today. We have lost the ability it seems to be content with what we have in God.

He closed this first letter by telling him to keep what had been entrusted to him (**6:20**).

2 Timothy

Paul gives us a little of Timothy's spiritual heritage in the first part of **2 Timothy**. (**2 Tim 1:5**) as well as the later (**3:14-17**). He again tells him to stir up the gifts of God. A friend of mine calls it "fanning the flame." (Dr. Dennis Deese, *Fan the Flame Ministry*)

I- Hold Fast Sound Words:

1:13 The churches of Asia at this time had already rejected the gospel of grace and gone into legalism (see **1:15**).

Paul writes to hold onto the faith and grace.

II- Warring in the Conflict: 2:1, 3-5

2 Timothy 2:3 says, **"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."**

III- Study to be approved of God:

2 Timothy 2:15 **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** Perhaps one of the most oft quoted and least applied verses in the Bible.

IV- Perilous times shall come:

3:1ff reads like the headlines of our Sunday papers.

V- Preach the Word: 4:1-5

Paul exhorted him to preach the Word when it when it was convenient and when it was not.

VI- Paul's Swan Song:

Paul's swan song, so to speak is recorded for us in **4:6-8**. The last words recorded of the Apostle are found here. He tells Timothy that his days are short but he had accomplished what God had in store for his life. How many lives have been wasted short of what God wanted to accomplish? Many will say with Paul these words at our last hour.

Titus

Paul write to his son in the faith, Titus (**1:4**) **Titus 1:2** teaches us that God promised eternal life before the world began and that He cannot lie.

I- Order in the Church- 1:5-16

Again we have the qualifications of a bishop or elder. Sound doctrine is a key thought in this book. (1:9, 2:1).

II- Advice Concerning Various Groups- 2:1-15

There is advice contained here concerning several groups.

- a- aged men **2:1**
- b- aged women **2:3-4**
- c- young women **2:4-5**
- d- young men **2:6-8**
- e- servants **2:9-10**

He then gave lessons from the grace of God. **2:11-15**

III- General Advice and Counsel-

At the end of Titus there are two things we need to see about general things.

- a- subject to civil authority **3:1ff**
- b- things to avoid. **3:9-11**

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- God wants His people to be different that the world.
- 2- God wants us to have passion for the things of God. We should stir up the gifts of the Spirit.
- 3- Leadership is an honor not a political position.
- 4- God's Word speaks to our life and needs.
- 5- The qualifications of pastors and deacons should be scriptural and not political nor culturally.

Retracing Our Steps

1- Who wrote these three letters?

2- What relationship were Timothy and Titus to Paul? _____

3- What are these letters known as? The _____ epistles.

4- What are the qualifications of a bishop or deacon? _____

5- Out of Titus 2 what is the advice for you? _____

