

1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus

These letters are often called the 'Pastoral Letters' although both Timothy and Titus had more of an apostolic role than that of a local pastor.

The letters are personal letters, not directly addressed to a church but to these two individuals who were associates of the Apostle Paul.

The dates when these were written is significant because they give insights into the state and organisation of the churches towards the end of the New Testament period in the latter half of the 1st Century.

The assumed dates are as follows:-

Paul at the end of Acts is seen under house arrest in Rome about 60AD.

Luke in Acts 28:30 tells us that Paul stayed there for 2 years.

The subsequent history is drawn for the writings of the early church fathers. (Eg. Clement of Rome, Eusebius.)

Paul was released after those 2 years, which brings us to about 62AD

For the next 3 or 4 years Paul continued his travels possibly as far as Spain and during this time wrote to Timothy his first letter, and about the same time also wrote to Titus.

After this Paul was again arrested and imprisoned. He wrote his last letter to Timothy from prison awaiting his imminent execution by Nero in about 65AD.

Timothy and Titus were very different men.

Timothy was born of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. Paul circumcised him in order to help those in the Jewish community who knew of his background. (Acts 16:3) He appears to be somewhat timid and suffered from health issues as we see from the letter. (1Timothy 5:23)

Titus was from a gentile background.

Galatians 2:1 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. Gal 2:3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

2 Corinthians 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you;

The reason Paul wrote the letters

Both men had a role under Paul's help as 'trouble-shooters' in the early churches. The letters give us insight into the kind of issues the leadership and congregations faced in the 1st Century communities of believers in Jesus. They still give clear directions for the 21st Century.

We assume that Paul wrote these letters to help the churches, to protect the gospel teaching for future generations, and because he couldn't be with Timothy or Titus in person.

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith.. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies.

These promote controversies rather than God`s work--which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour
and of Christ Jesus our hope,

Paul's credentials and authority.

Notice Paul's frequent use of the phrase Christ Jesus,
rather than Jesus Christ.

Why do you think he does that?

God is the author of our salvation.

Jesus is the means through which it will come.

To Timothy my true son in the faith..

The recipient.

Paul had probably led him to the Lord during the first mission to Lystra - Acts 14:6



.. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Greeting and blessing

The usual greeting in Paul's letters was 'Grace and peace'.
(mercy is extra for leaders?!)

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus

Paul may have been back to Ephesus and seen the problems or may have had reports. Timothy has the job of completing the work.

Do you think he felt like leaving too?



so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies.

Command ! Authority from the apostle.

Trouble in the church
Paul had warned them ...
Stop them!
Serious danger come from errors
What we believe is REALLY important

Side-tracked by human inventions
People can get **devoted** to rubbish.

Acts 20:29-30 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

These promote controversies rather than God`s work--which is by faith.

“By their fruit” Jesus said !!!

Endless arguments that generate heat and no light.

This is a sorry prophecy of church history at times.

God’s required kind of living... by faith

The goal of this command is love,
which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

The objective - love

This is fertile ground for love to grow

Right attitude – vs. critical spirit

Clear sense of forgiveness vs. striving

Genuine faith vs. self-promoting efforts

Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.

They got lost on the way (missed the mark)
– through useless speculations

Beware.. Be a Berean! Acts 17:11

they received the word with all eagerness,
examining the Scriptures daily to see if
these things were so.

They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

Often such are ambitious to have power over others

Paul's authoritative verdict on their 'work'!

They are wrong.

Beware! We can be wrong while being absolutely sure we are right, if we wander from the Scriptures!

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

There are different uses of the Greek term 'nomos'. Translated as 'law', it is sometimes also spelled as 'Law' in English.

There are 2 meanings that it covers

1. The first 5 books of the Bible = Torah
2. The specific commandments ie. Exodus 20 etc.

What does he mean here and what is the proper use of it?

We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers

Why are laws given?

One of its purposes is to make clear
what is right and what is wrong
The Bible law reveals sin.

for lawbreakers and rebels,
the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious;
for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, the sexually
immoral, men who practice homosexuality, for slave traders and liars
and perjurers--

A list of law breakers .. (in relation to the 10 Commandments)

This was part of the godless culture of Ephesus.
How much has changed?

How can we live right in a broken culture?

and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

The list is not exhaustive – there's more

Sound = 'healthy' in what it is and its effects

the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God,

The test for sound doctrine (teachings) is :-
“Does it match the gospel?”

The Gospel is glorious in its origin, its subject and its results.

The gospel is the only thing that can bring us into a real relationship with God.

Paul praises God as he thinks about what He has done.

the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

It is the gospel that was given to Paul and passed on to us.

There are no alternatives

Galatians 1:7-8 Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes:

first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed

--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."