



A PASSAGE THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT
PART NINE

Letters to Preachers

First Timothy
Second Timothy
Titus

by Jeff S. Smith

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First and Second Timothy and Titus

Authorship: Paul, A.D.64-67

The three letters collectively to Timothy and Titus are often styled as the apostle Paul's "pastoral epistles," because the writer is considered to be acting as a "senior pastor" in addressing the younger preachers in the work they should do. It is assumed that Timothy and Titus were the pastors of churches where they were, but this exposes the common misunderstanding of the term. In reality, because Paul was unmarried, he himself did not even meet the necessary qualities for serving as a pastor that are given in two of these letters. Pastor is used interchangeably in the New Testament with its synonyms—bishop, elder, overseer and presbyter.

These letters address young preachers who were working with infant congregations to get them fully established in what would become the pattern for churches of Christ everywhere. The appointment of elders and deacons in every congregation was of immediate importance.

Paul had been released from his first Roman imprisonment around the end of A.D. 62 or early 63. These letters probably began to be sent in 65 and were concluded with Paul's valedictory, 2 Timothy, a couple of years later, after Paul's rearrest and while his execution seemed to be impending (2 Tim. 4:6).

Timothy had been carefully instructed in the scriptures by his mother and grandmother when he a child. His mother was Jewish but his father was Greek (Acts 16:1-3), but he became a companion of Paul in his travels and preaching, as well as an occasional emissary, and now the preacher in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3). Their association is a picture of the ideal older and younger preacher relationship.

Titus was a Christian born of Gentile parents (Galatians 2:3) and also a frequent companion of Paul (Titus 1:4). The apostle's refusal to circumcise Titus made a monumental statement that Gentiles were accepted into the church of Christ without first being Mosaic proselytes.

The author is the apostle Paul, who is once again extremely concerned with meeting false teachers. He prescribes bold and forceful opposition to them. The elders are to take an active role as well as the preacher in defending the flock of Christ.

The purpose of these epistles is to help sustain the preachers. Paul speaks at some length on the appointment of elders, giving their necessary qualities and their duties. Paul encourages the younger evangelists to continue setting in order the things that were lacking in the churches where they labored. Paul was concerned at this time in his life most with the epidemic of false teachers in the church and with indoctrinating the church concerning its work and organization. Timothy is reminded of the authority he exercises to preach the word and the others are encouraged to pay him proper attention and respect.

Lesson 1: Personal Notes

First Timothy 1:1-20

1. Was Timothy Paul's biological son? How then was he Paul's son?
2. Timothy was to charge some that they teach no other doctrine. None other than what doctrine?
3. They were not to give heed to fables and endless genealogies. As to the former, in what way are these still given heed among religious people of our day?
4. As to the latter, the careful distinction made between Jew and Gentile was at the heart of this pursuit. What did the King of the Jews do to the dividing wall between them?
5. What were some transgressions of those noted in verse 7?
6. What is Paul's perspective on the Law of Moses?

7. Why doesn't verse 9 release righteous people from obeying the law of God?

8. How was Paul formerly a blasphemer—we know that he was always committed to serving God conscientiously? When was Paul set right?

9. Paul claims that he obtained God's mercy because his sin was done in ignorance. Does this suggest then that Paul was not required to repent of his sin? Does it imply that he did not repent? Consider First John 1:6-9—what must a Christian do who sins?

10. For what reason does Paul say Jesus came into the world?

11. The concept expressed in the Greek in verse sixteen is a repetition of Paul's position as an accomplished blasphemer and persecutor who still could be saved. For what can we look to Paul now?

12. What happens when a Christian soldier jettisons his faith and clean conscience? What course of action did Paul take concerning Hymenaeus and Alexander (First Corinthians 5:5)?

Lesson 2: Prayer

First Timothy 2:1-15

1. Generally, for whom is prayer to be made? Specifically, whom does Paul point out in this passage?

2. Toward what end should our prayers for the specific group be?

3. What is implied by the necessity of such a prayer?

4. What is God's desire? What effect does this verse have on Calvinist Predestination?

5. What did Jesus do for us and what does he do even now?

6. Can we not also pray to Mary, another mediator and intercessor between man and God?

7. One duty of men is given here in contradistinction from the duties of women. What is that duty?

8. In verses 9-10 is offered the responsibility of women. What is it?

9. Again, in verses 11-12 is distinguished the roles of man and woman. Describe the teaching here.

10. How does the Holy Spirit explain this commandment (verses 13-14)?

11. “Nevertheless, she will be saved in childbearing” if they continue in what?

Lesson 3: Elders and Deacons

First Timothy 3:1-16

1. What are some different terms that are used to describe the first office taken up in chapter three?

2. What does verse one say about this office and the men who would fill it?

3. Be prepared to discuss the qualities of an elder verse by verse in class:

- verse 2

- verse 3

- verse 4

- verse 5

- verse 6

- verse 7

4. Be prepared to discuss the qualities of deacons verse by verse:

- verse 8
- verse 9
- verse 10
- verse 11
- verse 12
- verse 13

5. Is your life one that is qualifying you to serve as an elder or deacon or to uphold him as his wife?

6. Why did Paul write these things?

7. How is Christ's church described in verse 15?

Lesson 4: Command and Teach

First Timothy 4:1-16

1. One description of these false teachers is very telling of their actions. What does verse 2 say of their consciences and what does that denote?

2. Verse 3 introduces two of the false teachings to look for. What are they?

3. How should food be received?

4. What is Timothy told to do in verse 6?

5. The bodily exercise Paul has in mind was a bit more involved than the athleticism common in today's health clubs. It also involved the abuse of the body as well as exercise. What does Paul write in comparing bodily exercise with exercise of godly senses? In what ways is verse 8 true?

6. In what way is Jesus the Savior of all men, especially those who believe?

7. Paul anticipated a special problem Timothy might confront. What is it? What is he to do about it?

8. Verses 13 and 14 are tied together. What is Timothy to encourage? If he does not, what will he be neglecting?

9. What do verses 15-16 say about his responsibilities to others and himself simultaneously?

Lesson 5: Saints

First Timothy 5:1-6:2

1. These two verses instruct the preacher, and in reality all, as they deal with other members of the church. Match the following:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|
| ___ | exhort as a father | a. older women |
| ___ | treat as sisters | b. older men |
| ___ | treat as brothers | c. younger women |
| ___ | treat as mothers | d. younger men |

2. What situation is covered in 5:3-10? Is the church commanded or permitted here to extend benevolence without limit? Where does the first obligation lie when someone cannot provide for himself or herself?

3. Why were younger widows not to be taken into the list?

4. What is Paul's instruction concerning them?

5. How are we to treat elders who rule the church well? Is it proper to compensate an elder financially if his work engages a great deal of his time?

6. What should be done concerning an elder against whom someone levels an accusation?

7. Verse 22 encourages Timothy to be careful and deliberate when an accusation is raised—perhaps the accuser is false. If Timothy were to take up the accusation too quickly, he would be sharing in what?

8. It is little surprise that Timothy experienced stomach ailments. What is Paul's prescription?

9. The last two verses of chapter 5 present a proverbial statement of fact. If Timothy were constantly concerned about knowing every deed of the members there, whether good or evil, this should put his stomach at ease. Why?

10. Slavery was a fact of life in this era. Does Paul attempt to effect a social change in his preaching? Why or why not?

Lesson 6: Humility

First Timothy 6:3-21

1. Here again Paul returns to describing divisive brethren or false teachers. After telling of their methods and fruits, he points out their motivation in verse 5. What is it? What should be done about them?
2. In verse 6, Paul tells of the opposite attitude. Theirs was one of discontented godliness—focused upon greed. What is truly a means of great gain?
3. How does Paul put worldly treasures and their pursuit in perspective in verse 7. Of what Old Testament character is this sentiment reminiscent?
4. What is said of the love of money? What happens to people who desire to be rich?

5. Paul remarks that laying hold of eternal life is yet a future feat. What must Timothy do to eventually grasp eternity?

6. In what manner is Timothy to keep this command, according to verse 14?

7. Paul returns again to warn the rich. What are they warned against in verse 17?

8. Why are riches said to be uncertain? Refer to Mark 8:34-38.

9. What are the rich warned to do in verses 18-19? Consider Matthew 6:19-21.

10. What bearing does 6:20-21 have on preaching today?

6. Consider also Romans 1:16. When men and society at large hold the gospel in contempt, how do Christians sometimes become ashamed of the gospel, the testimony of the Lord?

7. What did Jesus's appearance do (verse 10)?

8. Toward what end does Paul endure his present sufferings and forfeit his potential earthly wealth and comfort?

9. Biblical patterns have come under fire from our progressive brethren recently. The New Hermeneutic movement says that the Biblical pattern for the church and for life is antiquated and should be replaced. What did Paul tell Timothy to do with this very same pattern in verses 13-14?

10. We are introduced to two here from Asia. Who are they and what have they done? Refer to verse 8 as well.

11. Who is introduced in contrast? What is his record?

Lesson 8: Orders for Christian Soldiers

Second Timothy 2:1-26

1. What duty of a preacher is outlined in verse 2?

2. What three occupations are introduced as analogies in verses 3-6? What must each do to attain the reward?
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

3. What is Timothy to keep in mind (verse 8)?

4. Verses 11-13 state more about saving faith than simply its commencement. Consider Romans 6:1-11: how did we die with Christ? How do we endure or deny him?

5. The “them” addressed in verse 14 probably refers to the false teachers of this passage. What was the result of the false teachers’ work? Is this really important enough to address this way?

6. What kind of effort (if any) is required to be approved of by God? What must one do regarding the truth? What does this mean?

7. The false teachers were not only guilty of striving about words to no profit (verse 14) but also of profane and idle babbling. What is the proper attitude and action toward this?

8. How will the message of the false teacher spread? According to verse 18, what is the result of false teaching like this?

9. What should a Christian do concerning his iniquity? All of it?

10. What should we do with our characteristics of gold and silver? What should we do concerning our characteristics of wood and clay?

11. What should characterize a servant of the Lord?

12. Whose will or desire do false teachers do?

5. Yes, and *all* who *desire* to *live* *godly* in Christ Jesus *will* suffer persecution (verse 13). What is the significance of each of these emphasized words to this verse and concept?

- all
- desire
- live
- will

6. Who taught Timothy from the Scriptures in his childhood?

7. Where does scripture come from originally?

8. For what is scripture profitable?

9. With the scriptures in his tool belt, how well prepared is the man of God?

Lesson 10: Parting Words

Second Timothy 4:1-22

1. In three words, what is the apostolic charge to the evangelist? What does this charge include? What does it exclude?

2. What is meant by “in season and out of season”?

3. Verse 2 also includes a microcosm of the preaching charge. What is it?

4. Verse 3 describes an *out of season* era. What is its cause?

5. What event in Paul's life is he predicting here? Is he living in dread of what follows?

6. Why is it somewhat surprising that Paul summons Mark to his side now? What past event makes it so?

7. Try to harmonize 4:14 with what Paul wrote in Romans 12:17-21.

8. Is the faithful Christian ever truly *alone*?

Lesson II: The Church on Crete

Titus 1:1-16

1. Refer to Hebrews 6:17-19: what is the promise and hope that Paul speaks of which God made before time began?

2. Why did Paul leave the evangelist on Crete? Is this still something that preachers should do?

3. Paul then lists some qualities that men are to have before consideration as elders. Be prepared to discuss these verse by verse in class:

- verse 6:
- verse 7:
- verse 8:
- verse 9:

4. We get more into an important task of the elder in this passage. There are many errors shaking the church and world in our day but it was no different in the first century. If we desire to know the right way to deal with false teachers, we need look no further than the Bible. What was the error Paul was dealing with, as seen in verse 10?

5. How does Paul describe these false teachers in verse 10?

6. What is Paul's instruction concerning them? What is their danger (11)?

7. What are some ways in which a teacher may teach falsely in the pursuit of dishonest gain?

8. We still use the term, "Cretan" to describe someone of undistinguished character as Paul noted the term used in that day. Who made that accusation originally and what does Paul say about it?

9. How long should Titus give into the false teachers and allow them free course to spread their message before sounding an alarm? Refer to Galatians 2:5 to complete your answer.

10. Verse 15 is an allusion to the same consideration of Romans 14. He contrasts the Judaizing teachers with sincere Christians. What is the chilling indictment found in verse 16?

Lesson 12: Sound Doctrine

Titus 2:1-15

1. Another contrast is here made between the false teachers and Paul's goal for Titus. What things should he speak?

2. Paul begins then remarking on some qualities of a sound church, directed as various groups of people. How are the older men to be? (The older men in class should especially be able to discuss each term.)

3. How are the older women to act? (The older women in class should especially be able to discuss each term.)

4. How are younger women to act? (The younger women in class should especially be able to discuss each term.)

5. How are younger men to behave, according to verse 6 alone? (The younger men in class should especially be able to discuss this term.)

6. Titus is among this group of younger men and Paul combines the general admonition with a specific one relating to his role as teacher. According to verses 7-8, describe the nature of his teaching and doctrine.

7. The relationship of servant to master is analogous to a modern situation involving employee and employer. How do these commands apply to that relationship.

8. Newer translations render verse 11 better than the King James. Does this verse teach universal salvation? Why, or why not?

9. According to verse 12, does the grace of God teach us that a little worldly lust or ungodliness is permissible? Where is the standard of godliness and righteousness to be found?

10. What authority does Paul place in the hands of this young evangelist?

Lesson 13: Reminding Them

Titus 3:1-15

1. To what extent must a saint be subject to rulers and authorities?

2. Which of these laws should a Christian obey or disobey?

HYPOTHETICAL LAW

OBEY/DISOBEY?

- no one may speak the name of Christ in public
- all citizens must pay income tax honestly
- worship on Sundays is hereby forbidden
- no passing zone

3. Is man saved by God's mercy or by a system of meritorious works?

4. Through what did he save us?

5. The Greek word that is translated, "washing," in verse 5 is more properly, "bath." Name two passages that speak of a similar cleansing and identify to what each passage refers.

a.

b.

6. What word best describes the attitude toward good works that believers should possess:

a. careless

b. uncommitted

c. careful

d. unconcerned

7. While some works are good, others are not. What does Paul instruct Titus about evil works?

8. What should *first* be done concerning a man who labors in these contentious and divisive pursuits?

9. What should be done if he will not receive and submit to two admonitions?

10. Does the preacher or the church condemn him, then? If not, who does? (Be careful with your answer.)

11. What word best describes a Christian's attitude toward good works?

a. lacking

b. lethargic

c. occasional

d. maintained

12. What is said of those who fail to meet urgent needs?

13. What becomes of a tree that does not bear fruit?

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