



Intro to the New Testament:

Pastoral Letters of Paul

Session Four

Canonicity & Authorship

- In the patristic church these letters were received into the NT canon because they were penned by Paul
- It wasn't until the 19th century that they encountered objections, the assertion that the Pastorals reflected a post-Pauline context and concluded that they were 2nd century forgeries
 - There were 5 main objectives:
 - The historical situation
 - The gnosticizing false teachers condemned
 - The stage of church organization
 - The vocabulary and style
 - The theological views and themes

Occasion & Date

- Most scholars who attribute the Pastoral Letters to Paul presuppose his release from his first Roman imprisonment and propose a second Aegean ministry in which 1 Timothy and Titus are placed
- This is supported by two considerations:
 - 2nd century accounts that underlie the Acts of Paul of his final trip to Rome where he is martyred under Nero describe a different route than what is recorded in Acts 27–28
 - Very early evidence of a post-Acts Pauline mission to Spain

Opponents

- The opponents in the Pastoral letters seem to represent the same type of opposition which itself is really a developed version of the false teaching that plagued his other apostolic missions almost from the beginning
- This was a judaizing segment of the Jerusalem church which combined demand for Gentiles adherence to the Mosaic regulations with ascetic ritualism featuring a zeal for visions of angels, an experience of divine wisdom and knowledge, and depreciation of matter and physical resurrection and redemption

Themes

- The teaching of the letters concern errors of the false teachers and the proper response to them, strict qualifications for ministries in light of the opponents activities, as well as other regulations on church order and on the conduct of believers
- All Paul's teachings are given a christological basis in salvation history, including Christ's identity with God, his preexistence, his human Davidic descent, faithful ministry, saving work, resurrection, and his future coming and reign



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1 Timothy

1 Timothy: Situation

- These letters reflect a later time of Paul's ministry when his congregations had multiplied to encompass Crete, Miletus, and Nicopolis
- These congregations were increasingly endangered by judaizing-gnostic counter mission that included church leaders and likely former coworkers
- To address this problem Paul adopts a new strategy: he continues to work from a hub-city but rather than writing to each congregation sent by a coworker to explain and apply it, he now sends letters to trusted coworkers with personal communication, encouragement, and also as a hand book to give them apostolic authorization to their teaching

1 Timothy: Outline

- I. Introduction (1:1–20)
 - A. Greeting (1:1–2)
 - B. Charge to oppose Gnosticizing Judaizers (1:3–20)
 - 1. Their errors (1:3–7)
 - 2. Right use of the Law (1:8–11)
 - 3. Timothy contrasted with false teachers (1:18–20)
- II. Congregational Regulations (2:1–4:10)
 - A. Prayers and their purpose (2:1–8)
 - B. A faithful word for husbands and wives (2:9–3:1a)
 - C. Qualifications for overseers and ministers (3:1b–13)
 - D. Their purpose and Christological basis (3:14–16)
 - E. A prophetic warning and its application (4:1–10)
- III. Instructions for Timothy (4:11–6:2)
 - A. His examples to others (4:11–5:2)
 - B. His congregational supervision of widows, elders, slaves, and others (5:3–6:2)
 - C. A personal aside that purity doesn't require asceticism (5:23)
- IV. Final admonitions (6:3–19)
 - A. Concerning false teachers and their money motives (6:3–10)
 - B. Concerning the motives and conduct of the man of God (6:11–16)
 - C. Concerning affluent believers (6:17–19)
- V. Admonition and benediction in Paul's hand (6:20–21)

1 Timothy: Contents

- Timothy must take warning from 2 false teachers whom Paul has ejected from the church into the world which he calls Satan's territory
- Paul lists the qualifications of bishops and deacons
 - Bishop (episkopos gives us Episcopalian) an office filled by an elder (presbyter gives us Presbyterian), making bishop and elder mainly synonymous
 - Deacon means servant or helper and refers to a bishop's assistant who takes care of the mundane matters of church life, particularly distribution of charity
- The qualifications for women in 3:11 may imply female deacons or refers to deacon's wives who are expected to help in the charitable work of their husbands
- Timothy should not ordain a person to eldership hastily, but should prove his character over time



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Titus

Titus: Situation

- Some house churches were near collapse which is why Paul instructs Titus to restore the things that remain, appointing elders in each city because many deceivers especially of the circumcision party were overthrowing whole houses
- He composes 1 Timothy and Titus fairly early in this period, around 65; in late spring he visits Miletus and Troas where he leaves his coat and a number of books and notebooks; he leaves Troas for Rome with the intention of returning

Titus: Outline

- Greeting (1:1–4)
- Instructions for Titus (1:5–16)
 - Qualifications for overseers (1:5–9)
 - Concerning false teachers (1:10–2:1)
- Congregational supervision and its basis (2:2–15)
- Responsibilities of believers (3:1–11)
 - Concerning civic life (3:1–2)
 - Its basis in a faithful word (3:3–8)
 - Concerning false teachers (3:9–11)
- A concluding word (3:12–15)
 - Concerning coworkers (3:12–13)
 - A repeated admonition (3:14)
 - Greetings and benediction in Paul's hand (3:15)

Titus: Contents

- Paul writes this letter from Nicopolis on the west coast of Greece to Titus whom he has left there on the island of Crete to organize the church
- He warns against false teachers and issues instructions to different classes of Christians on proper conduct
- The doctrinal basis for these instructions is God's grace which brings salvation, leads to godly living, and offers the hope of Jesus's return
- The experiential basis for the instructions is regeneration by the Holy Spirit



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2 Timothy

2 Timothy: Situation & Date

- Paul takes a last missionary journey from the Aegean to Rome where he was again imprisoned, writes 2 Timothy, and soon after is beheaded
- He may have been arrested in Ephesus or Troas and taken to Rome as a prisoner; however, based on 2nd century Acts of Paul, he returned to Rome as a free man to minister to a church that was suffering repeated calamities due to the persecution of Nero
- According to Eusebius's Chronicle, Paul was martyred with Peter in the 14th year of Nero 67–68
- Paul would have composed 2 Timothy around late summer or fall of A. D. 67

2 Timothy: Outline

- Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1–5)
- Appeal to Timothy (1:6–2:13)
 - For faithful witness in face of opposition (1:6–2:7)
 - In light of Paul's example (2:8–13)
- Warnings against false teachers (2:14–4:5)
 - Avoid their vain ways (2:14–26)
 - A prophecy concerning false teachers and its application (3:1–9)
 - The reason and way to counter false teachers (3:10–17)
 - An exhortation to faithful ministry (4:1–5)
- Paul's situation and prospects (4:6–21)
 - His approaching death (4:6–8)
 - His need for Timothy to come (4:9–16)
 - His confidence in God's presence and final redemption (4:17–18)
- Greetings and benediction in Paul's hand (4:19–22)

2 Timothy: Contents

- This letter opens with a reminder of God's call to Timothy and Paul
- Paul intersperses exhortations and describes some who have left him and other who have stood by him while in prison
- Paul gives further directions to Timothy comparing the handwork and discipline of soldiers, athletes, and farmers
- Against heretical teaching Paul stresses that all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable
- Paul gives a final charge to preach God's word, gives a statement of readiness to die, and relates personal news