

Introduction - I & II Timothy and Titus

INTRODUCTION TO I & II TIMOTHY & TITUS

DATE:

"Paul wrote I Timothy in the year 62 or 63 A.D. after release from Roman imprisonment, while he was somewhere in Macedonia. Very shortly after, in the same year, Paul wrote to Titus. Upon his second arrest, while in the Roman prison in 64-68 A.D., probably in 67 A.D., he wrote the last of his letters, 2 Timothy."

"For the benefit of those who read these words and do not know the background of Paul's epistles we present a brief outline of their composition. Before he was imprisoned Paul wrote:

1. On his second journey he wrote from Corinth the epistles of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
2. On his third journey he wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus; 2 Corinthians from Macedonia, possibly Philippi; Galatians and Romans from Corinth.
3. While in prison in Rome for two full years he wrote the following letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.
4. After his release he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. After his second arrest he wrote 2 Timothy. Anyone is free to disagree with the time and place of the writings of these letters. All we say is that we have decided after two decades of study, that this is the most reasonable arrangement."

"PAUL'S LETTERS TO TIMOTHY & TITUS" by Don DeWelt, College Press, page 15

OCCASION:

I TIMOTHY 3:14-15

"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

II TIMOTHY

"Three things seem to have led Paul to write this Epistle:

1. His concern for Timothy as he was confronted by the false teachers of his day.
2. His desire for fellowship with his most trusted and faithful co-worker.
3. His need of the cloak, books, and parchments which he had left at Troas."

-Introduction to New Testament-Thiessen

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TITUS

"Three things seem to have led the Apostle to write this Epistle:

1. The condition of the work in Crete.
2. Titus' need of instruction and encouragement.
3. The going of Zenas and Apollos to the island."

Op cit p. 266

PURPOSE AND PLAN OF EPISTLES:

I TIMOTHY:

"Paul seems to have had four main purposes in writing to Timothy:

1. To encourage him to oppose the false teachers.
2. To furnish him with these written credentials of his authorization by Paul.
3. To instruct him as to the manner in which men ought to conduct themselves in the church.
4. To exhort him to be diligent in the performance of all his ministerial duties."

Op cit p. 263

II TIMOTHY:

"Paul undertook to relate his own experiences and expectations and to encourage and instruct Timothy. After the salutation (1:1-3) he:

1. Appeals for brave adherence to the Gospel (1:3-18) & for steadfastness and endurance in the work. (2:1-13)
2. Gives instructions concerning Timothy's personal and ministerial conduct. (2:14-26)
3. Warns concerning the grievous times that are coming. (3:1-9)
4. Urges Timothy to follow his example. (3:10-13)
5. Encourages him on the ground of his early training. (3:14-17)
6. Appeals for faithful preaching of the Word in the light of the coming apostasy and his approaching martyrdom. (4:1-8)
7. Expresses his longing for fellowship, (4:9-18) and sends greetings (4:19-22).

TITUS:

Paul's purpose here is much the same as in 1 Timothy. After somewhat extended salutation (1:1-4), he:

1. Urges Titus to complete the organization of the work in Crete (1:1-5).
2. Instructs him as to the qualifications required of elders (1:6-9).

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3. Insists that a strong stand be taken against false teachers. (1:10-16).
4. Informs Titus how to deal with the various classes in domestic relations (2:1-10).
5. Explains how such a life is made possible (2:11-15).
6. Encourages the teaching of good citizenship(3:1-2).
7. Indicates why believers should live like that (3:3-8).
8. Warns Titus against false teachings and teachers (3:9-11).
9. Speaks of his plans for the future (3:12-14).
10. Sends greetings (3:15).

Op cit P. 266 & 267

AUTHOR: PAUL IN ALL THREE...

I TIMOTHY:

He signs the epistle...1:1
Sent to Timothy...1:2
Usual greeting used by Paul...1:3
He plans to come to Timothy shortly...3:14-15

II TIMOTHY:

Paul signs it...1:1
To Timothy...1:2
Paul had given Timothy the supernatural gifts...1:11
Paul is in prison...1:8
Author is the apostle to the Gentiles...1:11
Luke is with him(regular traveling companion)...4:11

AUTHORSHIP OF ALL THREE: (taken from Gareth Reese's class on "Introduction to the New Testament")

1. Paul signs all three.
The biographical notes speak of being once a blasphemer and persecutor (1Tim. 1:12-17), now is a preacher and apostle to the Gentiles (1Tim. 1:1,11; 2:7; 2Tim 1:1; Titus 1:1), and speaks of the journey through Antioch, Iconium, Lystra (2Tim. 1:12, 13; 3:10,11).
2. Similar words...
To Paul's letters
To Paul's speeches
3. Digression...
From that which belongs to the general object of the Epistle, Paul is ever given to

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digress to general truth--and then comes back to the general object of the letter.

4. If forgeries, why written?

The object of the pastoral letters is the well-being of the society to which they were sent. Who can believe that letters so well calculated to promote such well-being were written with a pen dipped in lies and falsehoods?

SUMMARY TO ALL THREE:

All these letters are written at about the same time. I cannot consent to separate these Epistles widely from one another, so as to set one earlier, and the others in the later years of the apostle's ministry. On every account they must stand together. Their STYLE and DICTION, the MOTIVES which they furnish, the STATE OF THE CHURCH and of HERESY which they describe, are the same in all three and to one and the same period we must assign them.

Titus and 1 Timothy closely resemble each other.

1 Timothy and 2 Timothy closely resemble each other.

The three pastoral epistles present so much similarity they must be attributed to one writer.

Almost all reject or retain the three together." (end of quote)

ONE MAIN ATTACK AGAINST THE PASTORAL EPISTLES:

Those of the "liberal" persuasion try to maintain that these letters were written at a much later date than these dates we have given. They claim these letters were not written by the Apostle Paul, but by forgers. The result they hope to achieve is the destruction of the credibility of the Epistles because in these Epistles is found a VERY STRONG CASE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH AS GOD DESIRES. If they can destroy the credibility of the Epistles they then can design their OWN FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT WITHOUT GOD'S LEADERSHIP AND THUS EFFECTIVELY DESTROY THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. As the "liberals" fight to reach their goal, the Christian MUST BE FIRM in his stand FOR THESE EPISTLES JUST AS THEY ARE. The Bible speaks, I believe it, that settles it! The Christian cannot back away from this position.