



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

**New Testament Survey**  
**Lesson 34 – Two Pastoral Letters**  
**(First Timothy, Titus)**

**Between Paul's First and Second Imprisonments**

When the book of Acts ends, Paul is still a prisoner in Rome; he is awaiting his trial before the Emperor Nero. We don't know exactly what happened to Paul then, but we can determine a probable order of events. Our information comes from Paul's two letters to Timothy, his letter to Titus, and some of the writings of early Christians that are not included in the Bible.

Rome: Paul's case came before Emperor Nero in 61 AD and the result was Paul's acquittal and release.

Spain: Paul then probably made his mission trip to Spain, as he had planned long before. In 96 AD a Roman pastor named Clement wrote that Paul had gone to the Far West, which in their day would have meant Spain. There is nothing in the Bible that talks about this probable journey.

Crete: Paul made a trip to the island of Crete. When he left Crete, he put Titus in charge of the congregations on that island (Titus 1:5).

Ephesus: Paul had once told the pastors of Ephesus that he would see their face no more (Acts 20:25). Although some of the Ephesian pastors probably no longer alive, it seems that Paul did return to Ephesus, if only for a short time. When Paul left Ephesus, he put Timothy in charge of the churches in this area (1 Timothy 1:3).

Macedonia: Paul then went to Macedonia, that is, to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea (1 Timothy 1:3). It was in Macedonia that Paul wrote 1 Timothy, in 62 or 63 AD.

**Timothy, Paul's Faithful Assistant**

Timothy was born in Lystra of Galatia to a Greek father and a Jewish mother (Acts 16:1). His mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois taught him the Old Testament (2 Timothy 1:5). On Paul's second mission journey Timothy joined Paul's group as his assistant, and he continued as his assistant from that time on. He was with Paul in Rome during his first imprisonment.

Timothy was probably a timid young man, because Paul had to give him plenty of encouragement (1 Timothy 4:12). He also had stomach trouble (1 Timothy 5:23). After Paul was released from prison, he and Timothy went to Ephesus. Paul then went on to Macedonia and left Timothy in charge of the Ephesian Christians (1 Timothy 1:3).

In First Timothy, the veteran missionary Paul gives this young pastor good advice, as given to him by the Holy Spirit.

Read Paul's first letter to Timothy. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

## **First Timothy**

### **1 Timothy 1:1-2: Greetings**

The usual order: the apostle Paul, to Timothy ("**a true son in the faith**"), grace, mercy, peace.

### **1 Timothy 1:3-11, 18-20: Dealing with False Teaching Concerning the Law**

**"Charge some that they teach no other doctrine"** (v. 3). (Other doctrine is heterodox.)

**"The law is good if one uses it lawfully"** (v. 8).

Examples: **"Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan"** (v. 20).  
(Excommunication)

### **1 Timothy 1:12-17: God's Grace in the Life of Paul**

**"I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man"** (v. 13).

**"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief"** (v. 15).

### **1 Timothy 2:1- 8: Advice Regarding Gatherings of the Believers**

**"I exhort ... that ... prayers ... be made for all men, for ... all who are in authority"** (vv. 1-2).

**"God ... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (vv. 3-4).

**"Christ Jesus ... gave Himself a ransom for all"** (vv. 5-6).

**"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands"** (v. 8).

### **1 Timothy 2:9-15: Advice Regarding the Role of Women in the Gatherings**

**"I desire ... that the women adorn themselves with modest apparel"** (v. 9).

**"I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man"** (v. 12).

This is why we do not have women pastors or let women vote in our congregations.

### **1 Timothy 3:1-16: The Qualifications of Pastors and Other Church Leaders**

**"A bishop (spiritual overseer) must be (a good Christian and) able to teach"** (v. 2).

**"Deacons (helpers) must be (good Christians and) holding the mystery of the faith"** (vv. 8-9).

**"Their wives (more likely the women deacons or deaconesses) must be ... faithful"** (v. 11).

### 1 Timothy 4:1-11: The Proper Use of the Things That God Has Created

Some false teachers were **“forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods”** (v. 3).

**“Every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused”** (v. 4).

**“Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things”** (v. 8).

### 1 Timothy 4:12-16: Timothy’s Duties as a Pastor

**“Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct”** (v. 12).

**“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine”** (v. 16).

### 1 Timothy 5:1 – 6:2: How to Deal with Different Kinds of Members

Examples: older men, younger men, older women, younger women.

**“Honor widows who are really widows”** (v. 3).

**“If anyone does not provide for his own, ... he has denied the faith”** (v. 8).

**“I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house”** (v. 14).

**“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor”** (v. 17).

**“Let ... bondservants ... count their own masters worthy of all honor”** (v. 6:1).

### 1 Timothy 6:3-5: Dealing with False Teachers

**“If anyone teaches otherwise ..., he is proud, knowing nothing”** (vv. 3-4).

### 1 Timothy 6:6-21: Advice Concerning Timothy’s Personal Life

**“Godliness with contentment is great gain”** (v. 6).

**“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed”** (v. 10).

**“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life”** (v. 12).

**“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust”** (v. 20).

### More Journeys

After Paul wrote 1 Timothy in Macedonia, he traveled to Nicopolis in Epirus, where he spent the winter. On this journey in 63 AD, Paul wrote his letter to Titus, whom he had left in Crete (Titus 1:5). Paul was going to send either Artemas or Tychicus to Crete to take Titus’ place. Paul wanted Titus to spend the winter with him in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). The letter to Titus was delivered by Apollos and Zenas (Titus 3:13).

### Titus, Paul’s Faithful Assistant

Titus was a Gentile Christian – probably from Antioch in Syria. He had gone up to Jerusalem with Paul and Barnabas in the days when Judaizing was beginning to trouble the church. Paul and Barnabas refused to circumcise Titus, because the Judaizers insisted that it was

necessary for salvation (Galatians 2:1-5). Titus accompanied Paul on his third mission journey and made several trips to Corinth to help solve the problems there; his name is found often in Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Later, Titus went to Dalmatia to do mission work there (2 Timothy 4:10).

The Christians in Crete were having difficulty putting their faith into practice. Paul encouraged Titus to oppose the false teaching and to urge the Christians in Crete to live their faith by doing good works. In many ways this letter to Titus is similar to Paul's first letter to Timothy. They are both called pastoral letters because both were written by an older pastor to younger pastors to guide them in their work.

Read Paul's letter to Titus. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

## **Titus**

### **Titus 1:1-4: Greetings**

**"God ... cannot lie" (v. 2).**

### **Titus 1:5-9: The Qualifications of Pastors and Other Church Leaders**

**"A bishop must be ... holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught" (vv. 7, 9).**

### **Titus 1:10-16: Dealing with False Teachers**

Their **"mouths must be stopped, ... teaching things which they ought not"** (v. 11).

**"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him" (v. 16).**

### **Titus 2:1-10: How to Deal with Different Kinds of Members**

Examples: older men, older women, young women, young men.

The older women were to **"admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children"** (v. 4).

**"Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters ... that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things"** (vv. 9-10).

### **Titus 2:11-15: The Proper Motivation for Good Works**

**"The grace of God ... (teaches) us that ... we should live soberly, righteously, and godly"** (vv. 11-12).

**"Jesus Christ ... gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works"** (vv. 13-14).

### **Titus 3:1-8: Living as Good Citizens**

**"Remind them to be subject to ... authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work"** (v. 1).

**“According to His mercy He saved us, ... that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (v. 5, 7).**

**“Those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works” (v. 8).**

*Titus 3:9-11: Dealing with Heretics*

**“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition” (v. 10).**

*Titus 3:12-15: Concluding Remarks*

**Paul’s Second Imprisonment**

After writing to Titus, Paul stopped in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). He spent the winter there. In the next year or so he spent some time in Troas (2 Timothy 4:13), Corinth (2 Timothy 4:20), and Miletus (2 Timothy 4:21). We do not know in what order he visited these congregations, nor what other places he might have visited during this time.

In 64 AD there was a great fire in Rome, which Emperor Nero himself may have started. Nero blamed the Christians for this fire and led his people in persecuting them. This persecution by Nero was the first of the ten great persecutions of the Christians authorized by the Roman emperors.

Tacitus, a Roman historian, described the persecution in this way: “They were not only put to death, but subjected to insults, in that they were either dressed in the skins of wild beasts and perished by the cruel mangling of dogs, or else put on crosses to be set on fire, and, as day declined, to be burned, being used as lights by night.”

Around this time Paul was again arrested and made a prisoner. During this second imprisonment he wrote his second letter to Timothy, which we shall discuss in a later lesson.

**Questions**

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1. Why is the story of Paul such a good example of God’s grace?
2. What aptitude does a pastor need to have besides being a believer?
3. For whom does our Lord want us to pray?
4. What is true about every individual we see or know in this world?
5. What are the two things forbidden by God to women in the church?
6. What is the difference in qualifications between bishops and deacons?
7. Why does Paul encourage the young widows to consider marriage?
8. How does Paul describe false teachers?
9. Why is the love of money so dangerous for a Christian?
10. What has Christ redeemed us from? What has He redeemed us for?
11. What should the older women do for the younger women?
12. Why did the Roman government under Nero punish Christians?