

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

Quiet Time Guide

April 10-July 3, 2024

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

The First Epistle to Timothy introduces us to a set of epistles which were written by Paul. There are three of them that belong together (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus), and they are called “The Pastoral Epistles,” because they have to do with local churches.

Paul speaks of the church as the body of believers who are in Christ and the glorious, wonderful position that the church has. The church, which is invisible, made up of all believers who are in the body of Christ, demonstrates itself down here upon the earth in local assemblies, in the local churches. These three epistles were written to two young pastors - preachers who worked with Paul: Timothy and Titus.

Timothy and Titus were a part of Paul’s fruit. They were led to Christ through the ministry of Paul. He had these men with him as helpers, and he instructed them about the local church. In all three epistles Paul is dealing with two things: the doctrine of the church and the conduct of the church.

Within the church, the doctrine and worship must be right. Outside the church, good works must be manifested - demonstrated. Worship is inside; works are outside. That’s the way the church is to manifest itself. Paul deals with these two topics in each of the three epistles.

In 1 Timothy, chapter 1, Paul’s topic is faith, the faith of the church - its doctrine. Chapter 2 is the order of the church. Chapter 3 concerns the officers of the church. Chapter 4 describes the apostasy that was coming, and chapters 5 and 6 tell of the duties of the officers.

In 2 Timothy, Paul deals with the afflictions of the church in chapter 1 and the activity of the church in chapter 2. Then the apostasy of the church and the commitments the church must follow in chapters 3 and 4.

Titus has the same theme. Chapter 1 tells of the order of the church, chapter 2 is about the doctrine of the church, and chapter 3 is the good works of the church.

In order to be a local assembly, the church must have certain things to characterize it. It must have a doctrine or “statement of belief”, and its doctrine must be accurate. There are two passages that seem to summarize Paul’s message in these epistles: 1 Timothy 1:3-4 [ESV] *“As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.”* It is important that a church have correct doctrine.

In the second passage Paul said to this young preacher: 1 Timothy 3:14-15 [ESV] *“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”*

The local church is made up of believers who are members of the body of Christ. In order for them to function, they need leadership. Somebody has to be appointed to sweep the place out and somebody to turn on the lights and the air conditioning. Also, it’s nice to have a choir and a worship leader. In addition to this, Paul is going to say that officers are essential for a church to be orderly. There must be officers, and they must meet certain requirements. The church should function in an orderly manner and manifest itself in the community by its good works.

In 2 Timothy there are two verses that seem to state the theme and sound the tone of this second epistle: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”* (2 Tim. 2:15 [ESV]) and *“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”* (2 Tim. 4:1-2 [ESV]). You can, I believe, emphasize one word in this epistle above other words. That word is loyalty: (1) loyalty in suffering (chp. 1); (2) loyalty in service (chp. 2); (3) loyalty in apostasy (chp. 3-4:5); and (4) the Lord’s loyalty to His servants (chp. 4:6-22).

2 Timothy is the final communication of Paul. It has a note of sadness which is not detected in his other epistles. Nevertheless, there is the overtone of triumph: *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith,”* written by Paul as his own epitaph (2 Tim. 4:7). Also, because this was his last letter, Paul was very personal. In these short four chapters, there are approximately twenty-five references to individuals.

In this little book of 2 Timothy an ominous dark cloud is seen on the horizon. It is the coming apostasy. Today apostasy has broken out and is growing fast in the world and in the church. What do we mean by apostasy? Webster defines apostasy as “total desertion of the principles of faith.” So, apostasy is not due to ignorance; it is heresy. Apostasy is deliberate error. It is intentional departure from the faith. An apostate is one who knows the truth of the gospel and the doctrines of the faith but has repudiated – retracted - renounced them.

In 2 Timothy Paul speaks of the ultimate outcome of gospel preaching. The final culmination will not be the total conversion of mankind, nor will it usher in the Millennium. On the contrary, there will come about an apostasy which will nearly blot out the faith from the earth. In fact, I believe, there are two departures that will occur at the end of the age: One is the departure of the church, which we call the Rapture, translated from the Greek *harpazo*, meaning “caught up.” *“For the Lord himself shall of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up [or raptured] together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air ...”* (1 Thess. 4:16-17). When the believers are gone, the organization, the old shell of the church that’s left down here, will totally depart from the faith. That is the second departure, the departure from the faith. The Lord Jesus Himself gave this startling statement concerning it: *“... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”* (Luke 18:8). As understood from the Greek language, the question demands a negative answer. So, the answer must be, “No, He will not find the faith on the earth when He returns.” This view is not in keeping with the social gospel today, which expects to transform the world by tinkering with the social system.

Because of the threat of apostasy, Paul emphasizes the Word of God more than he does in any other epistle. In fact, both Paul and Peter agree. Each of them in his “swan song” (2 Tim. and 2 Pet.) emphasizes the Word of God and the gospel. Brothers and Sisters, the gospel rests upon a tremendous fact, and that fact is the total depravity of man. In other words, man is a lost sinner.

Therefore, the only solution is the gospel of the grace of God which reaches down and saves the sinner on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ. Faith in Christ transforms human life.

The grace of God through Jesus Christ is the way to transform and save mankind. That is what these epistles teach, and that is why it is

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
April 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:1-2	April 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:12-14	April 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 2:11-15
April 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:3-7	April 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:15-17	April 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3:1-7
April 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:8-11	April 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1:18-20	April 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3:8-10
		April 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 2:1-7	April 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3:11-13
		April 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 2:8-10	April 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3:14-16
<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
April 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4:1-5	May 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:9-10	May 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6:3-5
April 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4:6-8	May 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:11-15	May 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6:6-10
May 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4:9-16	May 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:16	May 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6:11-16
May 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:1-2	May 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:17-21	May 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6:17-21
May 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5:3-8	May 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6:1-2	May 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1:1-2
<u>Week 7</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 9</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
May 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1:3-5	May 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:8-10	June 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:1-5
May 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1:6-12	May 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:11-13	June 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:6-9
May 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1:13-15	May 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:14-19	June 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:10-13
May 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1:16-18	May 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:20-21	June 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:14-17
May 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:1-7	May 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:22-26	June 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:1-5
<u>Week 10</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 11</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>	<u>Week 12</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
June 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:6-8	June 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1:1-4	June 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:6-8
June 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:9-13	June 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1:5-9	June 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:9-10
June 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:14-15	June 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1:10-16	June 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:11-14
June 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:16-18	June 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:1-2	June 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:15
June 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4:19-22	June 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:3-5	June 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:1-2
<u>Week 13</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>				
July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:3-8				
July 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:9-11				
July 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:12-15				