

New Testament Overview – J. Carl Laney

PAUL'S LIFE AFTER ACTS

Paul's life after his first Roman imprisonment may be reconstructed in various ways, but the data can be arranged in a logical and reasonable manner. For a detailed study on the life of Paul after Acts, see Homer A. Kent's *The Pastoral Epistles* (Moody Press, 1958) and Harold Hoehner's "Chronology of the Apostolic Age" (Dallas: Th.D. dissertation, 1965).

The following is an attempt to reconstruct a likely itinerary based on the biblical data:

1. To Asia Minor: Philemon 22, "prepare me a lodging" in Colossae
2. To Ephesus: 1 Tim. 1:3, "remain on at Ephesus"
3. To Macedonia: 1 Tim. 1:3, "departure for Macedonia"
4. To Philippi: Phil. 1:25, 2:24, "coming shortly"
5. To Ephesus: 1 Tim. 3:14, "in case I am delayed"
6. To Spain: Romans 15:24, "whenever I go to Spain"
1 Clement 5:7, "the extreme limit of the west"
Muratorian Canon, "the journey of St. Paul to Spain"
7. To Crete: Titus 1:5, "I left you in Crete"
8. To Asia Minor: 2 Tim 4:13, "the cloak I left at Troas"
2 Tim. 4:20, "I left sick at Miletus"
9. To Greece: Titus 3:12, "come to me at Nicopolis"
2 Tim. 4:20, "Erastus remained at Corinth"
10. To Rome: 2 Tim. 1:16,17, "in Rome he searched for me"

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FACTS ON FIRST TIMOTHY

Author

Although the Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Epistles has been _____ in recent times, Paul claims to be the author of each (1:1) and this view was accepted by the early church.

Reader

The letter is addressed to Timothy, the young man who had joined Paul on the second journey when revisited Derbe and Lystra (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy was probably converted under Paul's ministry during the first journey (1 Tim. 1:2). Timothy accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 19:22, 20:4) and was with Paul in Rome during his imprisonment (Phil. 1:1, 2:19-24). Timothy was appointed to guide the church at Ephesus while Paul went on to _____ (1 Tim. 1:3).

Date of Writing

First Timothy was written soon after Paul's release from prison, but after his visit to Ephesus. Paul wrote the letter from Macedonia, probably in the autumn of AD ____.

Historical Setting

Timothy was ministering as Paul's representative at the church at _____. Paul had traveled to Macedonia (1:3) and there was the possibility of his return to Ephesus being delayed (3:14-15). Paul recognized Timothy's need for some instruction on matters of church polity and practice. The letter was intended to help Timothy to exercise leadership in these areas.

Purpose Paul wrote to inform Timothy on matters of church polity and practice, and to back up his _____ with Paul's apostolic authority.

Theme "The _____ and _____ of the NT church.

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<u>Outline</u>	I. Doctrine of the Church 1
	II. Worship in the Church 2
	III. Leaders in the Church 3
	IV. Teaching in the Church 5
	V. Members of the Church 5:1-6:2
	IV. Charge to Timothy 6:3-21

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH 1

Introduction 1:1-2

Danger of False Doctrine 1:3-11

Problem at Ephesus 3-4

A *heteros* doctrine 3b Gal. 1:6-7

Myths 4a Titus 1:14

Genealogies 4b

Paul's pursuit 5

The goal of Paul's instruction is *agape* (love)!

Perversion of the law 6-11

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The Testimony of Paul 1:12-17

Paul's conversion 12-14

Paul's example 15-16

If God can save Paul, God can save anyone!

“It is a trustworthy statement” = faithful is the word (1 Tim. 1:15, 3:1, 4:9, 1 Tim. 2:11, Titus 3:8).

Praise to God 17

FACTS ON TITUS

Author

The Pauline authorship of Titus is indicated by internal evidence (1:1) and supported by the testimony of the church fathers.

Reader

Titus is referred to by Paul as his "true child in a common faith" (Titus 1:4), a designation which would indicate that Titus was one of Paul's converts. Titus was a _____ Christian (Gal. 2:3) and one of Paul's companions in some of his apostolic journeys (Gal. 2:1) and assistant in church planting work (1:5).

About four years after Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment, Titus accompanied Paul to the island of Crete. He was left to set things in order and appoint elders while Paul went on to Asia Minor (1:5, 2 Tim. 4:13,20).

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Date of Writing

Titus was written by Paul after his visit to Spain and Crete. He wrote Titus from Asia Minor in the summer of AD _____ before traveling on to Nicopolis (3:12), where he spent the winter.

Historical Setting

Titus was facing a difficult assignment in _____ (1:5) and needed encouragement as to how to deal with the problems of church _____ and doctrine. Apollos and Zenas were going to Crete (3:13) and Paul took the occasion to write Titus.

Purpose

Paul's letter to Titus was designed to help establish the basic elements of church _____ and _____. The letter emphasizes the need for purity in leadership and soundness in doctrine.

Theme "The need for _____ between confession and conduct."

Outline

- I. The Administration for Sound Doctrine 1
- II. The Proclamation of Sound Doctrine 2-3

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STRUCTURE AND DIVISIONS IN TITUS

The structure and divisions of Greek literature may be determined by observing the conjunctions appearing in the text. Greek conjunctions serve as signposts of the authors argument and logical development of thought. By observing the placement of these conjunctions a structural outline can be easily developed. Note the use of these structural indicators in the epistle of Titus.

alla - A strong adversative conjunction indicating a contrast, "but."

gar - An inferential conjunction providing a reason or explanation, "for."

de - Used as an adversative ("but"). Also used as a transitional or continuative particle, "and," "then," or "now."

hina - Used in purpose clauses, "in order that," and to denote result, "that," "so that."

I. The Letter Opening 1:1-4

II. The Body of the Letter 1:5-3:14

A. The purpose (*hina*, v. 5) for leaving Titus 5-9

B. The reason (*gar*, v. 10) for the assignment 10-16

C. The request of Paul 2:1-10 de keep on speaking . . .

v. 4 *hina* "That they may train the young women"

v. 5 *hina* "that the Word of God may not be dishonored"

v. 8 *hina* "that the opponent may be put to shame"

v. 10 *hina* "that they may adorn the doctrine of God"

D. The reason (*gar*) for Paul's commands 2:11-15

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E. The priority of Good deeds 3:1-7

v. 3 *gar* The reason for this command

How many times does Paul mention “good deeds” in this short letter? What place do good deeds have in a believer’s life?

F. The conclusion of the body 3:8-14

v. 8 The command: keep on speaking confidently

The purpose: *hina* To encourage good deeds

III. The closing 3:15

SECOND TIMOTHY

Author

The apostle Paul claims to have authored Second Timothy (1:1) and the autobiographical remarks (3:10-11, 4:10-11, 19-20) fit his life.

Reader

The letter is addressed to Timothy, Paul's young associate. Timothy was from Lystra (Acts 16:1-3). His father was a Greek and his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) were devout in their Jewish faith. Timothy joined with Paul on his second and third missionary journeys and was with Paul in Rome during his imprisonment. Timothy ministered as Paul's representative in _____ (1 Tim. 1:3) and may have been with the apostle during the last days of his final imprisonment (2 Tim. 4:1,21).

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Date

Second Timothy was written by Paul shortly before his death (4:6-8). Since Paul died in the spring of AD 68, the epistle was probably written in the autumn of AD ____.

Historical Setting

During Paul's first imprisonment in Rome he was able to have his own rented quarters and receive visitors. His second imprisonment was quite different. Paul was in _____, having been arrested as a criminal (2:9). His death was imminent (4:6-8). Some of his fellow-workers had deserted him (4:16). Paul wrote Timothy, who was still in Ephesus, to bring _____ and join him before winter (A.D. 67/68). Paul was sending _____ to replace Timothy at Ephesus (4:12).

Purpose

Second Timothy was written to _____ Timothy in the ministry and outline the course of Christ's servant during a time of doctrinal declension.

Theme "Defending the faith in a time of _____ defection."

Outline

- I. Encouragement for Ministry 1
- II. Directives for Service 2
- III. Warning Concerning Apostasy 3
- IV. Charge of the Apostle 4

WARNING CONCERNING APOSTASY 3

The Anti-God Attitude 3:1-9

The Persecution of the Faithful 3:10-13

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The Sufficiency of the Scriptures 3:14-17

How shall we face the anti-God attitude of the last days?

Continue in the Scripture 14-15

Scripture is your safeguard against error 16-17

The character of Scripture 16

God breathed (*theopneustos*)

What is the meaning of the terms "inspiration," "inerrant" and "infallible"? The following definitions will help you understand these terms which we use to describe Scripture.

Inspiration: God so directed the human authors of Scripture that using their individual interests and literary style, His complete thought toward humanity was recorded without error in the words of the original manuscripts.

Inerrant: Inerrancy speaks of the accuracy of the record--not liable to prove false or mistaken.

Infallible: Infallibility speaks of the reliability of the Scriptures as a guide--not capable to teaching deception.

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Profitable

For teaching - Instructing disciples

For reproof – Refuting heresy

For correction - Setting the confused straight

For training – Godly conduct

The purpose of Scripture 17

The word “proficient” means “complete, capable, able to meet all demands.”

Can an English translation of the Bible be regarded as Scripture (*graphe*), the Word of God? Or do only the original manuscripts qualify as Scripture?

Since we don’t have the original manuscripts, should we be concerned about textual corruption, scribal errors, and manuscript variants? The following quotes by two scholars should ease our concerns.

“With regard to the great bulk of the words of the New Testament, as of most other ancient writings, there is no variation or other ground of doubt, and therefore no room for textual criticism. . . . the amount of what can in any sense be called substantial variation is but a small fraction of the whole residuary variation, and can hardly form more than a thousandth part of the entire text.”

Westcott and Hort, The New Testament in Greek, Vol. 2, p. 2

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“Only about 400 of the 100,000 or 150,000 variations materially affect the sense. Of these, again not more than about fifty are really important for some reason or another, and even of these fifty not one affects any article of faith or precept of duty which is not abundantly sustained by other and undoubted passages, or by the whole tenor of scripture teaching.”

Philip Schaff, Companion to the New Testament, p. 177

How is Paul's testimony at the end of his life (4:6-8) a challenge and an encouragement to you?

What was Paul's situation in Rome at the end of his life? 4:9-18

According to early tradition, Paul was taken outside the city on the Ostian way and beheaded.

Tradition records that Paul was buried in the catacombs south of Rome. Here Christians buried their dead and held religious services in times of persecution.

Paul's death and burial are commemorated today at the Church of St. Paul's Outside the Walls

A tomb believed to contain remains of the Apostle Paul lies beneath the church. Carbon dating tests on bone fragments found inside the sarcophagus confirm that they date from the first or second century.