

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #45 – 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon

### PRAYER:

Use 1 Timothy 1:12-17 as a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

Notes on 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus: These letters are usually called the Pastoral Letters of Paul. He is writing men who are to be instrumental in selecting and training spiritual leaders in various congregations. These letters are thought to be the last written by Paul. They were penned by Paul toward the end of his time as recorded in Acts. Some scholars feel he may actually have made the trip to Spain and other places after his imprisonment mentioned in Acts 28. It may have been during this trip that Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. 2 Timothy could have been written from Rome during a second imprisonment just before he was killed. The date could have been as late as 67-68 AD. This so-called fourth missionary journey of St. Paul does have some support from the early church fathers.

The Pastoral Letters have a very clear message that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Several times Paul makes a special point to say, "This is a trustworthy saying." The congregations are to be built on sound doctrine. Apparently, there were numerous false teachers and many heretical ideas threatening the pure faith of those Timothy and Titus were ministering to. There is a lot of practical advice in these books for the church today and for the lives of individual Christians. There are some personal touches in the books which are not found in Paul's general letters.

Favorite verse from 1 Timothy:

### Questions on 1 Timothy:

1. Chapter 1:2 Paul calls Timothy his son in the faith. He does this numerous other times in these books. Is there someone you would consider your spiritual father or mother? Why?
2. Occasionally throughout 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, Paul warns against the dangers of controversies. As you read the letters, list here some of the specific threats Paul mentions.
3. Chapter 3 – Paul lists qualifications of Bishops (Pastors) and Deacons (Elders) of the church. All the points are important. Pick out 2 or 3 of the qualifications and explain why you agree they are important.

4. Chapter 5:1-6:2 – You can see that most of the care and concern for other people in need was in the hands of family and church. What are some of the points made here that are useful for us today?
5. Chapter 6:3-10, 17-19 – As you know, Paul mentions the use and misuse of money often. What is some of his sound advice here?

Favorite verse from 2 Timothy:

Questions on 2 Timothy:

1. Chapter 1 - Paul mentions Timothy's mother and grandmother. It was good that Timothy's family was Christian. But, then as well as now, I think the saying is true, "God has no grandchildren." What do you think that saying means?
2. Chapter 2 - Paul uses three examples for faith. Try to explain what he means with the example:  
Soldier –  
  
Athlete –  
  
Farmer –
3. Chapter 3:16-17 tells us the importance of knowing the Scriptures. What are one or two ways the Bible has equipped you.
4. Chapter 4:3 – What are some modern "itching ear" philosophies people want to hear?
5. Chapter 4:7 – How may we be called on to "fight the good fight of faith?"

Favorite verse from Titus:

Questions on Titus:

1. What are some similarities between this letter and the letters to Timothy?
2. Chapter 3:1-2 (See also Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17) - Why do you think the Bible mentions obedience to civil authorities?

Notes on Philemon:

Probably written at the same time as Colossians (60 AD). The letter is Paul writing to Philemon in behalf of his runaway slave, Onesimus. His words are quite persuasive. It would have been hard for Philemon to refuse the requests of Paul. Luther and others see a parallel between the way Paul intercedes for the slave Onesimus and the way Jesus intercedes for us to the Father.

Favorite Verse from Philemon:

Question on Philemon:

1. What are some reasons Paul gives to Philemon to take Onesimus back?
2. What have you learned from this short letter?

Your questions on 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon: