

## PAULINE THEOLOGY

### Study 15: 1 & 2 Timothy

#### I. PAUL AND TIMOTHY

- a. Timothy was a much younger companion of Paul. The two met during Paul's first missionary journey when Paul and Barnabas came to Lystra. (Acts 13:6-23, AD 46-48) It is probable that Timothy, his mother and grandmother became Christians during this time.
- b. Upon Paul's second trip to Lystra, (AD 49-50) Paul decides to take Timothy with him on his journeys. (Acts 16: 1-3) His father is Greek and his mother is Jewish. He has never been circumcised, so Paul has him go through that procedure, so as to open doors for gospel ministry in Jewish communities that otherwise might be closed.
- c. It's clear from the affectionate way that Paul speaks of Timothy that he has become a very close and trusted friend of the apostle. In fact, Paul considers Timothy a son. (Phil. 2:19-24)
- d. The evidence we have suggests that Timothy was young (although over 30 by the time 1 Timothy is written), a little timid (1 Cor. 16:10-11; 2 Tim. 1:6-7), and sickly (1 Tim. 5:23). But given the tasks he undertook, don't make too much of this.
- e. Paul trusts Timothy so much that he was given difficult assignments with three previous churches: Thessalonica AD 50 (1 Thess. 3:1-10) Corinth AD 53-54 (1 Cor. 4:16-17); Philippi AD 60-62 (2:19-24)

#### II. OCCASION AND THEMES

##### a. 1 Timothy

##### i. Occasion:

1. Paul has been released from Roman custody (AD 62, his first Roman imprisonment).
2. Along with Titus (and probably Timothy), he travels to Crete to evangelize. There are some Hellenistic Jews who are creating some problems for the new believers, so Paul leaves Titus on the island to organize the churches.
3. Paul and Timothy go to Ephesus where the church is in great turmoil due to the presence of false teaching. Paul excommunicated the two ringleaders, Alexander and Hymenaeus (1 Tim 1:19-20). Paul continues on his journey to Macedonia and leaves Timothy behind in Ephesus to stop the church's slide into apostasy. (1 Tim. 1:3ff)
4. On his arrival in Macedonia, Paul writes to Timothy (and Titus).

##### ii. Themes:

1. Preserving the gospel against false teachers is of first importance. (1 Tim. 1:18-20)

2. The gospel, properly understood and received, leads to lives that are different from the world. (1 Tim. 1:8-10)
3. Paul urges Timothy to flee from those behaviors that mark the unbelieving world and the false teachers. (1 Tim. 6:11-16)
4. At the same time, he gives instructions about the way various groups are to live in the church: elders, deacons, younger, older, men and women, both married and unmarried.

b. 2 Timothy

i. Occasion:

1. At some point, Paul is arrested again. Did he make it to Spain? Was he arrested at the instigation of Alexander the metal worker? (2 Tim. 4:13-15) He also goes again to Corinth and Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20). What is the chronology of these events? We can't be sure, but regardless he arrives back in Rome for his second and final imprisonment. AD 65-68
2. He had a preliminary hearing before the Roman tribunal. (2 Tim. 4:16-18) and was bound over for a full trial.
3. In Rome, Paul begins to lose some of his associates. In the case of Demas, it is an apostasy. In other cases, it seems to be for ministry purposes. (2 Tim. 4:10)
4. An emissary from Ephesus, Onesiphorus, arrives in Rome and brings the very disturbing news that, despite Timothy's efforts, things are deteriorating in the church. (2 Tim. 1:15-18)
5. Paul will decide to send Tychichus to Ephesus to replace Timothy, who is to come as quickly as possible with John Mark before winter made travel impossible. (2 Tim. 4:9-13)

ii. Themes:

1. This is the last letter we have from Paul, who expects to die, though the timing is uncertain. (2 Tim. 4:6-8) It is a very personal letter to his friend and fellow-worker for the past twenty years.
2. Timothy must endure in sound doctrine, just as he has seen Paul endure despite much hardship. (2 Tim. 1:8-12a; 3:10-15)
3. He must also pass on the faith to faithful men who will teach others. (2 Tim. 2:1-7)
4. Faithful preaching must be done when it is accepted and rejected. (2 Tim. 4:1-5)

- III. OUTLINES: 1 TIMOTHY (From ESV Study Bible)
  - a. Salutation (1:1-2)
  - b. Confronting the False Teaching (1:3-20)
    - i. The charge to deal with false teachers. (1:3-7)
    - ii. Proper use of the law. (1:8-11)
    - iii. Paul: an example of the effect of the true gospel. (1:12-17)
    - iv. Restatement of the charge to deal with false teachers. (1:18-20)
  - c. Descriptions of Gospel-Shaped Living (2:1-3:13)
    - i. Corporate prayer and issues arising from it. (2:1-15)
    - ii. Qualifications for overseers. (3:1-7)
    - iii. Qualifications for deacons. (3:8-13)
  - d. Purpose of Writing: Behavior in the Church (3:14-16)
  - e. Identifying the False Teaching (4:1-5)
  - f. How Timothy Should Be Shaped by the Gospel (4:6-16)
  - g. How Specific Groups in the Church Should Be Shaped by the Gospel (5:1-6:2a)
    - i. Respectful dealing with church members by age and gender. (5:1-2)
    - ii. Honoring widows (5:3-16)
    - iii. Honoring elders (5:17-25)
    - iv. Honoring masters (6:1-2a)
  - h. Confronting the False Teaching Again (6:2b-21)
    - i. False teachers and greed. (6:2b-10)
    - ii. Timothy's behavior in contrast. (6:11-16)
    - iii. Charge to the rich. (6:17-19)
    - iv. Closing exhortation to Timothy. (6:20-21)
- IV. OUTLINES: 2 TIMOTHY (From ESV Study Bible)
  - a. Opening (1:1-2)
  - b. Exhortation to Endurance for the Gospel (1:3-2:13)
    - i. Thanksgiving for Timothy's sincere faith. (1:3-5)
    - ii. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 1. (1:6-14)
    - iii. Examples: positive and negative. (1:15-18)
    - iv. A call to bold endurance in ministry, part 2. (2:1-13)
  - c. Dealing with false teachers. (2:14-3:9)
    - i. Timothy in contrast to false teachers. (2:14-3:9)
    - ii. Description of the false teachers. (3:1-9)
  - d. Exhortation to Timothy in Contrast to False Teachers (3:10-4:8)
    - i. Call to hold fast to Scripture and Paul's example. (3:10-17)
    - ii. The ultimate charge. (4:1-8)
  - e. Conclusion (4:9-22)