

New Testament Overview

I Thessalonians – Titus

(II Ti 2:15)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons covering the "New Testament Overview."
 - a. We have looked at Matthew – Colossians.
 - b. Tonight we will look at I Th – Ti.
3. Each of these books has a unique aspect to it they were written to preachers.
 - a. Timothy and Titus

I. I Thessalonians

A. History

1. Thessalonica was visited by Paul, Timothy, and Silas on Paul's second missionary journey.
 - i. The church was started by them there.
 - a. **Ac 17**
 - ii. The gospel was accepted by both Jew and Gentile yet some Jews stirred up the people to where Paul and his group had to leave at night.
2. Paul sent Timothy back to the Thessalonians to check on them.
 - i. He was encouraged to here they were doing good.
3. It was then that Paul wrote these two books to them.
4. Because of Paul's hasty departure I Thessalonians deals with two things.
 - i. First, Paul provides reassurance that all is well despite the tumultuous circumstances that surrounded the birth of the Thessalonian church of Christ.
 - ii. Second, Paul wanted to urge them to live the faithful life allowing nothing to derail them.

B. Outline

1. **(1:1)** Greeting
2. **(1:2-10)** Paul's commendation of the church
3. **(2:1-12)** Paul's conduct defended
4. **(2:13-3:13)** Paul's concern for the church
5. **(4:1-12)** Paul's caution to live the Christian life
6. **(4:13-5:11)** Paul's clarification regarding afterlife
7. **(5:12-22)** Miscellaneous instructions
8. **(5:23-28)** Closing exhortations

C. Lessons Learned

1. We are not like the world we have hope.
 - i. **I Th 4:13-18**
2. We must always be ready.
 - i. **I Th 5:1-11**

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II. II Thessalonians

A. History

1. This letter was likely sent shortly after the first.
2. Many of the Thessalonians had questions about the first letter on the second coming of Christ.
 - i. Paul spent a great deal of time on it in the first one.
 - a. **I Th 4:13-5:11**
3. Some Thessalonians drew the wrong conclusions and were conducting themselves inappropriately as a result.
 - i. This second letter straightens out the misunderstanding and corrects the unrighteous conduct.

B. Outline

1. **(1:1-2)** Greeting
2. **(1:3-12)** Expression of thanks and reassurance in the face of persecution
3. **(2:1-2)** Central thesis (Don't be confused about the Second Coming)
4. **(2:3-17)** Confusion over the second coming corrected
5. **(3:1-15)** Practical admonitions to live the Christian life faithfully
6. **(3:16-18)** Closing remarks

C. Lessons Learned

1. If the church isn't careful it will fall into apostasy...which it did.
 - i. **II Th 2:1-16**
2. Idleness/laziness is not a reason for poverty it is an excuse.
 - ii. **II Th 3:10** "night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?"

III. I Timothy

A. History

1. Timothy was with Paul on his second missionary journey.
 - i. **Ac 16:1-2** "Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium."¹
2. Timothy was unique in that his mother was Jewish but his father was Greek.
3. Paul thought of Timothy as "his" spiritual son.
 - i. **I Ti 1:18** "This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare" (ESV)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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4. Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus to be the local preacher.
 - i. **I Ti 1:3** "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine"
 5. Though Paul planned on visiting soon, **I Ti 4:13**, he wrote the letter to aid Timothy in his ministry and responsibilities (**II Ti 4:5**).
 - i. Thus the name "Preacher Epistles"
- B. Outline
1. **(1:1-2)** Greeting
 2. **(1:3-11)** Caution concerning false teachers & doctrinal error
 3. **(1:12-17)** Paul's reception of forgiveness
 4. **(1:18-20)** Paul's charge to Timothy
 5. **(2:1-15)** Instructions on leadership
 6. **(3:1-13)** Instructions on church leadership qualifications
 7. **(3:14-16)** Thematic statement
 8. **(4)** Further caution concerning heresy and how to combat it
 9. **(5:1-6:19)** Instructions on Christian conduct and interpersonal/church relationships
 10. **(6:20-21)** Closing admonition
- C. Lessons Learned
1. Preachers have a major responsibility.
 - i. **I Ti 4:16** "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (emphasis mine)

IV. II Timothy

- A. History
1. Between writing the first and second letter Paul found himself imprisoned by the Neronian persecution and facing the end of his life on earth.
 - i. **II Ti 1:8, 16** "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God...16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain"
 - ii. **II Ti 4:6-8** "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

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2. With all this, Paul's concern is with Timothy's and the churches' well being.
 - i. That they are being "good soldiers" for Christ.
 - a. **II Ti 2:3** "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
 3. II Timothy is believed to be Paul's last letter written before he was put to death.
- B. Outline
1. **(1:1-2)** Greeting
 2. **(1:3-7)** Paul's personal gratitude for Timothy
 3. **(1:8-12)** The good soldier must not be ashamed of the gospel
 4. **(1:13-18)** The good soldier must hold fast to the gospel
 5. **(2:1-2)** The good soldier must be strong in the gospel and pass it on
 6. **(2:3)** Thematic statement "Be a good soldier for Christ"
 7. **(2:4-13)** The good soldier must stay focused on the gospel and be faithful in its promotion
 8. **(2:14-26)** The good soldier must deal with others responsibly
 9. **(3:1-13)** The good soldier must endure apostasy and persecution
 10. **(3:14-4:5)** The good soldier must know and preach the gospel
 11. **(4:6-8)** The good soldier (like Paul) must endure to the end of life
 12. **(4:9-22)** Paul's final admonition and farewell
- C. Lessons Learned
1. We must be good soldiers for Christ
 - i. On the offence – teaching the lost
 - a. **II Ti 2:2** "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
 - b. **Mk 16:15** "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
 - ii. On the defense – protecting the truth
 - a. **II Ti 4:2** "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."
 1. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
 - b. **I Pt 3:15** "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"
 - c. **Jd 3** "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

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V. Titus

A. History

1. This letter was written probably in between **I & II Timothy**
2. Titus a preacher was a Gentile.
 - i. **Ga 2:3** "Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised."
3. Titus was one of Paul's helpers in his third missionary journey.
 - i. **II Co 7:6-7** "Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more."
 - ii. **Ti 3:12** "When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there."
4. Paul was very explicit about the purpose of the book.
 - i. "To set in order the things that are lacking."
 - a. **Ti 1:5** "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you"
 - ii. This was to be achieved by speaking, exhorting, rebuking, reminding, and affirming w/ sound doctrine.
5. This letter would enable the church in Crete to insulate themselves from the worldly living of the island.
 - i. This would be done by securing elders to protect the flock.
 - ii. This would be done by teaching specific doctrines on a variety of social roles.

B. Outline

1. **(1:1-4)** Greeting
2. **(1:5)** Purpose for writing
3. **(1:6-16)** Qualifications of elders and their duty to protect the church
4. **(2:1-10)** Doctrinal admonitions to live the Christian life
5. **(2:11-15)** Motivation for Christian living
6. **(3:1-11)** Further doctrinal admonitions
7. **(3:12-15)** Closing personal remarks

C. Lessons Learned

1. The gospel is for all & has something to teach...
 - i. **Ti 2:11-15** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who 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. 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you."

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CONCLUSION

1. As anyone can see a preacher's responsibility is to be taken with deep concern for righteousness and the presenting of sound doctrine.
 - a. Let it be said that we never accept anything but sound doctrine and if unsound arises we contend earnestly for the faith.
2. Question: Do I diligently seek to rightly divide the Word of truth and defend it with all my might?
 - a. If so continue therein growing in the love of God daily.
 - b. If not repent and correct that in your life and come back to your God.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**