

16. 1 Timothy

A. Authorship

Paul is identified as the author (1:1).

B. Recipient

- 1) Timothy, his mom and grandmother became converts to Christianity during Paul's first missionary endeavor in the area (Acts 13:49-14:25; 2 Tim 3:11)
- 2) His father was Greek and his mother a Jewish Christian (Acts 16:1)
- 3) He had been taught the OT from childhood (2 Tim 1:5; 3:15)
- 4) Paul led him to Christ (1 Tim 1:2, 18; 1 Cor 4:17; 2 Tim 1:2)
- 5) He helped Paul on many of his missionary activities (Acts 16:3-4; 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:1-6) and was with Paul during his first imprisonment (Phil 1:1; Col 1:1; Phile 1)
- 6) Paul was very close to Timothy, as especially evidenced by asking that he come to visit him at the end of his life (2 Tim 4:9, 21).
- 7) Timothy was neither an apostle nor a pastor (he was given instructions about overseers, 1 Tim 3:1-7; 5:17-22). It's best to think of him as the apostle Paul's **representative**. This isn't the first time Timothy has done this (see 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; Phil 2:19; 1 Thess 3:2)

C. Occasion and Purpose

- 1) Historical setting
 - a. 1, 2 Timothy and Titus are known as the **Pastoral** letters. In these Paul gives instruction concerning the care and conduct of **churches**. They were written not long after Paul's first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28).
 - b. After Paul was released from his first imprisonment, church history tells us that he began his fourth missionary journey, putting Titus in charge of the work in Crete and Timothy in Ephesus.
- 2) Occasion
 - a. Paul left for Macedonia and instructed Timothy to stay in Ephesus (1:3)
 - b. False teaching in the Ephesian church, 1:3
 - **Who were the false teachers?** They were from among the churches' **pastors**, sadly fulfilling Paul's prophecy in Acts 20:30.

- **What was being taught?** Speculations and disputes over words, arguments and quarrels of various kinds. The bottom line was greed—they came to believe that godliness was a means of financial gain. Their false teaching was based primarily on the OT.

3) Purpose

a. Two main concerns—

- (1) **Warning** about false teaching and exhortation to stand against it
- (2) **Instruction** concerning Christian conduct and church life

b. 1 Timothy sets forth Christ’s will concerning the proper ordering of His churches

D. Characteristics

- 1) The contents of 1 Timothy may be summarized under **three chief topics**: a pure **Gospel**, a worthy **worship**, and a faithful **ministry**. 1 Timothy doesn’t give detailed instruction of doctrine as much as *it exhorts godly living based on right doctrine*.
- 2) Again, we see that doctrine and living go hand-in-hand. Doctrine is preeminently important; it provides the **basis** for living. What we *believe* affects and controls how we *live* and directs the orientation of our lives. Likewise, it is essential that our lives give a good reflection of our doctrine. How we live sends a message about what we believe.

E. Keys

- 1) Theme – **Church order**
- 2) Words – “**teach/ing**” and “**doctrine**” (1:3, 5; 4:1, 6; 6:1, 3, 17, 18)
- 3) Verses – **3:15**

F. Outline

Here’s a basic outline of 1 Timothy—

- 1) Rebuke False Teachers, 1
- 2) Conduct the Church, 2:1-3:16
- 3) Guard the Truth, 3:14-4:16
- 4) Minister to People, 5:1-6:2
- 5) Fight the Good Fight, 6:3-21

Here's a more detailed outline of 1 Timothy—

Greeting, 1:1-2

1. Rebuke False Teachers, 1:3-20

- 1) Preserve the Purity of the Gospel, 1:3-11
- 2) Thanksgiving for the Gospel, 1:12-17
- 3) Keep the Faith, 1:18-20

2. Conduct the Church, 2:1-3:16

- 1) Public Worship, 2:1-15
 - a. Public Prayer, 2:1-7
 - b. Necessary Character and Conduct, 2:8-10
 - c. Position of Women, 2:11-15
- 2) Church Officers, 3:1-13
 - a. Qualifications of Overseers, 3:1-7
 - b. Qualifications of Deacons, 3:8-13

3. Guard the Truth, 3:14-4:16

- 1) The Church and the Truth, 3:14-16
- 2) Predictions of Apostasy, 4:1-5
- 3) Personal Responsibilities, 4:6-16

4. Minister to People, 5:1-6:2

- a. Rebuke Believers Accordingly, 5:1-2
- b. Widows, 5:3-16
- c. Elders, 5:17-25
- d. Slaves, 6:1-2

5. Fight the Good Fight, 6:3-21

- 1) Description of False Teachers, 6:3-10
- 2) Live in Light of Christ's Return, 6:11-16
- 3) Instructions for Wealthy Christians, 6:17-19
- 4) Guard the Truth and Resist False Teaching, 6:20-21

Here's an annotated outline of 1 Timothy—

Greeting, 1:1-2

1. Rebuke False Teachers, 1:3-20

- 1) Preserve the Purity of the Gospel, 1:3-11
Certain men were mishandling God's Word
- 2) Thanksgiving for the Gospel, 1:12-17
The gospel is powerful, and Paul's life is proof of that
- 3) Keep the Faith, 1:18-20
Ministers/servants of the gospel must fight for the gospel

2. Conduct the Church, 2:1-3:16

- 1) Public Worship, 2:1-15

"Paul insists upon gravity and order in the public worship of the church" (Machen, p. 184).
 - a. Public prayer, 2:1-7
Churches' public services should be given to prayer
 - b. Necessary character and conduct, 2:8-10
The men and women of a church should be ready for prayer and worship
 - c. Position of women, 2:11-15
In public worship women do not have a leadership or teaching role
- 2) Church Officers, 3:1-13
 - a. Qualifications of Overseers, 3:1-7

"Overseer" is synonymous with "elder" and those who "feed the flock" (i.e. pastors). See Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet 5:1-2.

Overseers must be godly men who can teach and care for the church
 - b. Qualifications of Deacons, 3:8-13

Deacons must be godly men and good managers

3. Guard the Truth, 3:14-4:16

- 1) The church and the truth, 3:14-16
Given the character and activity of the church, one must know how to properly conduct himself in it
- 2) Predictions of apostasy, 4:1-5
There will be those who pervert the faith because they have denied the faith
- 3) Personal responsibilities, 4:6-16
A faithful ministry protects and preserves both the pastor and the flock

4. Minister to People, 5:1-6:2

- a. Rebuke believers accordingly, 5:1-2
In God's household, treat others as family
- b. Widows, 5:3-16
Widows without family support should receive care from the church if she is of godly character and sufficient age
- c. Elders, 5:17-25
Pastors should work hard, fear sin, and be impartial
- d. Slaves, 6:1-2
Slaves must be taught to honor God's Word and therefore honor their masters

5. Fight the Good Fight, 6:3-21

- 1) Description of False Teachers, 6:3-10
False teachers twist God's truth, divide God's people, and are religious mercenaries who are materially minded
- 2) Live in Light of Christ's Return, 6:11-16
Flee everything associated with false teaching, follow after Christian character, fight for truth, and look for Christ
- 3) Instructions for Wealthy Christians, 6:17-19
Wealthy Christians should use their wealth for ministry
- 4) Guard the truth and resist false teaching, 6:20-21

17. Titus

A. Authorship

Paul is identified as the author (1:1).

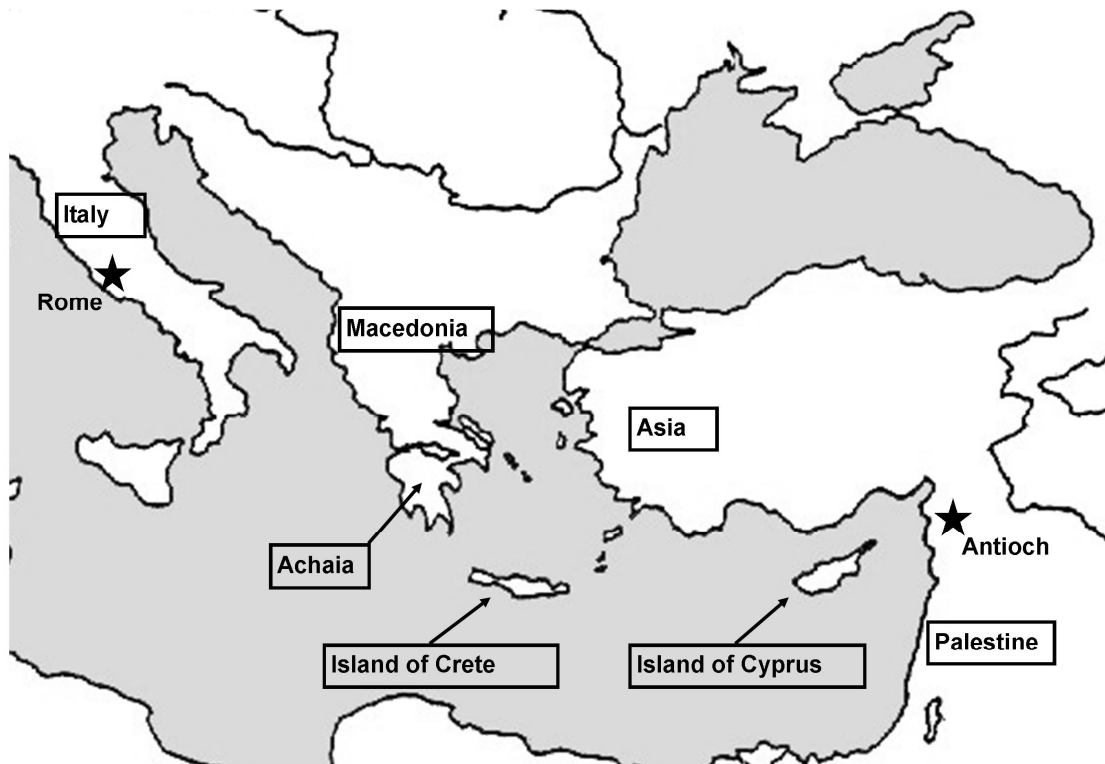
B. Recipients

1) Titus

- a. Unlike Timothy, we don't know a whole lot about Titus
- b. He was a Gentile, one of Paul's converts (Gal 2:3)
- c. Helped Paul in ministry, such as at Corinth (2 Cor 7:13-14; 8:6, 16-19, 23; 12:18)
- d. A close co-worker with Paul (2 Cor 2:13; 8:23)
- e. Like Timothy, Titus was not the *pastor* of the Cretan church, but was Paul's representative there. Paul had other plans for Titus (3:12).

2) The Church at Crete

- a. The fourth largest island of the Mediterranean
- b. In NT times Cretans had a notoriously and proverbially low moral character (1:12—“Liars ever, men of Crete, nasty brutes that love to eat”). The Greek verb *cretizein* means “to act as a Cretan” meaning the same thing as “to play the liar.” This was the heritage of the Christians whom Titus ministered to.



C. Occasion and Purpose

1) Occasion

- a. After bringing the gospel to Crete, Paul later returned and left Titus there as his representative to organize the converts into a local church
- b. The church at Crete evidently—
 - Suffered a lack of qualified spiritual leadership (1:5-9)
 - Had false teachers in their midst (1:10-16; 3:9-11)
 - Struggled with laziness and other unchristian behavior which was not consistent with nor promote godliness or the testimony of Christ (2:1-3:8, 14)
- c. Titus was to go to Paul at Nicopolis (on the west coast of Greece, 3:12)
- d. Titus needed to help Zenas and Apollos (3:13)

2) Purpose

Paul wrote this letter to help Titus **finish** the organization of the church at Crete—

- a. Appointing elders, 1:5
- b. Rebuking false teaching, 1:10-16
- c. Encouraging godly living, 2:1-3:8, 14

D. Characteristics

- 1) Titus was written **before** 2 Timothy (compare Titus 3:12 and 2 Tim 4:6)
- 2) 1 Timothy's emphasis is on sound doctrine, but Titus's emphasis is on worthy **conduct**. This difference is because of the different situations in the churches they served.
- 3) This epistle revolves around 2:11-14—the grace of God must be seen in one's entire life.
 - a. This passage also shows three aspects of God's grace—
 - **Past**—“the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men”
 - **Present**—“instructing us to deny...and to live...”
 - **Future**—“looking for the blessed hope...”
 - b. This passage also pictures the Christian life—
 - **Positively**—“instructing us...to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age...zealous for good deeds”
 - **Negatively**—“instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires”

E. Keys

- 1) Theme – **Church Order**
- 2) Phrase – “**good deeds**” (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14)
- 3) Verse – **2:11-14**

F. Outline

Here’s an outline of Titus—

Greeting, 1:1-4

What is involved in organizing a local church?

- 1. Ordain Elders, 1:5-9**
- 2. Refute False Teachers, 1:10-16**
- 3. Encourage Godly Living, 2:1-3:7**
 - 1) Different groups, 2:1-10
 - 2) Foundation of Christian living, 2:11-14
 - 3) Titus’ duty, 2:15
 - 4) Obligations as citizens, 3:1-7
- 4. Be Faithful, 3:8-11**

Conclusion, 3:12-15