

EXHORTATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

**A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1
Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy**

**Gardendale church of Christ
2022**

Syllabus

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A Devoted Church

(A Study of 1 Thessalonians)

Introduction

First century Thessalonica was a city in Macedonia (modern-day Greece). It was a seaport town on the Aegean Sea and was a popular place to stop on the Ignatian Way, a major Roman road. Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica from Philippi on Paul's second missionary journey. They spent three weeks there attempting to preach the gospel. The results were mixed. Most of the Thessalonian Jews rejected his teaching and formed a mob to drive them out of the city. However, "some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas." (Acts 17:4)

In Thessalonica, Paul and Silas stayed with a man named Jason. When the Thessalonian mob decided to run them out of town, they rushed Jason's house and dragged him into the streets. Jason was eventually released. But during this tumultuous event, the Thessalonians who believed in Paul and Silas's message hid them until they could leave Thessalonica. They left under the cover of darkness at which time they headed for Berea, a city about 45 miles to the southwest (Acts 17:10).

Later, on Paul's second journey while he was in Corinth (around 51 A.D.), he wrote the two letters to the Thessalonians. Despite the hostilities of the unbelieving Jews, the new believers in Thessalonica were holding fast to the word that was preached to them, and this devotion was becoming well known throughout the region. However, Paul had concerns about the hardships they were enduring, and so he wrote two heartfelt letters of encouragement. He encouraged them and praised them for their growth and evangelistic attitude.

Because of its geographic location, the church at Thessalonica was ideally located for opportunities to share the gospel with the whole region. They took advantage of those opportunities. For this reason, they serve as a wonderful example of how a church can endure hardship and even severe persecution while being a beacon of hope for the cause of Christ.



Chapter 1 – An Exemplary Church

- 1) According to the Introduction, where was Paul when he wrote 1 Thessalonians? Approximately when would this have been?

- 2) Who was with Paul while he was in Thessalonica?

- 3) Read Acts 17:1-9. How would you describe the reception of the gospel message at Thessalonica when it was first preached?

- 4) What was the general make-up of the believers in Thessalonica? (Acts 17:4)

What was the make-up of the ones who formed the mob against Paul and Silas?

- 5) According to verse 1, who else was with Paul and Silas in Corinth when Paul wrote this letter?

- 6) It is easy to see Paul's fondness for this church in his introductory remarks. Why do you think he was he so endeared to them?

- 7) How does he describe their work and labor in verse 3?

- 8) Depending on which version of the text that you read, verse 4 indicates that the brethren at Thessalonica were “chosen” or “elected” by God. For what were they chosen? How are we chosen by God?

- 9) By what method(s) were the Thessalonians receivers of the grace of God? (Verse 5)

- 10) Having received the gospel, what did they do with it? (Verse 6)

- 11) Amid their “affliction” what accompanied their receipt of the word?

- 12) What was this church known for according to verses 7 and 8?

- 12) As indicated in the introduction, Thessalonica was geographically prominent to much of the region where Paul visited. In consideration of verses 7 and 8 and our map, where do you think other disciples may have been influenced by the Thessalonians? (Be specific.)

13) According to verse 9, what became known to other churches regarding Paul and Silas and the Thessalonians?

14) Carefully consider verse 10. What expectation was Paul wanting the Thessalonians to have?

15) What specific event did Paul begin to address in 1:10; 2:19; and 3:13? What do you think was Paul's purpose in addressing this with the Thessalonians?

Chapter 2 – A Beloved Church

- 1) Research Question: Under what circumstances had Paul and Silas come to them initially?

- 2) Did that affect how they how they approached the Thessalonians? (Verse 2)

- 3) What was the driving force that Paul and Silas relied upon to preach what needed to be preached regardless of the consequences? (Verses 3 and 4)

- 4) What does Paul mean when he says they never used a “cloak for covetousness”? (Verse 5)

- 5) What demands might the apostles of Christ have made? (Verse 6)

- 6) In what manner did Paul approach the Thessalonians with the gospel? (Verses 7, 8 and 11)

- 7) In what way was Paul NOT a burden to any of them? (Verse 9)

8) How are the brethren described in verse 12?

9) What are the many descriptions given of the message of the apostles in verse 13?

10) In what way was the Thessalonian church an imitator of other churches? (Verse 14)

11) How does Paul describe the persecutors? (Verses 15-16)

11) In what way do you think Satan hindered Paul from coming to them? (Verse 18)

12) What is the hope, joy, and crown of rejoicing of Paul and the other apostles? (Verses 19 and 20)

Chapter 3 – A Sanctified Church

- 1) What is the thing that Paul, Timothy, and Silas could no longer endure in verse 1?

- 2) Carefully consider verses 3 and 4. Whose afflictions are under consideration?

- 3) Why is it so important to Paul to have Timothy “check on them”? (Verse 5)

- 4) What news did Timothy bring back concerning the brethren at Thessalonica? (Verse 6)

- 5) What did this news do for Paul and Silas? (Verses 7 and 8)

- 6) What did Paul include in his prayers regarding the Thessalonians? (Verses 9 and 10)

- 7) What was Paul’s ultimate aim according to verse 11?

8) What type of growth was Paul praying for according to verse 12?

9) In what must our hearts be established according to verse 13?

What do you think this means? (Consider 2 Corinthians 7:1)

Chapter 4 – A Challenged Church

- 1) In what do you suppose Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to abound?
(Verse 1)

- 2) The sanctification spoken of in verse 3 is clearly tied to the holiness discussed in the previous chapter. Their sanctification was dependent upon several things. But this section of scripture seems to center around one theme—sexual immorality. Why do you think he focuses upon this?

- 3) What does he mean by “possess his own vessel” in verse 4? (Consider also 2 Corinthians 4:7 and Romans 6:19.)

- 4) Our vessel is to be possessed in sanctification and honor. Conversely, how is one described (in verse 5) who does not possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor?

- 5) Considering the sin of “passion of lust,” how does such activity “take advantage and defraud his brother”? (Verse 6)

- 6) In what are we called? (Verse 7)

- 7) Verse 9 introduces a new topic. What is brotherly love?

- 8) The Thessalonians achieved a measure of success in this area. But what does Paul exhort them to do? (Verse 10)

- 9) What elements of brotherly love were commanded at some point by the apostles? (Verse 11)

- 10) To whom else must we carefully consider our conduct? (Verse 12)

- 11) The third topic addressed in chapter 4 was first mentioned in 1:10 and 2:19. It appears that the brethren in Thessalonica had misconceptions about the second coming of Christ (verse 13). What specifically does he address first in verse 13? What might have been their misconception?

- 12) What comforting thought does Paul share with them in verse 14 that should allay their concerns?

- 13) Outline the sequence of events as they will occur when the Lord comes again?

Chapter 5 – A Vigilant Church

- 1) In consideration of what the apostle just told the Thessalonians at the end of chapter 4, what do you think would be their next logical question?

- 2) What does he tell them in verses 1 and 2 about when these things would occur?

- 3) How is the second coming characterized in verse 3?

- 4) Why would not “the Day” seem so surprising to these brethren? (Verses 4 and 5)

- 5) What characterizes a Christian in his/her walk? (Verses 6-8; consider also 1 Peter 5:8)

- 6) What is to be our life’s purpose (that to which we were “appointed”)? (Verse 9)

- 7) In the meantime, what must we be doing while we wait? (Verse 11)

- 8) Who are they being urged to recognize in verses 12 and 13?

- 9) In rapid fire succession, they were given instructions on how to interact with three groups of people: the unruly, the fainted-hearted, and the weak. How are we to treat each of these?

What is another group mentioned in verse 14? How are we to treat them?

- 10) Verse 16 says that we are to “Rejoice always.” Is every day of our lives “rejoice-worthy”? Explain.

- 11) We are to pray without ceasing. What does this mean?

- 12) What is to be a major component of our lives (not just our prayer lives) according to verse 18?

- 13) In what way could we “quench the spirit” according to verse 19?

- 14) In what way could we “despise prophecies” according to verse 20?

- 15) How do we test all things?

- 16) What are the components of Paul’s final exhortation? (Verses 23-28)

When Will He Come?

(A Study of 2 Thessalonians)

Introduction

Consider the timeline of Paul's stay in Corinth while on his second missionary journey. Paul's eighteen months in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17) probably lasted from late summer of A.D. 50 to the spring of A.D. 52. It seems obvious that 1 Thessalonians was written earlier in his time at Corinth when he received a report from Timothy and Silas concerning the church at Thessalonica (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess. 3:6). This would place the time of the writing of his first letter in early A.D. 51. After sending this first letter, Paul would hear news about the progress of the Thessalonians. This news would have reached him later that year or possibly early in the next, towards the end of his stay at Corinth. Corinth is the last place where Acts places Paul, Timothy, and Silas together. Therefore, Corinth is the most logical location for the origin of both letters, with the second being written either in late A.D. 51 or early A.D. 52.

Upon receiving word of their reaction to the first letter, there were two primary reasons for writing the second. First, Paul wished to correct false teaching at Thessalonica regarding the coming of the Day of the Lord (2:1-2). They had come to believe that due to the persecution that they were under (1:4-6) the Lord's coming may be eminent or perhaps had already occurred.

Second, Paul wished to correct a manifesting problem that the first problem had apparently created. Many of the church had ceased working, perhaps because of their misconceptions about the coming of the Lord. (3:6-16)

Paul would give specific instructions to the church on how they were to deal with these problems and how they should conduct themselves in their day-to-day walk while awaiting His return. The lessons are very practical and apply to us in every way as we live and wait for the day of the coming of the Lord.

Chapter 1 – Two Promises

- 1) From the Introduction, where was Paul when he wrote 2 Thessalonians? Approximately when would this have been?

- 2) According to verse 1, who apparently was with Paul when he wrote this letter?

- 3) How does Paul describe the brethren in verse 3?

- 4) Similar to his address of them in his first letter, what does he say about them in verse 4 as he begins this letter?

- 5) What two things does victory over suffering indicate? (Verse 5)

- 6) What is promised for those who trouble the Thessalonians? (Verse 6)

In what form do you think this promise would be fulfilled?

7) What is promised for those who are troubled among the Thessalonians?
(Verse 7)

In what form do you think this promise would be fulfilled?

8) Who is promised vengeance with flaming fire in verse 8?

9) What further punishment is promised for this group in verse 9?

10) When will “He” come according to verse 10?

Who is “He”?

Who will glorify Him when he comes?

Who will “admire” Him?

11) What is Paul’s prayer for them in verse 11?

12) What is the “calling” spoken of in verse 11?

13) How is our relationship with the Lord described in verse 12?

Chapter 2 – The Lawless One

- 1) Within what context does Paul begin the next topic as recorded in 2:1?

- 2) What had apparently been the reaction to what Paul had already told them regarding this subject? (Verse 2)

- 3) According to verse 3, what has to happen BEFORE “that day”? Who or what do you think this referring to?

- 4) How is this “man” described in verse 4?

- 5) What does Paul mean by “restraining” (NKJV) in verse 6?

- 6) What timeline does Paul give regarding the lawlessness that is under discussion? (Verse 7)

- 7) What promise is made regarding the lawless one? (Verse 8)

- 8) What descriptions are given regarding the lawless one in verses 9 & 10?

- 9) What ominous promise is given to those who might lean towards following the lawless one? (Verse 11)

- 10) What will be their end? (Verse 12)

- 11) We return to more positive encouragement by Paul in verse 13. How were these brethren chosen for salvation from the beginning by God?

- 12) How were they called? (Verse 14) Was this calling a mystical voice heard in their heads?

- 13) What must they do in the face of all of this confusion and misdirection? (Verse 15)

- 14) They had obviously become anxious about their misunderstanding of the coming of the Lord. What words of comfort does Paul provide in verses 16 & 17?

Chapter 3 – Do Not Grow Weary

- 1) For what does Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray? (Verses 1 & 2)

- 2) In what was Paul confident concerning the Thessalonians? (Verse 4)

- 3) Into what was Paul praying that the Lord would direct their hearts? (Verse 5)

- 4) For what reason was Paul exhorting them to withdraw from brethren? (Verse 6)

- 5) In what way do you think they were being “disorderly”? (Verses 6 & 7)

- 6) How does Paul describe their (Paul’s and Silas’) conduct while they were with them? (Verses 7-9)

- 7) What command does Paul remind them that they were given while they (Paul and Silas) were with them? (Verse 10)

8) In light of verse 11, what appears to be the reason for their disorderliness? (Recall Paul's admonition to them in 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12.)

9) Why do you think the Thessalonians had shrunk back into this state of disorderliness?

10) For those who were guilty of this, what fruits of their repentance needed to be seen? (Verse 12)

11) Our second "withdrawal" verse of this chapter is seen in verses 14 & 15. To what may we (21st Century Christians) apply these exhortations?

14) What result is desired in the action commanded in verse 14?

15) What important attitude must be included in the actions commanded in verse 14? (Verse 15)

16) Is there a reason why Paul would point out that he wrote this letter with his own hand? (Verse 17)

Safeguard the Church

(A Study of 1 Timothy)

Introduction

It is not clear exactly when Paul wrote this letter to Timothy. However, it appears that he wrote this first letter between his two Roman imprisonments which would obviously make it late in his life. At Ephesus, a young Timothy faced many challenges relating to false doctrine, public worship, and leadership within the local church. As a young preacher in such an environment, uprightness in pursuing godliness, faith, love, and perseverance amid false teachers was paramount.

The true gospel, in contrast to false teaching, must always lead to godliness. True Christianity is shown in lifestyles shaped by the gospel. Those whose lives are not shaped by the gospel will turn away from the faith. In short, the gospel produces holiness in the lives of believers. There is no legitimate separation between belief and behavior. Thus, those who profess faith but show no spiritual growth should question their spiritual health.

Clear identifying factors can be seen in a Christian while engaging in worship, prayer, unity, and modesty. Furthermore, qualifications of its shepherds are identifiable and should be carefully considered among brethren of a local church. The leaders and brethren of a local congregation must be willing to fight for truth as it relates to the work and worship in their assemblies and in their lives.

In the end, Paul will impress upon the readers of this letter how important it is to protect the purity of the gospel as it instructs us in our work and worship together.

Chapter 1 – Wage the Good Warfare

- 1) For what reason do you think Paul has to assert his authority as an apostle to Timothy? (Verse 1)
- 2) In what way was Timothy a true son? (Verse 2)
- 3) For what reason did Paul urge Timothy to remain in Ephesus? (Verse 3)
- 4) What were the specific false teachings mentioned in verse 4, and what would be the result of that false teaching?
- 5) What should be the result of the gospel message? (Verse 5)
- 6) How does he describe the false teachers in verses 6 & 7? From these verses, what appears to be their nationality?

- 7) Anticipating a charge against him for abandoning the Law, Paul lays out the reasons why the Law was good, and the purpose it served. What does he mean by “the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate...”? (Verses 8-10)

- 8) What produces a “righteous person” according to verse 11?

- 9) In verse 12, Paul indicates that he was enabled to be a minister of Christ. However, according to verse 13, how does Paul describe what he used to be?

- 10) How did Paul obtain mercy for his previous sinfulness? (Verse 15)

- 11) What did Paul’s example indicate for those who came after him? (Verse 16)

- 12) What prophecies is Paul referring to concerning Timothy in verse 18?

- 13) How had some treated Timothy? (Verse 19)

- 14) How had Paul dealt with Hymenaeus and Alexander? (Verse 20)

Chapter 2 – Kingdom Citizenship

- 1) In what four things is Paul exhorting? (Verse 1) Are the four things just describing the same thing or are there distinctions to be made between them?

- 2) What should our prayer be for those that are in authority? (Verse 2)

- 3) What is God's desire for all men? (Verse 4)

- 4) According to verse 5, what role does Jesus fill?

- 5) To what role was Paul appointed according to verse 7?

- 6) According to verse 8, what characteristics must our prayers have?

7) Describe the way women should present themselves according to verses 9 & 10?

8) What do you think Paul means by “Let a woman learn in silence with all submission” and “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man”? (Verses 11 & 12)

9) What illustration does he use in verses 13 & 14 to explain the restrictions in the previous verses?

Difficult Question (Do your best):

10) What does Paul mean by “Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing...” in verse 15?

Chapter 3 – Kingdom Servants

- 1) Using a Bible dictionary or alternative versions of the New Testament, what alternative words are used interchangeably for the word “bishop” (NKJV)? (Verse 1)
- 2) According to verse 1, what is the first requirement of a bishop?
- 3) From verses 3:2 – 3:7, list the qualifications given for a bishop.
- 4) Using a bible dictionary, what is the definition of “deacons,” as the word is used in verse 8?

- 5) From verses 3:8 – 3:12 list the qualifications given for a deacon.

- 6) What benefit comes from serving well as a deacon? (Verse 13)

- 7) According to verses 14 & 15, Paul desires to come to Ephesus to see Timothy. So, what is the reason for his writing?

- 8) Paul cites powerful testimony as to the reason for seeking godliness. List the reasons according to verse 16.

Chapter 4 – Take Heed to the Doctrine

- 1) At what time could Timothy and the brethren at Ephesus expect to see some that would “depart from the faith and giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”? (Verse 1) When do you think this time period is or was?

- 2) According to verse 2, what was at the root of the doctrine?

- 3) Much of what is described in these verses has its root in Gnosticism. Briefly research this practice and describe its main tenets below.

- 4) Among the practices associated with this erroneous religion is the abstention from certain foods. What does Paul say about abstaining from foods that God created to be consumed? (Verses 3 - 5)

- 5) What other practices and/or teachings must be rejected? (Verse 7)

- 6) What is said about bodily exercise in verse 8? Is there a place for bodily exercise?

- 7) What will we gain by godliness? (Verse 8)

- 8) The teaching of the apostle in this section has apparently resulted in negative reactions. Why were they willing to suffer reproach for “these things”? (Verse 10)

- 9) What did he tell Timothy to do with “these things”? (Verse 11)

- 10) Compared to Paul, as we have observed in our introduction, Timothy was a young man. What can happen when a young man preaches “tough” messages?

- 11) In what ways was Timothy to be an example? (Verse 12)

- 12) Timothy was instructed to be doing what three things until Paul returned? (Verse 13)

- 13) What was given to Timothy by prophecy? Who gave it to him and how? (Verse 14; also consider 2 Timothy 1:6)

- 14) Verses 15 & 16 clearly describe the attitude that a faithful evangelist should have. What results can be expected with this proper attitude?

Chapter 5 – How to Treat Our Brethren

- 1) Paul begins this section by pointing out that members are to be treated differently. How are we to treat an older man? Younger men? Older women? Younger women?

- 2) Which widows should be honored (NKJV) according to verse 3? What do you think he means by honored? Who is Paul charging to honor its widows?

- 3) Paul goes on to describe widows who are NOT really widows in verse 4. What “disqualifies” a widow from being counted among those of verse 3?

- 4) What “qualifies” a woman to be a true widow according to verses 5, 9 & 10?

- 5) What is said of one who is a close relative and does not provide for a widow who does not meet these qualifications? (Verse 8)

- 6) What is the concern for “younger widows” in verses 11-13?

- 7) What should a younger widow do according to verse 14?

- 8) Why is this identification of true widows and those who are not true widows so important? (Verse 16)

- 9) What is said of an elder who rules well? (Verses 17 & 18)

- 10) How must an accusation against an elder be handled? (Verses 19 & 20)

- 11) In what way must the previous activities be observed? (Verse 21)

- 12) What does Paul mean in his statement to “not lay hands on anyone hastily”? (Verse 22)

- 13) For what purpose is wine to be used according to verse 23?

- 14) What things are clearly seen according to verses 24 & 25?

Chapter 6 – Fight the Good Fight

- 1) Did the master/slave relationship exist in the first century? What was the relationship supposed to be like among Christians according to verses 1 & 2?

- 2) According to verse 3, who and what ultimately sanction this teaching? Is the slave practice **sanctioned** or is the teaching regarding **the relationships**?

- 3) Obviously verses 3 – 5 are an indictment upon anyone who teaches contrary to the word of God and Christ. List the descriptions of such a person. How is such a person to be treated?

- 4) What contrast is there between the use of the word “gain” in verses 5 & 6?

- 5) With what are we to be content? (Verse 8)

- 6) What is the danger of desiring wealth? (Verses 9 & 10)

- 7) What must a man (or woman) of God pursue? (Verse 11)

- 8) What does he mean by “lay hold on eternal life” according to verse 12?

- 9) Verse 12 indicates that the Christian has been called to engage in a warfare. In what way does Paul double down on the force of this calling in verse 14?

- 10) List the many descriptions that are given to describe our King in verses 15 & 16.

- 11) Lest we think that being rich is sinful, what does Paul command those who are rich in verses 17-19?

- 12) In his final exhortation to Timothy, what do we see that apparently weighs heavy on the heart of Paul concerning the church there?

“Set in Order...”

(A Study of Titus)

Introduction

Our study of Paul's "Pastoral Letters" brings us to a letter that he wrote to Titus between the first and second letters to Timothy during the time between Paul's first and second Roman imprisonments. Throughout these letters, Paul instructs on how to deal with false teachers, how to establish leadership in local churches, and how to encourage godliness. In fact, many of the subjects addressed in 1 Timothy are dealt with in Titus.

We do not know as much about Titus as we do Timothy. Paul had been in Crete and had left Titus there. Titus was to meet Paul in Nicopolis, where Paul was determined to spend the winter (Titus 3:12). Paul may have already arrived in Nicopolis when he wrote the letter. Titus was one of Paul's most trusted co-workers. This is evidenced by the fact that Paul had confidence to send him to the troubled churches of Corinth and Crete. He was a full Gentile (Timothy was only half-Greek), converted under Paul's preaching.

Titus is mentioned throughout Paul's letters. However, Luke does not mention him in Acts. Some commentaries theorize that he may have been a relative of Luke (possibly a brother) and to include his name would have been seen as an act of cultural impropriety on Luke's part. Perhaps Titus is Luke's major source of information about Paul's life and ministry and, therefore, like Luke, would not be named.

He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Jerusalem Council, recorded in Acts 15, where the issue of the new Gentile believers' relationship to the Mosaic Law was debated and settled. Titus served as an excellent test case of this debate. Titus would go on to play an important role in helping raise funds for the poor saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:16-24). The last we hear of Titus is when, after serving with Paul during his second Roman imprisonment, he travels to Dalmatia (2 Tim. 4:10).

This book focuses on advice Paul gives Titus about his ministry on Crete. The purpose of the writing is clearly stated in Titus 1:5: "...set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city." Crete, a city steeped in immorality, had received the gospel, and churches were successfully established there. However, correction in their conduct and church leadership had to be made.

Chapter 1 – A Church Without Elders Is “Lacking”

1) From the introduction, where was Paul when he wrote the letter to Titus? Approximately when would this have been?

2) With what is the gospel (truth) accorded? (Verse 1)

3) What promise was made by God, and when was it promised? (Verse 2)

4) In what manner was this promise manifested? (Verse 3)

Who was specifically appointed for spreading this word? (Verse 3)

5) According to verse 5, what were the two reasons Paul left Titus in Crete?

6) List below the qualifications of the men who Titus was to appoint as elders. (Verses 6 – 9)

7) According to the New King James version of the Bible, in this list of qualifications this church leader is given two names (verses 5 & 7). What are those names? From other translations and passages, list other names to describe the same office. (Re: Study of 1 Timothy 1)

8) Among the many qualifications of an elder, “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught” is of great importance. (Verse 9) According to verses 10 & 11, what course of action must sometimes be taken by an elder and why?

10) How would an elder go about this task, and what is the desired result? (Verse 13)

11) Consider the contrast between the pure and the defiled in verse 15. Is there any middle ground? What happens to the defiled? (Verses 15 & 16)

12) Can a church be a faithful church without elders?

Why is it so important for a church to have elders today? Consider the example of Crete.

5) How would you characterize the exhortation given to a man (like Titus) who is going to be a teacher of the gospel? (Verses 7 & 8)

6) As in our study of 1 Timothy 6, we learn that the master/servant relationship existed in the first century church. What does Paul exhort bondservants to be or do according to verses 9 & 10?

What were they NOT to do?

7) According to verse 12, what does “the grace of God that brings salvation” and “has appeared to all men” teach us?

8) What can we CLEARLY be looking forward to (according to verse 13) if we live in the manner described in verse 14?

9) How do we have such a hope? (Verse 14)

10) For what two purposes did Christ give himself? (Verse 14)

Chapter 3 – Heirs of Grace

- 1) What is commanded of the Christian in verse 1? Be prepared to discuss what this means.

- 2) What is commanded of the Christian in verse 2? Be prepared to discuss what this means as well.

- 3) What is the transformation that occurs between verses 3 & 4? What was the cause of that transformation?

- 4) What is NOT the cause of the transformation according to verse 5?

- 5) How are we saved according to verses 5 - 7?

- 6) What importance is placed upon “these things”? (Verse 8)

7) What things should be avoided and are described by Paul as unprofitable and useless? (Verse 9)

Can we be guilty of any of these things today?

8) How is a divisive man (or woman) to be treated? (Verse 10)

9) What is the final exhortation given by Paul in verse 14? To whom is he intending this exhortation to be given?

A Final Exhortation for the Church (A Study of 2 Timothy)

Introduction

Paul is nearing the end of his life. While in prison in Rome for the final time, he is able to offer powerful encouragement and assurance to Timothy who has persevered as a soldier of Christ. This is Paul's final letter to a close and personal friend and a fellow worker in Christ. He encourages Timothy in faithfulness, truth, and endurance.

He asks Timothy to come to him for one final visit, bringing him his books, parchments and his cloak which he left in Troas. One commentator, Arthur Ogden, suggests that possibly it is at this location that Paul's final arrest occurred rather abruptly, such that he could not gather his belongings before he was taken away.

While in prison several people have abandoned Paul; others are away fulfilling their work for the Lord. In this final letter we get a sense of the love that Paul had for Timothy as he recalls his sincerity and devotion. Paul urges Timothy to continue in this way, offering his own life as an example. One cannot sincerely read this letter without considering the obvious lessons within where we see the devoted lives of the servant Paul and his dear friend Timothy.

Chapter 1 – Hold Fast

- 1) As indicated in the introduction, Paul is in his final Roman imprisonment that will end with his death. Yet, what promise does he remind us of in verse 1?

- 2) Paul desires to see Timothy before he dies. From what is Paul filled with joy? (Verses 4 & 5)

- 3) Briefly research Timothy's heritage (Acts 16:1-3). According to verse 5, who filled a primary role in his spiritual upbringing?

- 4) Considering the context, for what reason is Paul encouraging Timothy to "stir up the gift of God...through the laying on of (Paul's) hands"? (Verses 6 & 7)

- 5) What two things could Timothy have done with all the hardship he had endured, including the reality of Paul's imprisonment? (Verse 8)

- 6) Our calling supersedes our suffering. Describe that calling according to verse 9.

7) What things were accomplished by the appearing of Christ? (Verse 10) How do we know about these things?

8) What was Paul's role in this? (Verses 11 & 12)

9) To what are we to hold fast? Verse 13) From whom did we obtain this?

10) In what way did the Holy Spirit have a role in those "sound words"?

11) Paul begins to identify those who have waived from the faith. Who, however, did he identify as someone who stood strong? (Verses 16 - 18)

It is a name with which Timothy would be very familiar. Where did Paul best know of his good work? (Verse 18)

Chapter 2 – Be Strong

- 1) What is the primary source of Timothy's strength? (Verse 1)

- 2) What was to be done with the teachings that Timothy had obtained from Paul? (Verse 2) (Compare to 1:13)

- 3) While engaged in warfare (Verse 3), Timothy must show great discipline in his life towards the things that could "entangle" him. What three examples does Paul use to express this important lesson? (Verses 4 - 6) Be prepared to discuss the meaning of each.

- 4) Paul briefly describes the gospel message in verse 8. In what way was this "his" gospel?

- 5) What happened to Paul as a result of his efforts for the gospel? (Verses 9 & 10)

- 6) The “faithful saying” of verses 11 – 13 speaks of a time when we “died with Him.” When did this occur?

- 7) What are the blessings identified in this passage for enduring with Him? What are the consequences of denying Him and faithlessness?

- 8) What is the charge given in verses 14?

- 9) Who must we be, and what must we do to be approved of God according to verse 15?

- 10) What seems to have been the root of the false teaching that pervaded the church there? (Verses 16-18) What characterization is given for the spread of false doctrine?

- 11) What illustration is given to help describe the servant who is a “vessel for honor, sanctified and useful to the Master”? (Verses 20 & 21) Explain.

- 12) There is an obvious attitude a Christian must have toward his/her brethren. Summarize this attitude according to verses 22-26. How do we reconcile this with 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:13, Matthew 23, and Acts 13:9-11? Use the back of this page for your answers to this question.

Chapter 3 – Perilous Times

- 1) When would the perilous times described in verses 1 – 9 come? (Verse 1)

- 2) List the descriptions of the men (people) associated with these perilous times according to verses 1 – 5.

- 3) What must be done with such people according to verse 5? Think. Among others, who was Paul exhorting to turn away from them? What does this say about the time of “the last days”?

- 4) Who does Paul point out to be especially vulnerable with such false teachers? (Verses 6 & 7)

- 5) What will come to those who so readily resist the truth? (Verse 9)

- 6) Paul uses himself as an example of how the Christian is to live. List those attributes below. (Verses 10 & 11)

- 7) What guarantee is given by Paul in verse 12?
- 8) Some will change for the worse, but what must Timothy (and all Christians) do in the face of all the negative changes? (Verses 13 & 14)
- 9) In verse 15, Paul is referring to which scriptures? What all could Timothy learn from these scriptures?
- 9) Verses 16 & 17 might be the most memorized verses in all of the Bible. If you haven't already done this, consider spending time doing so. Why is this passage so important?

Chapter 4 – A Crown of Righteousness

- 1) By what authority does Paul issue the charge of verses 1 & 2?

- 2) What event is referenced that should motivate one to preach the word?

- 2) Summarize the charge, the work of an evangelist, in verse 2.

- 3) What is to be the anticipated reaction by some toward the teaching according to verses 3 & 4?

- 4) In the face of all of this, what must Timothy do? (Verse 5) Does this just apply to Timothy? Does it just apply to full-time evangelists?

- 5) What is Paul's expectation for himself according to verse 6?

- 6) Paul uses language to describe a mighty triumph resulting from his work for the Lord. What is his expectation for "that Day"? (Verse 8)

- 7) Who else can have the same expectation as Paul on that Day? (Verse 8)

8) Who had forsaken Paul? Who is still there? (Verses 9 - 11)

9) Who does Paul wish for Timothy to bring with him when he comes? (Verse 11)

Research: What interaction has Paul had with Mark previously?

10) Alexander is mentioned in verse 14. Where else have we learned of his actions?

11) What was the reaction of those around Paul when he faced his accusers in his "first defense"? (Verse 16)

12) In the face of all of his persecution, Paul was strengthened by the Lord. What purpose was ultimately fulfilled by Paul amid all of the troubles? (Verse 17)

13) What expectation does Paul have for his ultimate end? (Verse 18)

14) As you look at the list of names in Paul's final greeting of chapter 4, try to recall some of those names and what role they played in the establishment of the church.