

# Destin Church of Christ

## Fall, 2018

### Lesson 1 – “Introduction and Background”

#### Texts:

Acts 16:1-4; 17:14,15; 18:5;  
II Tim 1:5; 3:14-17;  
I Tim 1:1-4

The books are called Pastoral Epistles. They deal with the care and organization of the flock of God, and the responsibilities of the shepherd in caring for the sheep.

Timothy and Titus were both assistants of Paul, who had followed him on many of his missionary journeys.

Some scholars dismiss Paul’s authorship of the Pastoral Epistles, because the tone, vocabulary, style, theology, and apparent circumstances of the letters to Timothy and Titus are quite different from some of the other letters Paul wrote.

A number of counterpoints can account for this literary argument against Pauline authorship:

- Paul was older, and his writing style may have been different.
- Paul’s other epistles were to a public audience, but these were to a private audience.
- The subject matter in Paul’s letters was different..
- Paul wrote six of his letters with Timothy as a coauthor (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon), but Paul wrote the Pastoral Epistles alone.

#### Who was Timothy?

- Family lived in Lystra (Galatia).
- May have grown up without a father.
- Mother and grandmother were faithful Jewish women.
- May have been a teenager when he met Paul.
- May have been converted on Paul’s first missionary journey.
- Paul called Timothy his son (Phil. 2:22; 1 Tim. 1:2), and as a brother (1 Thess. 3:2).
- Timothy helped Paul plant a church in Corinth (Acts 18:5; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:19) and establish churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.
- Paul left Timothy and Silas in Berea when he went to Athens (Acts 17:13-15).
- Timothy was later sent to Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2).
- Timothy was with Paul the 3 years Paul was in Ephesus.

After Paul’s release from prison in Rome, Timothy and Paul traveled to Ephesus. Paul recognized some men in the church were teaching error about Jesus saying that Jesus could not have been a man and God at the same time. Paul had to leave, so he left Timothy to teach truth to the church there. As an “apostolic” representative, Timothy had the authority to order worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15) and appoint elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-3).

Who was Titus?

- Titus was Greek, and had not grown up worshipping the God of the Bible.
- During Paul's first missionary journey, Titus heard Paul preach about Jesus, and responded to the message.
- Paul brought him to Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1-4) to show the apostles and other Jewish believers how a Greek, non-Jew, could love God just as much as they did.-

During Paul's third missionary journey, Titus became his personal emissary to the church at Corinth. When Titus did not return to Troas as expected, Paul went on to Macedonia (2 Co 2:12-13). It was there Paul and Titus connected. To the relief and comfort of Paul, Titus reported how well he was received by the Corinthians (2 Co 7:5-7,13-15). Paul then sent Titus and two others back to Corinth, bearing the letter we call Second Corinthians (2 Co 8:16-9:5).

Titus was a busy man as he cared for all the new Cretan believers. Paul knew Titus needed some encouragement and reminders of what was important to teach the people. The letter warns of false teachings which could undermine the fledgling church and gives instructions about who to appoint as elders. Paul wrote to Titus soon after writing 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, probably while Paul was in Macedonia, on his way to Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).

CITIES:

Ephesus is a city famous for its paganism, within Greek culture. While there, Paul founded a marvelous church, and fed, taught, and nurtured that church for 3 years.

They have false leaders, and have abandoned the holiness that they were taught. Paul leaves Timothy there, and later writes this letter, telling Timothy the things that must be done there.

Crete: We read in Acts 2: 1-41 that Cretan Jews were amongst those in Jerusalem who were converted to Christianity at Pentecost. There is a sizeable Jewish population in Crete, which probably formed most of the early church, and was of particular significance for the history of Christianity on the island, influencing the development of a church tradition and culture.

LETTERS:

1 TIMOTHY: Written to encourage Timothy to combat heresy in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3, 18; 4:12-16), and to instruct him with regard to his pastoral duties (3:15).

2 TIMOTHY: Written to further instruct Timothy and to explain his own personal affairs. It is the last letter written by Paul, a sort of last will and testimony.

TITUS: Written to counsel Titus concerning the work Paul had left him to do (1:5).

The reason the New Testament gives us these letters is so that we can continually be correcting the same things that will always exist in the life of the church.

Next Week: "Timothy's Work as a Young Evangelist"  
(I Tim 1:3-7, 18-20; I Tim 3:14-16; I Tim 4:1-16; II Tim 4:1-5)