

Reflection Paper

Paul's Purpose for Writing the Epistles to Timothy and Titus

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Paul wrote three unique letters that have come to be known as the Pastoral Epistles or sometimes called ecclesiastical letters which include, I Timothy, Titus, and II Timothy. The pastoral epistles are addressed to individuals and not to churches like some of Paul's other letters. They have gained this name because within the writing there is Paul's counsel to Timothy and Titus in their pastoral roles in the churches in the region of Ephesus and Crete. First Timothy has problems within the Church that he was shepherding. The writing shows what the church looks like and how to get the church back on course. Timothy, an apprentice of Paul who was instilled with good teaching and practices from Paul. The Church moved from proclaiming Jesus to protecting their own privileges. Titus was a colleague of Paul; he also needed help bringing order back to the church on the island of Crete. This church needed to stand up to false teaching and appoint leaders.

Paul was older and wiser, so he wanted to help the shepherds as they cared for the flock. In I Timothy he wanted to urge Timothy to stay in Ephesus and not come to help him in ministry. Paul needed to give Timothy instruction on how to deal with the problems and needs of the spreading of false doctrine, spiritual coldness, personnel problems, problems with the worship services, problems related to the offices of the church and for the care of widows. He wrote to Titus with the purpose of advising him in the task of superintending the circuit of Cretan churches as a representative of Paul. He also wanted to exhort Titus and the churches concerning Christian behavior consistent with Christian doctrine and to give instruction to Titus on personal matters. Paul's final letter to Timothy is to inspire and challenge. Paul wants Timothy to continue in the gospel; to take up the torch spreading the gospel to the entire world. These letters were the last words from Paul to Timothy; it may be seen as a keep racing the race till you reach the end closing from a mentor to the mentee.

Bibliography

Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament: search and discover*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981.