

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

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Q1. How would you describe Paul's audience? Are they believers or unbelievers? Are they spiritually mature? What issues are they having?

Paul's epistles have been a set of resources for guiding and directing not only the local communities but also the universal church. Paul's letters are read in all the Christian churches because he has been revered as one of the chief witness of the risen Christ and as His apostle to the nation. When Paul was writing his epistles, he was writing to the local churches by then and these epistles were each named after the local community Paul was trying to address, according to the different issues they were having. Most of them were new converts, who were spiritually immature.

When it comes to the pastoral epistles, which are 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, Paul was writing to two of his delegates, Timothy and Titus, rather than to a community of believers, to encourage and mentor them as they began their young ministries. They had to establish an authoritative interpretation of Paul's teaching and set clear lines between correct and false instruction in the faith. Timothy and Titus were Paul's most trusted coworkers in the ministry and were spiritually mature as Paul calls him "my true son in faith"<sup>1</sup>. (1 Timothy 1:3).

In addition, these epistles instruct Timothy and Titus to combat false teaching, to preserve the sound teaching that has been entrusted to them, and to establish order within the church, which is the household of God<sup>2</sup>. Thus, today they are manuals for pastors charged with the responsibility of maintaining church order and preserving the deposit of faith. They also provide church leaders with models of teachers and preachers whom they should emulate. By imitating

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Paul and his delegates, those who follow them will be able to guard and hand on the rich deposit of faith they have received.

Q2. According to 1 Timothy 1:1-10, what does it mean to use the law in a lawful manner today. (cf. Galatians 3:19-25; Romans 7:7-12). Furthermore, how had these false teachers in correctly used the law?

Law is important in any community to defend them from evil and to help them do the right things. When Paul's epistles talk about the law, they are referring the Jewish laws. The false teachers were misleading the Christian converts that, for them to be truly Christians they had to do according to the Jewish laws. Most of the Paul's converts were gentiles, and so the false teachers were misleading them that they must follow the Jewish laws for them to obtain salvation. They were occupying themselves with myths and endless genealogies.

Paul argued that Jesus came and did it all. The Law was given because of the sins of humanity and it was given through a promise<sup>3</sup>. Jesus came and died for the sins of humanity that we may be saved by his grace. They did not know the purpose of the law, which is intended for sinners rather than for the godly, so foolishly presented themselves as teachers of law. We justified by faith and not doing the works of the law. Salvation depends on God's grace rather than human efforts.

## Bibliography

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