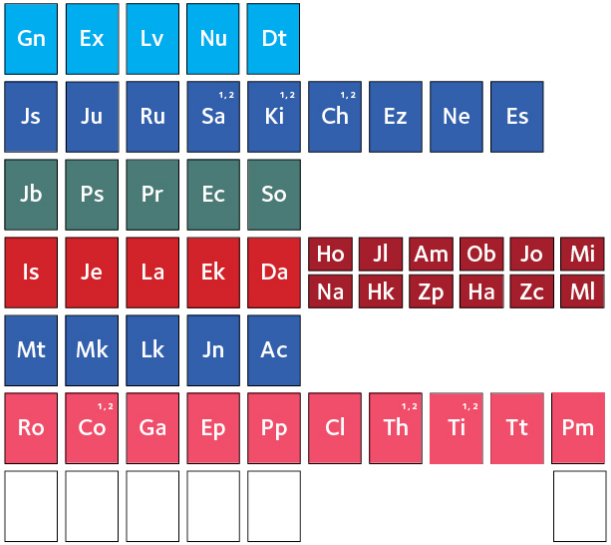
One Bible One Year

1&2 Timothy
Titus & Philemon



Summary

1 Timothy and Titus were written during Paul's fourth missionary Journey between 63 and 65AD, after being released from his first imprisonment in Rome. Whereas 2nd Timothy was written from his second imprisonment in Rome, this time not under house arrest but chained up in a dungeon.

Philemon was sent alongside the letter of Colossians in AD 60 to a man named Philemon in the congregation there, written to ask him to receive back a man named Onesimus with grace.

Both Timothy and Titus joined Paul during parts of his missionary journeys and ministered alongside him. Timothy joined Paul's journeys throughout modern day Turkey and Greece and at the time of writing the books, Timothy was taking care of the church in Ephesus, in modern day Turkey, which was also the recipient of the letter of Ephesians.

Titus delivered Paul's letters to the Corinthians and also accompanied him from Antioch to discuss the gospel with the Jerusalem leaders. Titus and Paul then brought the gospel to the Island of Crete, where Titus then stayed to build the church, and this is where he received the letter of Titus.

Outline

1 Timothy

I. Greetings (1:1-2)
II. Warning against False Teachers (1:3-11)
III. The Lord's Grace to Paul (1:12-17)
IV. The Purpose of Paul's Instructions to Timothy (1:18-20)
V. Instructions concerning Church Administration (chs. 2-3)
VI. Instructions concerning False Teaching (ch. 4)
VII. Instructions concerning Different Groups in the Church (5:1-6:2)
VIII. Miscellaneous Matters (6:3-19)
IX. Concluding Appeal and Benediction (6:20-21)

2 Timothy

I. Introduction (1:1-4)
II. Paul's Concern for Timothy (1:5-14)
III. Paul's Situation (1:15-18)
IV. Special Instructions to Timothy (ch. 2)
V. Warning about the Last Days (ch. 3)
V!. Paul's Departing Remarks (4:1-8)
VII. Final Requests, Greetings and Benediction (4:9-22)

Titus

I. Greetings (1:1-4)
II. Concerning Elders (1:5-9)
III. Concerning False Teachers (1:10-16)
IV. Concerning Various Groups in the Congregations (ch. 2)
V. Concerning Believers in General (3:1-8)
VI. Concerning Response to Spiritual Error (3:9-11)
VII. Conclusion, Final Greetings and Benediction (3:12-15)

Philemon

I. Greetings (1:1-3)
II. Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:4-7)
III. Paul's Plea for Onesimus (1:8-21)
IV. Final Request, Greetings and Benediction (1:22-25)

Themes

Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles due to Paul's teaching on the nature and character of Church leadership and leaders, as Donald Guthrie examines:
"An examination of Paul's view of the leadership within the Christian community must begin from his basic idea that the church is a body of which Christ is the head. No authority structure is possible without the supreme authority being vested in Christ himself. Moreover, even here the authority must be understood as organic and not organisational. The head essentially belongs to the body as the body belongs to the head. It is the most intimate kind of authority, since the body only functions efficiently only when it responds at once to the dictates of the head."

As Paul talks of the organisation of the church he always focuses on the central purpose and duty of the church, as Michael Baughen says of Second Timothy:
"It is then of immense importance and significance to the Church, in every age, to ponder to ponder what the apostle Paul regarded as the most important thing to say to the church in his final days- this is what we have in this powerful and searching letter. There is no doubt as to what burns in Paul's heart above everything else – it is the gospel and as we come alongside him in prison and listen to what he says, we gradually see not just a man chained to a Roman soldier but a man chained to the gospel."

Paul shows us how important the body of Christ is. It is so important that it is shepherded by servant leaders around the core belief and conviction of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all part of the body and have our part to play to see God's

Further thinking

Read 2 Timothy 1

What is the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus? What does this mean to you?
Why say 'grace, mercy and peace'? Paul often uses the words grace and peace in the start of his letters. Why add mercy here?
Grace to the undeserving, mercy to the helpless, peace to the restless
What is the grace of Christ according to v8-10?

Read 2 Timothy 2

Be strong is a passive imperative - literally 'allow yourself to be strengthened.' How in the rest of the chapter does he suggest we make ourselves ready to be strengthened by God?

Why is good teaching such a priority to Paul in throughout this whole letter?
How do you spot a good teacher from a bad one?

Read 2 Timothy 3

How is Scripture described and why does that matter to us today as we read Scripture?

Read 2 Timothy 4

Paul describes his desire to end well (v6-7). How is that your desire and how can we keep encouraging each other in that?