

# Intro to 1&2 Timothy and Titus

## Who wrote the Letters?

- Paul the apostle (1 Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:1)

## Who were they written to?

- Two individuals: Timothy and Titus. (1 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; 2 Tim. 2:2)
- Paul's "children in the faith"
  - Both dependable, trustworthy servants of God. (**Timothy:** Acts 16:1-3; 1 Thess. 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19-20. **Titus:** Galatians 2; 2 Corinthians 7:6-7; 8:23)

## When were they written?

- **1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5 - Problem:** these don't match Acts. All written after Acts.
- **Acts 28:30-31** - Paul starts Roman imprisonment in AD 61. Released in 63 AD.
  - A) Prisoners set free after 2 years if accusers never showed up.
  - B) Paul expected to be set free.
    - **Philippians 2:24; Philemon 22**
  - C) Early church fathers (Eusibius, Clement, Chrysostom, Theodoret) wrote that Paul was released from first imprisonment in Rome and travelled to "the extreme limits of the west" (probably Spain).
    - After release in 63 AD, Paul took trips recorded in 1&2 Timothy and Titus.
      - **Romans 15:24** - Spain first? Then Crete with Titus and Timothy, leaves Titus on Crete (Titus 1:5), goes to Colosse (plan in Philemon 22), then Ephesus, leaves Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3) and goes to Macedonia (plan in Philippians 2:24).
        - **Likely wrote 1 Timothy and Titus at same general time, AD 64.** Either wrote Titus from Ephesus, or both letters from Macedonia. Not sure.
- **2 Timothy 1:8; 4:6-8** - Paul in prison again and believes he's going to die now.
  - **Eusibius:** "*Tradition has it that the apostle, having defended himself, was again sent upon the ministry of preaching, and coming a second time to the city [Rome], suffered martyrdom under Nero.*" *Ecc. Hist. II.xxii. 1,2*
  - **Key:** Great fire in Rome in AD 64. Nero persecuted Christians world-wide as the scapegoats and to distract attention from himself. Makes sense Paul was arrested and killed. (Beheaded b/c he was a Roman citizen)
  - **Summary:** Released from prison in AD 63, travels and preaches for a year, writes 1 Timothy and Titus around AD 64, is re-arrested and imprisoned in Rome, writes 2 Timothy around 65-66 AD. Paul beheaded somewhere between 66-68 AD by Nero.

## Why were they written?

### General Reasons:

#### 1) Paul was getting old

- **Philemon 9** - "the aged/old man." Must make sure the truth is carried on and not undone.

#### 2) False teaching was creeping in to the church

- **Acts 20:28-30** - Christians adopted beliefs from Judaism, Gnosticism, and Greek philosophy.

### Specific Reasons:

- **1 Timothy** - so Timothy would know how to conduct him as an evangelist in the church (3:14-15). Also to show the church that Timothy had Paul's authority backing his mission.
- **Titus** - So Titus would know his work as an evangelist. **Difference:** 1 Timothy focuses on combating false teaching with truth. Titus focuses combating immoral living with grace.
- **2 Timothy** - To encourage Timothy during a discouraging (Paul is about to die) and scary (Nero is persecuting Christians) time to not lose heart but to stay strong and fulfill his ministry.