

The Pastoral Epistles

- 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus
- Help and Instruction for Pastoral Care of Churches
- Meant to be read more widely (e.g. 'Grace to You', plural)
- Paul is 'passing the baton' of leadership
- Can teach us much about discipleship

Why Study These Books?

- Part of the Word of God and therefore useful for our instruction in faith and ministry
- Deals with the 'next phase' of ministry after that of the pioneer (Passing the baton)
- Contains much good advice for those engaged in Gospel work
- Sets down important Gospel priorities
- Gives us an important glimpse into the ministry of Paul

Session 1

Encountering Paul and Timothy (1 Timothy 1:1-2)

1 Timothy

1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ
Jesus by command of God our
Savior and of Christ Jesus our
hope,

To Timothy, my true child in the
faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from
God the Father and Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Paul the Apostle

- 'Apostle of Christ Jesus'
- 'By God's Command'
- Christ the Saviour (cf. Luke 1:46-47)
- 'Our Hope' (cf. Hebrews 6:17-19)
- Paul's Background and Ministry
Emphases
- Why did he write this letter?

Timothy the Co- Worker

- **Act 16:1-5:** Paul's first encounter with Timothy
- Jewish mother and Greek father (2 Tim 1:5) as well as a believing grandmother (Lois)
- Knew the holy scriptures from infancy (2 Timothy 3:15)
- 'Great helper to Paul in his ministry' (cf. 2 Tim 4:9)
- 'My true son in the faith' (1 Tim 1:2)

Acts 16:1-5

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers[b] at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

The Blessing

- **‘Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord’ (v. 2)**
- Grace
- Peace
- Mercy
- We need to be very clear about the source of these blessings

Application

- The road to discipleship starts with the Gospel (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Discipleship = Growth into who God intends us to be
- The Gospel is powerful and can bring profound changes in peoples' lives
- Reflecting on God's goodness in the past should spur us on the trust in his faithfulness in the future

Session 2

Discipleship and Holding on to the Gospel

1 Timothy

1:3-7

³ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

1 Timothy

1:8-11

8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

1 Timothy 1:12-15

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy

1:12-17

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, 20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Remain Firm

- 'Stay There in Ephesus' (v. 3)
- Paul is urging Timothy to complete the work of the Gospel to which he had been called
- In the same way we often need reminders that we are to be faithful to what the Lord has called us to

Important Work to Do

- 'Charge certain people not to teach a different doctrine' (v. 3)
- Teaching contrary to the Word of truth can do great harm
- Examples: Myth, Speculations, Genealogies
- Confess, Promote and Teach the True Gospel (Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners)

Timothy the Disciple

- Ministering with Love that Comes from a Pure Heart
- Good Conscience
- Sincere Faith
- Contrast this with people who have 'wandered away' and do not know what they are talking about

A Fight to be Fought

- Warfare as a metaphor for the Christian life.
- Paul reminds Timothy ('my son') of his high calling in Christ
- Hold on to the faith
- Hold on to a good conscience
- Rejecting this will lead to shipwreck

Dangers to be Avoided

- Those who have a distorted view of the truth of God's Word
- This can lead to disastrous consequences
- Hymenaeus and Alexander (v. 20) as a case study of what can happen when we abandon the truth
- Discipline as an antidote to being led astray

Application

- “Ask not what the Lord can do for you...”
– Discipleship as service
- Rooted in the Gospel – Not ‘vague spirituality’
- Remember that there are dangers out there. Pray for strength and discernment
- Becoming a disciple is not a passive process (cf. military metaphor) we therefor need to spur one another on to obedience and discipline

Session 3

Discipleship and Sacrifice (2 Timothy 1:8-12)

2 Timothy

1:8-12

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Boldness in Suffering

- 'Do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord'
- 'Do not be ashamed of me'
- Joining in suffering
- Boldness as the opposite of shame/timidity

Remember What the Gospel is

- The 'Power of God' (cf. Rom 1:16-17)
- God changes hearts through Gospel
- Through this we are saved and called to a holy life
- This is all due to God's grace and fully manifested in Jesus Christ

Stand Firm and Follow Godly Examples

- Paul as Apostle and Teacher of this message
- This comes with challenges and suffering
- Yet we can know that the one who called us is faithful
- We must, therefore, follow in the footsteps of those who faithfully went before us
- God is able to guard this deposit (v. 12)

Application

- We must remember that the Gospel is powerful and life-changing
- Yet, holding to the Gospel is not something that we can boast about (because it came through grace)
- Many people resist this message. We should therefore be ready to stand with boldness
- Part of this is to place our trust in God as the one who will complete what he started

Session 4

**Pressing Onward
(2 Timothy 3:10-17)**

2 Timothy

3:10-13

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy

3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Looking Backwards

- Paul to Timothy: 'You know all about my teaching'
- Modelling the Gospel ('My way of life')
- Persecution and suffering and what we can learn from them
- We must not follow the ways of the world hoping that 'things will improve' all by themselves

Continuing in God's Ways

- 'But as for you..'
- Continuing in the Gospel for God's glory
- The role of the Word and of godly relationships in helping us make progress
- Because of what God blessed Timothy with, he can go forward with confidence

Going Onward with the Word of God

- The supreme importance of the Word
- Scripture as 'God Breathed'
- Teaching
- Reproof
- Correction
- Training in Righteousness
- So that we may be equipped for every good work

Application

- We must remind ourselves regularly of how far that Lord has brought us
- We should be thankful for, and follow, godly examples
- We should focus on the fact that we share in a high calling
- The Word of God must be absolutely central to life and ministry