

WEEK 21

## **Titus discussion and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy background**

### **Titus discussion**

#### Theme

Haley: appointment of proper leaders

#### Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of Titus ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Titus?

not a very good one!

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

He starts off dealing with the issue of godliness right away in 1:1. What does he say it

comes from?

In 1:6-9, what should elders be and what should they not be?

whose children are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient—see

1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25, 27-36 and 4:12-18

In 1:10, who do we see causing trouble in Crete? Judaizers again

Why must they be dealt with? v.11

Can you think of any examples of 1:15?

Why do you think Paul was so severe towards the false teachers? 1:10-16

What is the standard for men? 2:2,6-8

What are some instructions about how women should behave? 2:3-5

reverent, not slanderers, not alcoholic, teaching what is good (“teaching good

and beautiful things”), training others to love husbands and children,

self-controlled, pure, busy at home, kind, subject to husbands

Why? so no one will speak evil of the word of God

Similarly, why should slaves act in a trustworthy way toward their masters? 2:10

so they will make the teaching about the Savior be attractive to others

What are some things accomplished by the grace of God, in 2:11-12

What is our blessed hope? 2:13-14

What rules for interacting with non-believers are given in 3:1-2?

Why should we be humble? 3:3

What enslaves us?

How did God change all that? v. 4-7

This is a good reminder when we may be frustrated in our dealings with the world

In 3:8-9, what is profitable (useful) and what is unprofitable (useless)?

I notice the repetition of the phrases “doing what is good” and “godliness”

1:1,8,16, 2:3,7,12,14 3:1,8,14

What do you think was a major issue in Crete? esp. in light of 1:12!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy background**

### Timeline

(65) Titus rejoins Paul in Nicopolis (after being relieved by Tychicus or Artemas)

66 2<sup>nd</sup> Roman imprisonment—not at request of Jews this time, but as a Roman criminal,

?related to Great fire and persecution following

Luke was his companion

Titus (who probably accompanied Paul to Rome) is sent to Dalmatia (Yugoslavia)

Beginning of Jewish revolt against Rome

66 2 Timothy – Paul’s final word before martyrdom

### Who wrote it?

Paul

## About the epistle

Nero's persecution of Christians is legendary ; he may have burned Rome down so he could build a new, grander city. But the people began to suspect him, so he accused the Christians of it. They were a new and despised sect, many were from humble walks of life, so he ordered their punishment. In and around Rome, many were arrested and killed.

Many previous emperors had persecuted Jews; Nero was the first to specifically target Christians.

? maybe as part of this wave of persecution, Paul was arrested, this time as a Roman criminal, not at the request of the Jews. Some commentators think that he was charged with being a ringleader of the group that burned the city. We don't really know. That would certainly explain why his friends had forsaken him. Christians were being killed and their leader was on trial for his life. It was dangerous to be seen supporting him.

The Christian religion was now officially illegal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy was written during Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment in Rome

Paul realizes that his death is near; it's a very personal letter to his son in the faith, Timothy.

His last letter that we have.

Paul may have been imprisoned in a dungeon this time, not on house arrest like he was before.

Timothy probably in Ephesus, he was in charge of the church there and in all Asia Minor.

## About the church

Paul stopped in Ephesus on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey

On his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary journey, he stayed in Ephesus almost 3 years

Ministry was so effective that Christians (because of their numbers) became a major influence in a very short period of time.

Ephesus was the capital city of Asia, one of the most sophisticated cities of its time.

Site of the great temple of Artemis, one of 7 wonders of the world

Artemis worship was the heart of the life and the economy.

The church there suffered many hardships for Christ, but persevered.

Churches met in hundreds of homes, each with its own pastoral leadership

Timothy's work was probably primarily with these elders and bishops

False teachers were a problem, especially some strange teachings about apocryphal Jewish

legends and OT genealogies

Hymenaeus and Alexander were two of the leaders of this group

Paul withdrew church membership from them

Alexander, who may have been Paul's friend earlier, may have gone to Rome  
to testify against Paul

A form of Gnosticism developing, stressing:

learning of secret knowledge of God, which was more important than virtue,  
the spiritual things of Scripture can only be understood by a select few,  
evil in the world shows that God was not the only creator,  
that the incarnation of Jesus is not to be believed because

deity would never unite with something material like a body,  
there is no resurrection of the body.

they said that "resurrection" was symbolic of learning the truth,  
and that it happened at baptism

They were teaching abstinence from meat and from married sex

Some of the false teachers were using Paul's arrest to turn the church against him,

just when he needed their love and support the most.

But not everyone believed them – Onesiphorus helped Paul greatly, even

though it was difficult.

### Other info

3:8 Jannes and Jambres—thought to be the Egyptian magicians who performed counterfeit miracles in opposition to Moses (Exodus 7:11-12 for ex.)

### Difficult passages

2:12-13 he will disown us

disown means deny or renounce – in other words, to be an unbeliever

faithless: unbelief that is a moral failure; not acting like the true follower that you are

### After the epistle

We'll never know if Timothy made it to Rome before Paul's death.

Luke was Paul's only companion that we know of for sure.

Paul is martyred in Rome, beheaded.

Peter was martyred in Rome around that same time.

State repression was intermittent, probably because of the growing numbers of believers, and especially because it was spreading even to some of the upper classes and people in government.