

# (Pastoral Epistles) - How to Serve & Live As A Christian



- In your thinking—what does a Christian look like and what does it mean to live like a Christian?

Billy Graham was once visiting a University outside the United States. He was talking with a Hindu student who said, "I would become a Christian if I could ever see what a real Christian looks like." Billy Graham later stated that he was greatly convicted because he was looking at him when he made the comment.

What does a real Christian look like? The pastoral epistles help answer that question. The Pastoral Epistles are the New Testament books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. They are called "pastoral epistles" because they were written to two young pastors - **Timothy** who pastored an early church in Ephesus and **Titus** who pastored on the island of Crete.

## Central Lesson:

**As redeemed followers of Christ - we are to serve & live for Jesus.**

**Author:** The Apostle **PAUL** was the author of all three books (1 Timothy 1:1; 3:17; 2 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:1). The evidence for Paul being the author of these books is extremely strong. The Early Church Fathers throughout the first three centuries identified Paul as the author. They assert this more for these three books than any other of the epistles except for Romans and 1 Corinthians.

**Date:** **First Timothy** was written about A.D. **64**. **Titus** was also written around A.D. **64**. **Second Timothy** was written about A.D. **66** or **67**.

The book of Acts ends with Paul in a Roman prison (Acts 28) and the Bible gives very little details of Paul's life and ministry after Acts 28. A study of the Pastoral Epistles requires Paul to have been released from his Acts 28 Roman imprisonment. Apparently, Paul continued his missionary endeavors, perhaps taking the gospel into Spain as he had hoped to do according to Romans 15:24, 28, and as early church tradition claims. Later, Paul experienced a second imprisonment in Rome where he was eventually beheaded. John MacArthur concludes: "The evidence seems clear that Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus shortly after his release from his first Roman imprisonment (ca. A.D. 62-64), and 2 Timothy from prison during his second Roman imprisonment (ca. A.D. 66-67), shortly before his death." (The MacArthur Bible Handbook, p.438).

**Title:** **1 and 2 Timothy** is named after the recipient—**TIMOTHY** who was one of Paul's converts (1 Tim. 1:2, 18; 1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Tim. 1:2) and closest companion. **Titus** is named after the recipient—**TITUS** who was one of Paul's converts (Titus 1:4) and closest companion. Titus is not mentioned in Acts, but he is mentioned thirteen times in Paul's epistles.

## Key Verses:

- 1 Timothy 3:14-15 *"<sup>14</sup> I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, <sup>15</sup> so that if I am delayed, you will know how*

*people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth."* NLT.

- 2 Timothy 2:15 *"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."* NLT.
- Titus 2:10 *"...Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way."* NLT.

## Outlines:

**1 Timothy** - Warren Wiersbe, outlines the book as:

- I. **The Church and Its Message (Chapter 1)**
- II. **The Church and Its Members (Chapters 2-3)**
- III. **The Church and Its Minister (Chapter 4)**
- IV. **The Church and Its Ministry (Chapters 5-6)**

**2 Timothy** - *Talk Thru the Bible* outlines 2 Timothy as:

- I. **Persevere in Present Testing (Chapters 1-2)**
- II. **Endure in Future Testing (Chapters 3-4)**

**Titus - Chapter 1 - Church Leadership**

**Chapter 2 - Church Laity**

**Chapter 3 - Christian Living**

## Themes:

- **1 Timothy - The world is watching us—we must **BEHAVE** like a believer**

Paul sent Timothy to pastor the church at Ephesus which was the world's fourth-largest city in Paul's day. The city was filled with immorality and occult type religions. The church had false teachers coming in who were confusing the people about the Christian life. Paul wrote the letter of First Timothy to encourage Timothy in his ministry and to instruct him about how to conduct himself and what to teach the people about living the Christian life. Paul places a strong emphasis on the believer being an example to others in living for Christ. Paul was basically saying that the world is watching us and we must show them what a true Christian is.

- **2 Timothy - **FAITHFULNESS** is essential to success in life and to please God.**

Paul wrote the letter of 2 Timothy to instruct his young disciple, Timothy, on how to continue the advancement of the gospel after Paul's death. The epistle of 2 Timothy is a record of the last words of Paul (4:6-8). Last words are usually the most profound as they summarize what is most important to an individual. This letter shows us what was the most important issues for Paul and what should be most important for our lives.

- **Titus - Every Christian should seek to live a life that **ATTRACTS** people to Jesus.**

Titus 2:5, 8, 10, and 3:8 reveal to us Paul's under-lying aim and purpose for this letter. In short—every Christian should live in such a way that it casts a good light on Christianity, that is, they attract people to Jesus. We should make lost people thirsty for Jesus, the living water (John 4:10-11).

## Central Lesson:

**As redeemed followers of Christ - we are to serve & live for Jesus.**

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.