

# **THE PREACHER'S EPISTLES**

**1 TIMOTHY**

**2 TIMOTHY**

**TITUS**

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**A STUDY OF  
RELATIONSHIPS  
IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

# **The Preacher's Epistles**

## **1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus**

These three short epistles contain a great deal of simple instruction for local churches and their operation. I have styled them "The Preacher's Epistles" only because they are typically called "Pastoral Epistles." It is claimed that Timothy and Titus were pastors of local churches. My Holman Bible even says that in the introduction to the epistles. Yet, there is no indication of that either men were pastors. There is a general belief in the religious world that a preacher and pastor are the same. And so, the belief of the religious world is imposed on these three books. We will learn within the books that a preacher and pastor are not the same.

The books, however, were written to two relatively young preachers. Timothy was instructed to "preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2), and to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5).

The Apostle Paul identifies himself as the author of all three books. Early Christian writers also attribute these works to Paul.

### ***Regarding Timothy:***

Timothy is referred to as Paul's "true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2, 18). We are first introduced to Timothy in Acts 16:1-3. In that place, we learn that his mother was Jewish and his father Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted this young Christian to travel with him and therefore had him circumcised to accommodate Jews they would encounter in various places. This began a long relationship of service together in the work of the Lord Jesus. In this relationship Timothy served Paul as a son would his father (Philippians 2:19-24). Timothy not only traveled with Paul, but was sometimes left behind to work with new congregations (Acts 17:13-14). Timothy's service unto God also involved encouraging those congregations where Paul had labored (1 Thessalonians 3:1-3). This young man was one who could be trusted, as he sometimes served as Paul's personal emissary (1 Corinthians 16:10-11; Philippians 2:19-24). Timothy also had the honor of joining Paul in the salutation of several epistles written by Paul. (See 2 Corinthians, Philippians, and Colossians, and the Thessalonian letters, where Timothy is mentioned in the opening texts.) Surely, it is easy to understand why Paul would refer to Timothy as a "true son in the faith." He was a young man who was faithful to Jesus, and was a faithful companion to the apostle.

### ***Regarding Titus:***

It is worthy of note that Paul refers to Titus in much the same way as he spoke of Timothy, as a "true son in our common faith" (Titus 1:4). While there is no mention of Titus by name in the book of Acts, we can learn some things about him from Paul's epistles. He was a Greek by birth (Galatians 2:3), and accompanied Paul to Jerusalem during the controversy over circumcision (Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 2:1-5).

During Paul's third missionary journey, Titus was his personal emissary to the church at Corinth, seeking to learn how they had received his first letter. When Titus did not return to Troas as expected, Paul anxiously went on to Macedonia (2 Corinthians 2:12-13). It was at Macedonia that Paul and Titus found each other, giving Paul a measure of comfort, learning that the Corinthians had received his first letter well. (2 Corinthians 7:5-7, 13-15). Following that meeting at Macedonia, Paul sent Titus and two others back to Corinth, bearing the second Corinthian letter. In that epistle, he exhorted the brethren to complete their collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5).

At the time of the letter to Titus, he had been left at Crete to "set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city" (Titus 1:5). At some later time, Paul planned for Titus to meet him at Nicopolis in northwest Greece (Titus 3:12). In the last biblical reference to Titus, we learn that he had gone to Dalmatia (in modern day Yugoslavia) during the final days of Paul's life (2 Timothy 4:10).

### ***The Time and Place of Writing:***

It is generally believed that Paul was released from prison after two years in Rome (Acts 28:30-31). After his being set free, he was able to serve God without hindrance for the next two or three years. During this time of liberty he wrote his first letter to Timothy as well as the epistle to Titus (ca. 63-64 A.D.). He was later arrested again, and during that time wrote 2 Timothy (ca. 66-67 A.D.). Paul was executed shortly thereafter.

As to the place from which the epistles were written, it cannot be said with certainty where 1 Timothy was written, though general consensus puts it at Macedonia (1 Timothy 1:3). Evidently, Timothy was in Ephesus when Paul wrote this first letter. It is obvious that 2 Timothy was written while Paul was imprisoned at Rome (2 Timothy 1:8). It is likely that the book of Titus was written from Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).

### ***The Purposes of the Epistles:***

A main theme of 1 Timothy is expressed in 1 Timothy 3:14-15, where Paul writes this:

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

We should understand this book in the light of this text. It is about conduct among the people (house) of God. Very many relationships among church members are regulated by this book.

Another important thought in 1 Timothy has to do with the threat of false doctrine. Note 1 Timothy 1:3 where Paul gave this admonition: “charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” See also 1 Timothy 4:1 where Paul warns about men who will depart from the faith.

A main theme of 2 Timothy is found in 2 Timothy 4:2-4, where Paul writes this:

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

Simply put, Paul's hope for Timothy was that he faithfully perform the duty of an evangelist. Perhaps a thought is needed here on what an evangelist is. Modern use of the term has relegated him to a travelling preacher. The word itself means to be a proclaimer of the good news. Travelling is not inherent in the word. Note that both Timothy and Titus stayed in a location for an indefinite time (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5).

A main theme found in Titus can be seen in Titus 2:1.

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.”

It may be said that all three of these preacher's epistles are similar in theme. All give instructions as to what preachers are to do. These books ought to be studied diligently by every preacher.

If they are preacher's epistles, then what benefit are they to others? Why should we have a general Bible class for all Christians that studies these books? A good question. The answer is seen in that all three letters contain specific instructions as to how Christians generally are to conduct themselves. Each book addresses things that every Christian must deal with. How would the following passages be relevant to you?

1 Timothy 2:8-12 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 3:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

# ***The Preacher's Epistles: 1 Timothy***

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## ***Chapter One: The Charge Concerning Sound Doctrine***

The first chapter of this book contains four fundamental elements.

1. The introduction to the book (1:1-2).
2. The charge to Timothy to teach and accept only sound doctrine (1:3-11).
3. Paul's thanksgiving for the mercy of Christ that has made him a preacher (1:12-17).
4. The charge to Timothy to wage a good warfare (1:18-20).

## ***Chapter One: The Ten Questions***

1. How did Paul describe Timothy in his opening remarks? (1:1-2) Why did he call him this?
2. Why did Paul urge Timothy to remain in Ephesus? (1:3)
3. What did Paul say would cause disputes rather than godly edification (1:4) Can you define edification?
4. What was the threefold purpose of this commandment? (1:5)
5. How would you define "idle talk"? (1:6) Does such a thing exist today? Can you give an example?
6. Some Christians wanted to be "teachers of the law." (1:7-11) What problem did these men have?
7. How did Paul describe his former life? (1:12-15) Can you describe yours? (Not to be shared in class.)
8. To what does Paul attribute his present life? (1:15). To what do you attribute your present life?
9. Who does Paul describe as "the King eternal..."? (1:16) What are His attributes?
10. What did Timothy need to carry out his charge? (1:18-20) What about the naming of false teachers?

## ***Chapter Two: Conduct Among the People of God***

The second chapter of 1 Timothy can be viewed in two parts.

1. The practice of prayer (2:1-8).
2. Instructions for women (2:9-15).

## ***Chapter Two: The Ten Questions***

1. What are four elements of prayer found in the opening of the chapter? (2:1) Explain each.
2. According to this text, for whom are we to pray? (2:2) What is the purpose of these prayers?
3. What is God's desire for all men? (2:3-4) How does this impact Calvinistic predestination?
4. Jesus is our mediator. What is a mediator? (2:5-6) How many such mediators exist?
5. Paul identifies himself as a teacher of the Gentiles. (2:7) Can you find another text where he does this?
6. What does it mean to pray without wrath and doubting? (2:8) What does "holy hands" mean?
7. How are godly women to adorn themselves? (2:9-10) How are they not to adorn themselves?
8. Two prohibitions are here given to women concerning men; what are they? (2:11-12) What are some ways in which women might violate these prohibitions?
9. What are the two reasons Paul gives for these limitations on women? (2:13-14)
10. According to this text, what must women do to be saved? (2:15) Must they bear children?

### **Chapter Three: Characteristics of Bishops and Deacons**

The third chapter of 1 Timothy can be viewed in three parts.

1. Qualities needed in order for a man to become a bishop (3:1-7).
2. Qualities needed in order for a man to become a deacon (3:8-13).
3. The purpose of Paul's writing: to regulate conduct among God's people (3:14-16).

### **Chapter Three: The Ten Questions**

1. How does Paul describe the position of a bishop? (3:1)
2. List all of the positive characteristics of a bishop (the things he must be or have). (3:2-7)
3. List all of the negative characteristics of a bishop (the things he must not be or have). (3:2-7)
4. What motivations might some folks have in using this list to try to find flaws in a man? (3:2-7)
5. List all of the positive characteristics of a deacon (the things he must be or have). (3:8-12)
6. List all of the negative characteristics of a deacon (the things he must not be or have). (3:8-12)
7. What is said of those deacons who have served God and the church well? (3:13)
8. Why did Paul write this epistle? (3:14-15) Do the principles found in this book apply only "at church."
9. What bearing would this text have on the limitation on women in chapter two? (3:14-15; 2:11-12)
10. What are we to make of this unusual text at the end of the chapter? (3:15) What are your thoughts? How does this fit into the rest of the chapter and the context of the book?

### ***Chapter Four: The Looming Apostasy and How to Oppose It***

The fourth chapter of 1 Timothy can be described in two parts.

1. A departure from the faith was on the horizon (4:1-5).
2. What Timothy must do with respect to doctrine and godly living (4:6-16).

### ***Chapter Four: The Ten Questions***

1. To what period does the “latter times” apply? (4:1) Timothy’s time? Our time? Which?
2. How does Paul describe the character of these doctrines of departure? (4:1)
3. What would be the character of the men who promoted such doctrines? (4:2)
4. What would be some of the doctrines these men would promote? (4:3-5) What does Paul declare as a follow-up to the false doctrines of these men?
5. What was Timothy’s duty to the brethren? (4:6) Would he have to do some “negative” preaching?
6. What kind of things must Timothy reject? (4:7) Can you give some examples of this?
7. What is it that benefits our lives now and also in the life to come? (4:8-9) How would it benefit us now? Why is this called a “faithful saying”? Can you find any other “faithful sayings”?
8. Due to such teaching that Paul and Timothy had to do, they sometimes experienced what? (4:10-11)
9. What was Timothy to do with respect to his life and teaching? (4:12-15) Why was he to do this?
10. What two things was he to take heed to? (4:16) What would be the result if he did these two things?

### **Chapter Five: How To Treat Church Members**

The fifth chapter of 1 Timothy can be broken into three sections.

1. Timothy's conduct toward all members of the spiritual family (5:1-2).
2. Addressing various classes of widows (5:3-16).
3. Interacting with elders in the church (5:17-25).

### **Chapter Five: The Ten Questions**

1. Timothy is to give exhortation to all the members of the church. (5:1-2) What are the four groups listed? And what is to be done with respect to each group?
2. In your opinion, toward which group must Timothy be most sensitive? (5:1-2)
3. The section on widows is one that is challenging. (5:3-16) Should all widows be classed the same? How many different widows can you find in this section? (We are looking for widows in differing situations.)
4. Who has the first responsibility to take care of needy widows? (5:3-8)
5. What is the "number" (or "roll") mentioned by Paul? (5:9-10) What things distinguish these women?
6. What are young widows urged to do—and why? (5:11-15)
7. What is the "double honor" that is to be given to some elders—and why? (5:17-18)
8. What is Timothy not to do regarding accusations against elders? (5:19-20) What about those who continue in sin?
9. What must Timothy not be guilty of? (5:21-23) With respect to purity what admonition does Paul give Timothy regarding the use of wine?
10. What is meant by some men's sins are "preceding them to judgment"? (5:24-25) Are some sins and also some good works hidden today? Explain your answer?

### ***Chapter Six: A Chapter of Special Instructions***

The final chapter of 1 Timothy can be broken into five parts.

1. Instructions for those who are bondservants (6:1-2).
2. Instructions concerning those teachers who are motivated by greed (6:3-10).
3. Instructions for Timothy—the teach of truth and man of God (6:11-16).
4. Instructions for the rich among the Christians (6:17-19)
5. A concluding charge to Timothy (6:20-21)

### ***Chapter Six: The Ten Questions***

1. Why should servants take care to honor their masters? (6:1-2) Why would the issue of servants and masters be so important in Timothy's time?
2. What does Paul mean by his use of the phrase "wholesome words"? (6:3-5) Have you ever known anyone who always wanted to argue about words? What do such men produce?
3. How are we to understand the phrase about some "who suppose godliness is a means of gain"? (6:5)
4. Everyone wants contentment. According to these verses, how is it achieved? (6:6-8)
5. What can we expect if our primary life goal is to gain riches? (6:9-10)
6. Rather than pursuing the love of money, Timothy was told to pursue what? (6:11)
7. What is "the good confession" Timothy had made? (6:12-13) Had Jesus also made such a confession?
8. What commandment was Timothy supposed to keep? (6:14-16) Who is "King of kings" in this text?
9. How do we reconcile these verses with the earlier warning about not loving money? (6:17-19)
10. What was committed to Timothy's trust—that he was to guard? (6:20-21)

# ***The Preacher's Epistles: 2 Timothy***

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## ***Chapter One: Hold Fast to the Truth of the Gospel***

The first chapter of this book contains four fundamental elements.

1. The introduction to the book (1:1-2).
2. Concerning Timothy's personal faith and spiritual heritage (1:3-7).
3. Timothy must not be ashamed of the gospel—or of Paul (1:8-12).
4. Hold fast to the pattern of sound words (1:13-18).

## ***Chapter One: The Ten Questions***

1. In the first letter, Paul called Timothy “a true son in the faith.” What is he called here? (1:1-2)
2. Why do you think Paul had such a desire to see Timothy? (1:3-4)
3. What were the names of Timothy's mother and grandmother? (1:5) How much do we know about them?
4. What did Paul remind Timothy of? (1:6-7) What had God not given to Paul and Timothy?
5. Why might Timothy potentially be ashamed of either Paul or the gospel? (1:8)
6. Why, in verse 11, do you think Paul reminded Timothy of his apostleship? (1:9-11)
7. What had Paul committed unto the Lord? (1:12) What have you and I committed?
8. Timothy is to “hold fast the pattern of sound words.” (1:13-14) A similar phrase is in 1 Timothy. Where?
9. Paul again names men who were guilty of apostasy. (1:15) Does he have a right to do that?
10. In contrast to those who turned away from Paul, another man had helped Paul. (1:16-18) What had he done for him? And what did Paul pray would come to this man?

### ***Chapter Two: The Faithful Preacher***

The second chapter of 2 Timothy can be viewed in three parts.

1. An exhortation to transmit the truth to others (2:1-2).
2. An exhortation to endure hardship (2:3-13).
3. An exhortation to be diligent as the Lord's servant (2:14-16).

### ***Chapter Two: The Ten Questions***

1. What do we see late in this chapter that would necessitate Timothy being strong? (2:1)
2. What are the two most fundamental requirements for those who would teach the gospel? (2:2)
3. Paul uses three areas of endeavor to encourage Timothy. (2:3-7) Can you identify each one and explain Paul's point with each?
4. What does Paul identify as the one thing that should most motivate Timothy? (2:8)
5. To motivate Timothy, who does Paul now use as an example of suffering? (2:9-13)
6. It seems important to Paul that folks should not get into these disputes. (2:14) What is the harm in it? Once again, looking at the larger context of this chapter, with whom will most of Timothy's work be?
7. What is Timothy's defense against idle talk? (2:15-18) What false doctrine were some promoting?
8. Men may be confused as to who is on the Lord's side, but is God ever confused on that? (2:19)
9. What must a person do if he wants to be used as a vessel of honor in God's house? (2:20-21)
10. What repeated warning does Paul again give Timothy? (2:22-26) People who conduct themselves in ungodly ways are under whose control?

### ***Chapter Three: Perilous Times Are Coming***

The third chapter of 2 Timothy can be viewed in three parts.

1. A warning about the perilous times and perilous people (3:1-9).
2. A reminder of Paul's example of endurance in times of persecution (3:10-13).
3. Encouragement to abide in the all-sufficient Scriptures (3:14-17).

### ***Chapter Three: The Ten Questions***

1. What does Paul mean by "the last days"? (3:1) Is it the entire gospel age? Or is it those few years just before the return of Jesus? Can you find other Scripture to verify your answer?
2. This period of time will be marked by "love." (3:1-5) What kinds of things will men love?
3. What does it mean to have "a form of godliness, but denying its power"? (3:5)
4. Who are Jannes and Jambres? (3:6-9) What do we learn here that we did not learn from Exodus?
5. How is it possible that men can be "always learning and never able" to learn the truth? (3:7)
6. List all the things that Timothy had followed from Paul's life. (3:10-11) Does "followed" merely mean that he kept track of those things, or does it mean something more?
7. Is it your opinion that most men get better over time? (3:12) Or, to ask the question another way, is our culture getting better and more wholesome and upright? Give examples.
8. From whom had Timothy learned the Scriptures—and when did he learn those things? (3:14-15) Is there any lesson for us in this?
9. What is the purpose for which God has given us the inspired Scriptures? (3:16-17)
10. The New Testament Scriptures were not yet written when Timothy was a child. He was taught from the Old Testament. Does Paul's statement about inspiration only apply to the Old Testament? (3:14-17)

### ***Chapter Four: Paul's Final Charge to Timothy***

The fourth chapter of 2 Timothy can be described in five parts.

1. An exhortation to preach the word (4:1-5).
2. Paul's life and ministry would soon come to an end (4:6-8).
3. The need for Timothy to come quickly to Paul (4:9-16).
4. The faithfulness of the Lord in standing with Paul (4:17-18).
5. Paul's final greetings and salutation (4:19-22).

### ***Chapter Four: The Ten Questions***

1. When will Jesus judge the living and the dead? (4:1)
2. What does it mean to preach the word "in season and out of season"? (4:1-2)
3. What would some people not endure? (4:3-4) What would they do instead? Is it that way today?
4. In light of these trying times when men resist the gospel, what four things was Timothy told to do? (4:5)
5. What does Paul mean by saying he is "being poured out"? (4:6-8) Paul uses three phrases to describe his life before God. What are they?
6. What did Paul expect to receive from the Lord? (4:8) Is it right for us to expect the same?
7. Why does Paul urge Timothy to come quickly? (4:9)
8. It appears that only one man was with Paul at this time. Who was it? (4:10-16) What name in this section might surprise us?
9. Paul was confident that the Lord would do what for him? (4:17-18) How do you explain this in light of the fact that Paul was about to die—and did indeed die?
10. In these final words, what do you find Paul urging Timothy to do? (4:19-22)

# ***The Preacher's Epistles: Titus***

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## ***Chapter One: Instructions for Protecting the Local Church***

The first chapter of this book contains three fundamental elements.

1. The introduction to the book (1:1-5).
2. Requirements for those men who would serve as protectors of the flock (1:5-9).
3. The dangers presented by false teachers who would destroy the flock (1:8-12).

## ***Chapter One: The Ten Questions***

1. Paul served God in proclaiming “the truth which accords with godliness”? (1:1) Explain the meaning of this phrase.
2. What is it that God “cannot” do? (1:2) How should we react to this statement?
3. Through what means has God chosen to make His word known? (1:3) How much attention should you and I give to this means?
4. Define the three terms Paul uses to greet Titus, his true son in the faith. (1:4)
5. What can we conclude from Paul about a church that does not have elders? (1:5)
6. Why does Paul conclude this section on elders with a statement about “holding fast the faithful word”? (1:5-9) What other term does Paul use to describe the man who would serve as an elder?
7. According to this text, what must elders always be prepared to do? (1:10-11)
8. What would be particularly challenging about Titus’ work at Crete. (1:12-13)
9. Looking particularly at verse 10 and verse 14, who might Titus expect the most trouble from? (1:10-14)
10. What does it mean to “profess to know God, but in works they deny Him”? (1:15-16)

## ***Chapter Two: Things Which Are According to Sound Doctrine***

The second chapter of Titus can be viewed in two parts.

1. Instructions regarding proper Christian conduct (2:1-2).
2. The grace of God teaches us to live holy lives (2:11-15).

## ***Chapter Two: The Ten Questions***

1. Paul opens the chapter with a command to speak sound doctrine. (2:1) Where did we find similar commands in the two books written to Timothy? What does this tell you about sound doctrine?
2. What are the four groups of Christians Titus is to address? (2:2-6)
3. Why do you think Paul gives special attention to young women in this section? (2:3-5) Who should be the primary teachers of young women in these matters?
4. In light of what is said to those four groups, what does Titus need to particularly do? (2:7-8) There is an important word found in verse 8 that is used for the third time in this chapter. What is it?
5. What were servants supposed to do to “adorn the doctrine of God”? (2:9-10) What does this mean?
6. To whom has the grace of God appeared? (2:11) What does this do to the doctrine of Calvinism?
7. God’s grace teaches us both negatively and positively. (2:11-12) List both the negatives and positives.
8. Why should we be concerned about right living “in the present age”? (2:11-13)
9. According to this verse, what kind of people does Jesus want us to be? (2:14)
10. As a preacher, should Titus be timid and mousey in proclaiming these truths? (2:15) Why, or why not?

### **Chapter Three: General Instructions for God's People**

The third and final chapter of Titus can be viewed in three parts.

1. Concerning proper and godly conduct (3:1-2).
2. Reasons why our conduct should be proper and godly (3:3-11).
3. Final instructions and greetings (3:12-15).

### **Chapter Three: The Ten Questions**

1. What are the responsibilities of Christians toward rulers and authorities? (3:1)
2. What responsibilities do we have toward all men? (3:2) Is there ever a time when it is right to lie about others? What about making unsubstantiated charges against others? What about gossiping?
3. What does this verse present as a reason for gentle and humble conduct toward others? (3:3) Why is this a reason for godly living?
4. What does this verse teach us about understanding God's grace (from verse 11)? (3:4)
5. God did not save us by what? (3:5-6) Instead, he saved us by two things (according to the text). What are those two things?
6. If we expect to be heirs of eternal life, what should we be careful to maintain? (3:7-8) How often should Titus remind the brethren of these things?
7. What does Paul do here that he has done in the previous books? (3:9) Does this tell you something?
8. In what ways does a divisive man work? (3:10-11) What are some of his techniques? What should be done with such a man and why should it be done?
9. In this final instruction, what does Paul tell Titus to do one more time? (3:12-15)
10. Once again, as with the two letters to Timothy, it is clear that most of the evangelist's work is with his brethren—not with the world at large. Does this surprise you? And why is work focused on his brethren?