

Setting the stage

- Since Luke finishes the Book of Acts with Paul in Rome under house arrest, it is very likely that Luke wrote that book before Paul’s death, the burning of Rome, and the destruction of Jerusalem. Therefore, Luke likely wrote Acts in 62 A.D.
- It is also likely that Peter wrote his letters between 62 and 64 A.D. We will take those letters next week when we discuss the general epistles. (I just want to give you a timeframe of those letters here.)
- Today we want to focus on Paul’s release from his house arrest until his next arrest where he will be put to death.

Introduction

- If you had limited time and limited space to share some instruction with two young, inexperienced pastors, what you say?

Paul’s fourth missionary journey (or fifth if you include his voyage to Rome)

The situation

- Paul had the goal preaching the gospel in _____. After his two year imprisonment (house arrest) in Rome, Paul may have preached in Spain as he had been planning to do (Romans 15:23,24,28). (*According to the extra-biblical book 1 Clement, the apostle Paul did reach Spain, that is, the far West.*)
- He may have been in _____ for a year and then traveled eastward to visit his former mission congregations in Asia Minor and Macedonia. On the way, Paul took time to do mission work on _____ where he left _____ (Titus 1:5). From there he went to Ephesus for a short visit leaving _____ in charge of the congregation there while he went on to Macedonia (1 Timothy 1:3). Paul probably wrote 1 Timothy and Titus from Philippi (or Thessalonica). It also appears as though Paul had plans to spend a winter in _____ (Titus 3:12). He asked Titus to meet him there as well.
- Some people think that Paul may have traveled to Spain after staying in Nicopolis. Others believe that he was arrested in Nicopolis and then taken to Rome. Whereas those could be possibilities, it seems more likely that Paul left Macedonia and traveled to Corinth then to Miletus and then finally to Troas where he was abruptly arrested (he couldn’t even grab some essential items) and then was taken to Rome (2 Timothy 4:13,20). From Rome he wrote another letter to Timothy (2 Timothy).

Possible chronology for Paul’s fourth journey:

Rome – released from prison in 62 A.D.

Spain

Crete – left Titus behind

Ephesus – left Timothy behind

Philippi (or Thessalonica) – wrote 1 Timothy (63 A.D.), Titus (63-66 A.D.)

Nicopolis

Corinth

Miletus

Troas

Rome – wrote 2 Timothy (67 A.D.), martyred in 67/68 A.D.

Paul's first letter to Timothy

The letter

Theme: Fight the good fight (1 Timothy 1:18)

Outline:

- By opposing current false teachers (1:1-20)
- By teaching people how to conduct themselves in God's household, the church (2:1-3:16)
- By opposing future false teachers (4:1-16)
- By instructing people of all kinds (5:1-6:21)

Sample: *1 Timothy 3:1-7*

_____ times the apostle Paul uses the phrase "trustworthy saying" in the pastoral epistles (_____).

Going back to 1 Timothy 3:1-7, what does it mean that an overseer must be "above reproach"?

What is the one "skill" (as opposed to character traits) that Paul expects pastors to have?

Why are these truths valuable for us today?

Things to remember about 1 Timothy

1:15 - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.

3:1ff - Qualifications for being an overseer

6:3-10 - The dangers of the love of money

Paul's letter to Titus

The letter

Theme: Grace to finish the work.

Outline:

Introduction (1:1-4)

The work of appointing elders (1:5-9)

The work of rebuking false teachers (1:10-16)

The work of instructing God's people (2:1-3:8)

The work of dealing with the divisive (3:9-11)

Closing (3:12-15)

Sample: *Titus 3:9-11*

Against what kind of people does Paul warn Titus?

If a false teacher persists, to what extent are we to separate from them?

Why are these truths valuable for us today?

Things to remember about Titus:

2:11-14 – Salvation has appeared (Christmas Eve lesson)

3:4-7 – God saves us through baptism

3:9-11 – Total separation from false teachers

Paul's second letter to Timothy

The letter

Theme: Encouragement during troubled times

Contents:

Introduction (1:1,2)

Guard the gospel during times of suffering (1:3-18)

Correctly handle the gospel during times of false teaching (2:1-26)

Continue in the gospel during the wickedness of the last days (3:1-17)

Proclaim the gospel during times when people don't want to hear it (4:1-8)

Personal remarks and conclusion (4:9-22)

Sample: 2 *Timothy* 3:14-4:5

In opposition to the evil of the last days, what does Paul encourage Timothy to do in 3:14?

What is God's Word able to do when we read or hear it?

What else does Paul encourage Timothy to do with God's Word in 4:2?

Why are these truths valuable to us today?

Things to remember about 2 Timothy:

A very personal letter, and Paul's last

3:15-17 – The inspiration and sufficiency of Scripture

4:2-5 – Preach the Word, in season and out of season

For next week:

- Review the pastoral letters (1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy)
- Read the general epistles (James, 1 & 2 Peter, Hebrews, Jude)