

Lessons from II Timothy

1. Christian leaders must be _____ despite personal costs (1:8-12). Paul actually *invites* Timothy to suffer with him. How often do we think of suffering as a welcome invitation to glorify God and represent the gospel?
2. Christian life and ministry is one of _____. We are supernaturally aided by grace, but we should expect persecution and hardship.
3. The gospel is _____. Five times in the pastoral epistles Paul refers to "trustworthy sayings." Four of the five times he is speaking specifically about the gospel message itself. In II Timothy 2:11-13, probably an early hymn, the promised life and reign with Christ serves as motivation for enduring bondage in chains and suffering like a criminal (2:8).

I, II Timothy and Titus: Servant Leaders of the Kingdom

I. Background to the Pastorals

II. Author

III. Date of Pastorals

I Timothy – Protect the Gospel

I. Church

I Timothy is probably the earliest of the pastoral epistles. It was probably written while Paul was under house arrest in Rome, where we find him at the very end of the book of Acts. Paul left Timothy to administer to the growing church in Ephesus (see I Timothy 1:3; II Timothy 1:18). A major problem in the Ephesus church was a heresy that combined decadent Judaism (I Timothy 1:3-7) and false asceticism (I Timothy 4:1-5). As we read in Acts 20, Ephesus was particularly vulnerable to false teaching:

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

II. What do we know about Timothy?

III. Brief Outline of I Timothy

- I. The Mission (1:1-20)
- II. The Ministry (2 – 3)
- III. The Minister (4 – 6)

IV. Three Lessons from I Timothy

- A. Shepherding is much more

- B. Church leadership is much more

- C. Ministry is the maintenance of balance between
_____ (6:6-8)

Titus: Practice the Gospel

I. Background and Purpose

II. Brief Outline of Titus

The Church must maintain:

- I. Good _____ (Chap. 1)
- II. Good _____ (Chap. 2)
- III. Good _____ (Chap. 3)

Three Lessons from Titus on Doctrine and Deeds:

1. Deeds either _____ or _____ our doctrine. Our lives are our doctrine on display: *"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him" (1:16)*

2. Grace _____ godliness; it does not _____ it. When we walk in grace, we grow in godliness – true and authentic godliness. Consider Titus 2:14:

"..who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

3. God's _____ toward us and His _____ for us _____ the way we act. (3:4-8)

If 1 Timothy is a message to *protect* the gospel, and 2 Timothy (which we will turn to momentarily) is a call to *preach* the gospel, then Titus is a plea to *practice* the gospel.

II Timothy: Preach the Gospel

I. Background

II. Purpose of II Timothy: a call for Timothy to continue in his ministry, to stir up his gifts, to preach the gospel.

III. Brief outline of II Timothy

We could summarize the life of faithful ministry and outline II Timothy in **three words**:

- I. Guard (1:14)
- II. Persevere (2:3 and 3:14)
- III. Preach (4:2)