

NEW TESTAMENT 3

Paul's Letters - Week 10

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Pastoral Epistles encourage the whole church to live together in ways that honour God, in his absence Paul writes to individuals to teach and admonish the church, growing leaders who are godly and faithful

Before we begin...

In what ways and to what degree are Christian views on leadership influenced by the views in the world around us?

The Pastoral Epistles

1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus

Context and Situation:

Known and accepted by the second century after Jesus.

Conservatives still accept this, acknowledging difficulties of dating the epistles on internal details.

They appear to be from late in Paul's ministry, circa 65AD

Occasion and Purpose:

A *syncretic* form of false teaching of Jewish provenance that encouraged asceticism and *gnosis*

The Pastoral Epistles

1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus

Context and Situation:

Who is this recipient? What is their connection with Paul? What was their role in the Gospel mission?

Occasion and Purpose:

What has prompted this letter? What does Paul want in response?

Theological Principles:

What do we learn about God, his plans and his purposes, to respond to the occasion?

Read the text of the Epistle.

Identify key verses that help to explain these points.

Carefully consider any imperative statements.

What do we learn about the role and responsibility of 'overseers' or 'elders'?

What is different about deacons?

What is notable about Paul's inclusions and exclusions from these characteristics?

Christian Leaders

1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus

What are the most important qualities of Christian leaders?

How do all Christians need to respond to God's grace in Christ as expressed in these letters?

What is distinctive between these letters?

Read 'Timothy and Titus, Epistles to', 'Church' and 'Gnosticism' in the *New Bible Dictionary*