

## A Study in Acts

### Post Acts

#### ACTS 28:30-31:

**Acts 28:30-31** *“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”*

In the final two verses of Luke’s historic record, we see Paul for two years in Rome, which we covered in our previous lesson including the writing of four books of the New Testament. It is at this point that we will cover what transpires after the two years are complete.

Now there is not a specific record like Luke’s that directly deals with what transpires after Paul’s time in Rome is complete. However, if we follow clues left for us in the narrative of the letters he would write after he leaves Rome the first time, we can follow a remarkably interesting final journey of the Apostle to the Gentiles.

In addition, we will see a distinct set of marching orders to the evangelists that Paul will strategically place in certain locations to carry on with the instruction in righteousness he has begun. In this lesson we will look at **1 Timothy**, **Titus**, and **2 Timothy**.

#### 1 Timothy

**Author** – Paul

**To** – Timothy, Paul’s *“true son in the faith”* (1:1-2), and evangelist, left in Ephesus to demand that *“no other doctrine”* be taught (1:3). The rest of the letter is confirming the Spirit of the Lord’s authority assigned to this task, by Paul’s own Apostolic mission (1:1). This authority has already been at work in Timothy’s preaching and teaching, but no is confirmed to be of God and faithful in keeping these brethren (4:6; 6:3).

Paul has expressed before that in Timothy, he has had no one as like-minded as he – **Philippians 2:19-24**. Paul’s commendation of Timothy as a faithful steward is not new – **1 Corinthians 16:10-11**.

Paul will leave Timothy here after his release from captivity in Rome. He would verbally give him his work orders as an evangelist here, then after he would arrive in Macedonia, he would write back giving him Apostolic authority for the work he is engaged in.

**Ephesians** – These Christians had been serving the Lord for some time now, and Paul spent three years there to establish them in faith (Acts 19), he met with the elders at Miletus in **Acts 20**, and charged them to continue to look to themselves and shepherd the church. Paul will leave Timothy here to found these brethren in the midst of growing Christianity in Asia Minor, but also growing opposition to their commitment to the Lord from outside sources and from inside sources.

**Theme** – To encourage a young preacher in his work of waging the good warfare (**1:18**), and to be on guard against those who would stray from the truth (**1:5-7**).

### **Outline**

**1:1-2 – Salutation.**

**1:3-20 – Sound Doctrine.**

**2:1-15 – Orderly Christian Collective Service.**

**3:1-13 – Church Order.**

**3:14-16 – First Section Concluding Warning.**

**4:1-5 – Departure Coming.**

**4:6-16 – How to Recognize and Be a Good Servant of Jesus Christ.**

**5:1-25 – Submission and Care for One Another.**

**6:1-21 – Concluding Thoughts.**

### **Titus**

**Author** – Paul (**1:1**), with a sense of urgency (**1:5**).

**To** – Titus, *“a true son in our common faith”* (**1:4**). An evangelist left on the Isle of Crete with a similar charge to that of Timothy in Ephesus, *“set in order the things that are lacking”* (**1:5**). Titus was Greek, the son of Gentile parents (**Galatians 2:3**), and like Timothy, had developed a strong work ethic for the Lord.

In the same way Paul authorized Timothy verbally to engage in the good warfare, likewise, Titus is giving the same verbal instructions, and then when Paul arrives at Nicopolis, he would write back with these instructions in Apostolic authority.

Titus’ instructions in carrying out his work were not laced with civility, but with great intense warning, as they were in great danger (**1:13**).

**Cretans** – These Christians had the Gospel preached to them partially on the day of Pentecost, and mostly from Paul’s journey to Rome, while they waited for better weather to travel. However, since the Gospel has come to them, many among them have become insubordinate and unethical in practice, especially of the circumcision (Jews – **1:10**).

Not only were they lacking the order that a Body of Christ should demonstrate for its own protection, but it was lacking the universal character that all members of the Body are expected to transform into (**2:1-10**).

**Theme** – *“Set in Order the Things that are Lacking”*.

**Outline –**

**1:1-4 – Introduction.**

**1:5-2:10 – Set Things in Order.**

**2:11-3:8 – Special People Zealous for Good Works.**

**3:9-15 – Avoid Dissension and Closing Remarks.**

## **2 Timothy**

**Author –** Paul, from his second and last imprisonment in Rome (**1:17, 4:6-8**).

**To –** Timothy, who is still in Ephesus working with the brethren there. Paul writes this last letter to his **“beloved son” (1:2)**, to give him his charge after Paul’s departure from this life, and in addition, to come to him in Rome bringing Mark, a cloak, and books plus parchments (**4:9-13**).

In the coming years, the work of an evangelist will become crucial, if you could argue that it isn’t crucial right when Paul writes this. This letter speaks in great detail of the post-apostolic church, and the great difficulties the Body of Christ will face in weak and altogether apostate brethren.

The three letters we have looked at in these introductions are the founding record of the charge and work of evangelists in each Body of Christ (as the Lord puts them in each Body – **Ephesians 4:11**).

**Theme –** Remember the Training You Received and Do the Work of an Evangelist.

**Outline –**

**1:1-2 – Salutation.**

**1:3-18 – Trust Your Faith that comes from the Word, Without Shame.**

**2:1-26 – Be Strong in the Service of Christ.**

**3:1-9 – Apostasy is Coming.**

**3:10-17 – The Man of God in the Face of Apostasy.**

**4:1-5 – Timothy’s Commission.**

**4:6-22 – Paul’s Closing Words.**