

The First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Author

What are the three Pastoral Epistles? What two pastors are these epistles written to?

Is there an ecclesial hierarchy in place during the earliest days of the Church?

Destination and Themes

Who does Paul address this letter to? What crisis does this letter try to deal with?

Read 1:1-2 Who is Timothy? Was he a bishop? Where? (Note 1:2)

Read 1:3-11 Does St. Paul consider fornication and sodomy to be sinful behavior? (Note 1:3-11) (Note 1:10)

Read 1:18-20 Why did Paul surrender Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan? (Note 1:20)

Read 2:1-15 What two types of prayer does Chapter 2 deal with? (Note 2:1-15)

Did the Jews of the Old Testament pray and offer sacrifice for secular rulers?
(Note 2:2)

Did Jesus die only to redeem select individuals or the entire human family? (Note 2:4)

Who is the one mediator between God and Man? Can others also mediate in a subordinate and participatory way? (Note 2:5)

What guidance is given to women concerning proper attire for liturgical worship?
(Note 2:9)

What does St. Paul mean when he says, "I permit no women to teach"? (Note 2:12)

Read 3:1-7 What is the difference between bishops, elders and deacons? How do these three pastoral positions mirror those of the Old Testament? How do these positions relate to the Sacrament of Holy Orders? (Note 3:1) (The Threefold Pastoral Ministry p. 390)

Read 3:8-13 What is the teaching of the Church concerning woman deaconesses? (Note 3:11)

Read 3:14-16 Is the Bible the pillar and bulwark of the truth? (Note 3:15)

Read 4:6-10 What is the meaning of the following passage: “For this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe”? (Note 4:10)

Read 4:11-13 Where did the Church get the practice of reading Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy? (Note 4:13)

Read 4:14 What are the various meanings attributable to the laying on of hands as it relates to the Bible (Note 4:14)

Read 5:3-8 At the time of St. Paul, why were widows particularly vulnerable?
(Note 5:3-16)

Read 5:17-18 What is meant by the following verse: “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain”? (Note 5:18)

Read 6:1-2 How should the relationship between slaves and masters be handled by believers? (Note 6:1)

Read 6:3-10 How does St. John Chrysostom interpret the verse: “For the love of money is the root of all evils”? (Note 6:10)

Read 6:20 How does St. Vincent of Lerins understand the mysteries of the faith?
(Note 6:20)

The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Author

How does modern scholarship view the authorship of the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy?

Date

When was Paul imprisoned in Rome?

Purpose

Why does Paul write this letter?

Themes and Characteristics

In what way does 2 Timothy read like a last will and testament?

Read 1:3-7 Is grace activated or quenched based on our response to the gift of grace? (Note 1:6)

Read 1:8-10 What is the relationship between grace, salvation and free will?
(Note 1:9)

Read 2:1-2 Are the bishops of the Catholic Church connected to the Apostles?
How does apostolic succession take place? (Note 2:2)

Read 3:10-13 What does St. Paul mean when he says: “Indeed all who desire to
live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”? (Note 3:12)

Read 3:14-17 What is the meaning of the verse: “All Scripture is inspired”? (Note
3:16) and Word Study

Read 4:1-7 What is the meaning of “the point of being sacrificed” or “being
poured out as a libation”? How does St. Paul see martyrdom as it relates to
sacrifice and liturgical worship? (Note 4:6)

Read 4:19-22 Who is Linus? (Note 4:21)

The Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Destination

Where was Titus ministering the Gospel?

Themes and Characteristics

What are the two themes in this letter that Paul is giving to Titus?

Read 1:1-5 Is the appointment of elders (priests) in Crete an essential step in organizing and stabilizing young Christian communities? (Note 1:5)

Read 1:6-11 Who are the circumcision party? (Note 1:10)

Read 1:12-16 Is truth only found in the Christian Tradition? Who is the author of truth? (Note 1:12)

Read 2:1-10 How does St. Paul address the issue of Slavery? (Note 2:9)

Read 2:11-14 What is meant by the following verse: "Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself **a people of his own...**"? (Note 2:14)

Read 3:1-8 What is the proper Christian response to civil government? (Note 3:1)
(Note 3:7)