Content Epistles 1st 2nd Thessalonians 1st 2nd Timothy Titus Philemon

 Started 9/5/2024 Last edit 10/15/2024

small edits 1/13 ,14,18, 19 2025

 Later I will edit my document as I gain insight from reading the Amplified version of these passages.

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Not finished. Search for \*\*\* and ??? and I might do some proofreading.

 This project started in 2023 as my attempt to create something like a Table of Contents for books (New Testament at least) of the Bible, but it expanded beyond a list of contents. This document rephrases the text in roughly paragraph blocks with some explanatory notes. This document should, in no way, replace your own reading of the Bible. You should read the Bible to get more of the original meaning and to get context. I plan to use this document as I make a shorter list of the topics or teaching for a set of verses.

I needed to decide whether to write in the past tense or write this document as a guide to what God wants us to know. A “report” of what Paul wrote makes it sound like it is Paul’s authority or thoughts all the way through. I don’t want that tone. This document is almost a paraphrase and a guide to what God wants us to know, rather than a “report.”

I wrote in the past tense for the historical comments made by Paul, and in the present tense for discussions that are somewhat separate from the historical viewpoint that present day, and future Christians, can learn from. …and, later I will insert (APPL…for applications I see) related to the text. This will be done in a separate Google Doc.

References that I may use in this document are listed below.

NET (NET) Bible. THE NET BIBLE, NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION, COPYRIGHT © 1996 BY BIBLICAL STUDIES PRESS, L.L.C. This Bible is a free download from [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org/). The First edition without notes is free from<https://netbible.com/download>. The second edition with notes is $4.95 download as of 2018. The NET 2nd edition can be read online for no cost at [https://netbible.org/bible/Romans+1](https://netbible.org/bible/Romans%2B1) (starts at Romans Chapter 1).

(AMP) Amplified Bible (at biblegateway.com [1 Corinthians 1 AMP - Appeal to Unity - Paul, called as an - Bible Gateway](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%201&version=AMP) ) I wrote my “paraphrase” after reading the NET Bible verses. Then I read the Amplified Bible and edited my “paraphrase.”

(ESV) ESV Study Bible 2007 Crossway Bibles (I read the study notes for some verses as I wrote my paraphrase.)

(QUEST) The Quest Study Bible 1983 Zondervan (I read the study notes for some verses as I wrote my paraphrase.)

Some of the Bible studies I create are posted on [www.gpclements.com](http://www.gpclements.com/).

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1 Thessalonians

(QUEST Written by Paul to Christians living in Thessalonica. (glc…south of Philippi, in northern Greece). Possibly written as early as 50 A.D. to give practical ways to live holy lives in a hostile culture, and discuss Jesus’ return.)

(ESV Written by Paul to Christians in Thessalonica, the Roman capital of Macedonia, population over 100,000, written sometime between 49 to 51 A.D. Prominent theme is the second coming of Jesus.)

1 Thess 1:1 - 10 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy sent their greeting of grace and peace to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and his companions thanked God continuously for the Christians in Thessalonica as they mentioned them regularly in their prayers because they remembered in God’s presence the work of the Thessalonian Christians that was a result of faith, their efforts that were motivated by love, and their endurance that came from confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and his companions knew that the Christian men and women in Thessalonica were loved by God and chosen by God, because the gospel message was brought to them by more than words, but with power and in the Holy Spirit and with strong conviction (they should remember the character and behavior of Paul and his companions when they were living among them). Paul recalled that the Thessalonians followed their example and the Lord’s example after they accepted the gospel with a joy that is produced by the Holy Spirit, in spite of the affliction that was present. This resulted in the Thessalonians becoming an example to all the Christians living in Macedonia and Achaia (glc…lower Greece). For the word of the Lord was flowing out from the Thessalonians not just in Macedonia and Achaia, but into every location where reports of their faith had spread, so that Paul and his companions did not have to give a report. People everywhere reported how the Thessalonians had welcomed Paul and his companions and how the Thessalonians stopped using idols, turned to God to serve the living and true God, and were waiting for his Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead, Jesus our deliverer from God’s coming wrath.

1 Thess 2:1 - 16 Paul reminded the Christians at Thessalonica that when he and his companions came to them this was not proven to be an empty visit. The Thessalonians knew Paul and his companions were mistreated and suffered in Philippi, but had confidence and courage in God to preach the gospel of God in Thessalonica even though there was significant opposition. The message that was preached did not originate from error, impure motives, or deceit, rather, they had been approved by God as worthy to carry the gospel message, and they declared it, not to seek the approval of people, but to please God, who knows our inner motives. The Thessalonians knew that Paul and his companions did not arrive in Thessalonica with flattering speech, nor with a plan for greed -as God can witness - nor to seek fame from anyone, although they could have used their standing as apostles of Christ; instead, they proved to be like young children among them. Paul and his companions behaved like a new mother taking care of her children and had affection for the Thessalonians so they were pleased to share the gospel with them and also their very lives because the Thessalonians were dear to them. The Thessalonian Christians should remember the work of Paul and his companions by day and by night so they would not be a burden to the Thessalonians as they preached the gospel of God. They should be witnesses, as is God, that their conduct was holy, righteous, and blameless as they interacted with the Thessalonian Christians. They should remember that they treated them as a father treats his own children, by exhorting and encouraging them and guiding them to live in a manner that was worthy of God who called them into his kingdom and glory. For this reason, Paul and his companions continually thanked God that when the Thessalonians heard and believed God’s message preached to them, they accepted it not as a human philosophy but as it truly is, God’s message, that is growing in, and influencing, those who believe the gospel. The Thessalonian Christians followed the examples of God’s churches in Christ Jesus that were in Judea because the Thessalonians also suffered the same things from their own countrymen as those churches received from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets and severely persecuted Paul and his companions. Those persecutors displease God and are opposed to all people because they put obstacles in the way of Paul and his companions as they spoke to the Gentiles to give them the opportunity for salvation. The persecutors are always filling up their accounts of sins, but wrath has come to them at last. (ESV..this may refer to famine A.D. 44-47 or riots in Jerusalem A.D. 48,49 or the start of the persecution of Jews in the world)

1 Thess 2:17 - 20 After a short time when Paul and his companions were away from the Christians at Thessalonica (away in person but not separated in affection) they became more fervent in wanting to see them again. They wanted to return to Thessalonica (Paul tried more than once) but Satan prevented them. The Thessalonian Christians were the hope, joy, and crown to boast of to Jesus when he returned. They were the glory and hope for Paul and his companions.

1 Thess 3:1 - 13 So when they could not endure the separation any longer some of the group decided to stay in Athens. They sent Timothy, their Christian brother and fellow worker for God with the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage the Thessalonian Christians about their faith, so that none of the Thessalonian Christians would be disturbed or shaken by the afflictions coming to Paul and his companions. The Thessalonians should remember that Paul and his companions were destined for afflictions. When they were with the Thessalonians they told them in advance that Paul and his companions would suffer afflictions, and the Thessalonians know this has happened. So when Paul could not endure the separation any longer, he sent Timothy to get news about their faith, as he feared that Satan had somehow tempted them and the work of Paul and his companions in Thessalonica had been useless. But Timothy returned to Athens and gave the group the good news of the faith and love of the Thessalonian Christians and that they thought of Paul and his companions with a good remembrance always and long to see them just as Paul and his companions longed to see them. So, in their distress and affliction, they were reassured about the Thessalonian Christians due to their faith. This has refreshed Paul and his companions as long as the Thessalonian Christians stay firm in their faith in the Lord. They could not thank God enough for them for all the joy they felt before God because of the Thessalonian Christians. They prayed sincerely night and day so that they could see them in person and build them up more in their faith. Paul prayed that God the Father himself and the Lord Jesus would direct their way to Thessalonica. He also prayed that the Lord would lead them to increase and abound in love for each other and for everyone, just as Paul and his companions did for them so that their hearts would be strengthened in holiness to be blameless before their God and Father when our Lord Jesus returned to Earth with all His believers.

1 Thess 4:1 - 12 Paul asked and urged the Thessalonian Christians in the Lord Jesus that they remember the instructions from Paul and his companions about how they should live and please God (as Paul heard they were living so) and that they increase their good living. Paul reminded them about the commands they were given through the Lord Jesus. It is God’s will that you become holy, that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each person understand how to manage their own body in holiness and honor, not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not have a relationship with God. Regarding this, no one should trespass the rights of their Christian brother or take advantage of him, because the Lord will judge and act on all these things. Paul had explained this to them and had warned them solemnly. God did not desire impurity in us but holiness. So then, the person who rejects this instruction is not rejecting a human command but is rejecting God, who gives the Holy Spirit to Christians. There was no need for anyone to write to the Thessalonian Christians about brotherly love, for they were taught by God to love each other. And, in fact, they were living this way toward all of the Christian men and women throughout Macedonia. But Paul and his companions urged them to increase in this way of living. They urged them to have the goal of living a quiet life, to manage their own business, and to work with their hands as Paul and his companions commanded them. By living this way we will live a decent life to show unbelievers and not be in need.

1 Thess 4:13 - 18 Paul and his companions did not want the Thessalonian Christians to be ignorant about those who had died, so they would not have grief like the people who do not have hope (glc…those who are not Christian and don’t have the confident hope of eternal life with God in heaven). Those who believe that Jesus died and was resurrected to life can also confidently believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have died as Christians. Paul wrote with prophetic authority that those who are alive and are on Earth before the return of the Lord, will not go to heaven ahead of those who have died as Christians. For the Lord in person will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and those who died as Christians will rise first. Then those Christians who are alive on Earth will be quickly snatched up, together with the risen dead, into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we will always be with the Lord. You should encourage each other with this message.

1 Thess 5:1 - 11 The Christians at Thessalonica did not need to be reminded of the future events. They knew full well that the Lord (glc…Jesus) will come to Earth at an unexpected time. When people are saying that they are secure and at peace unexpected destruction will come to them, like the pains that come to a woman at the time of a birth, and there will be no time to escape. But Christians do not live in darkness for the light to surprise them as it would a thief. For Christians are the sons (glc…and daughters) of the light and sons (glc…and daughters) of the day. We don’t belong to the night or darkness. Therefore, we should not sleep as the non-Christians do, but we must remain alert and in our right minds. People sleep at night and get drunk at night. But because Christians belong to the day, we must stay in our right minds by putting on the protection (NET…Isaiah 59:17) of faith and love and our certain hope for salvation. God planned salvation for us through our Lord Jesus Christ and not wrath for us. Jesus died as a sacrifice for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we will receive life together with him. Continue to encourage each other and build up each other.

1 Thess 5:12 - 22 Paul and his companions asked the Thessalonian Christians to recognize those who worked among them, had authority over them, and seriously warned and advised them. They were to be held in high regard in love because of their work. They were to be at peace with each other. Paul and his companions urged the Thessalonian Christians to seriously warn and advise those who lacked discipline, to comfort those who were discouraged, to help the weak, and to be patient with everyone. They were to make sure that no one took revenge on anyone but rather sought what was good for each other. They were to always rejoice and continue in prayer with thanksgiving for everything. This is God’s will for Christians in Christ Jesus. Do not limit and put away the Holy Spirit. Do not look down on prophecies. But, inspect and think about everything and keep a firm grip on what is good. Keep separate from every form of evil.

1 Thess 5:23 - 28 Paul prayed that the God of peace would make them fully holy and that their spirit and soul and body would remain entirely blameless when the Lord Jesus Christ returned to Earth. God, who calls you, is reliable, and he will do this. Paul asked the Thessalonian Christians to pray for him and his companions. They were to give friendly greetings to all Christians. Paul adjured them by the Lord to read this letter to all the Christian men and women. Paul prayed for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with them.

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2 Thessalonians

(QUEST 2 Thessalonians was written by Paul “to give a stronger dose of advice than he’d given in this first letter.” Written in the early 50s A.D.)

(ESV 2 Thessalonians was written by Paul in the time period 49 to 51 A.D. when he was in Corinth. Perhaps he wrote this letter after receiving a report from Thessalonica on the situation of the church … 2 Thess 3:11.)

2 Thess 1:1 - 4 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, wrote to the church in Thessalonica in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. They sent grace and peace to them from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and his companions always thanked God for the Christian men and women at Thessalonica as it followed from who they were, their faith flourished and was increasing, and their love for each other was increasing. Because of this Paul and his companions could boast about the Thessalonian Christians to the churches of God for their perseverance and faith in the midst of the persecutions and afflictions they were enduring.

2 Thess 1:5 - 12 Their behavior was evidence of God’s righteous judgment so that they would be made worthy of the kingdom of God, for which they were suffering. And it is just that God sends afflictions to those who afflict Christians, and that he gives rest, when the Lord Jesus returns to Earth with his mighty angels, to those (glc…Christians in Thessalonica and Paul and his companions) who are enduring affliction. Jesus will give out punishment with flaming fire to those who do not know God (NET…see Jeremiah 10:25, Psalm 79:6, Isaiah 66:15) and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Those people will have the penalty of eternal destruction and separation from the presence of the Lord and his glory when Jesus comes to be glorified among his followers (NET…saints; glc…those set apart) and marveled at by all who have believed - and the Thessalonians did believe the testimony of Paul and his companions. Regarding this, Paul and his companions always prayed for the Thessalonian Christians that God (glc…their God and the God of Paul and his companions) would make them worthy of his calling and fulfill by his power all their desires for goodness and every work of faith, so that the name of the Lord Jesus would be lifted up in them and they would be lifted up in Jesus, by means of the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 2:1 - 12 The letter now gives information about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gathering of Christians to be with him. Paul and his companions asked the Thessalonian Christians not to be easily shaken from their peace of mind or disturbed by any spirit, message, or letter, that seemed to claim authorship from Paul and his companions, which gave the message that the return of Jesus to Earth had already taken place. Do not be misled by anyone. Jesus’ return to Earth will not take place until the rebellion takes place first and the man who violates God’s laws is revealed, the one who is destined for destruction. The one who opposes God’s laws will promote himself above every other earthly god and objects of worship and will sit down in God’s temple and say that he is God (NET…see Isaiah 14:13-14, Daniel 11:36, Ezekiel 28:2-9) . The Thessalonians should remember that Paul explained these things to them when he was in Thessalonica. The Thessalonians know what restrains this lawless man so that he will be revealed at the appropriate time. The hidden mystery of lawlessness is working in this world. However, the one who restrains him will do so until he is taken out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will destroy him by the breath of his mouth and erase him by his arrival on Earth. The presence of the lawless one is accomplished by Satan’s using of many kinds of miracles, signs, and false wonders, and will have many kinds of evil deception applied to those who are perishing because they did not accept the love of the truth so they would be saved. As a result, God sends them a working of error so that they will continue to believe what is false. And all of those who have not believed in the truth but have accepted evil will be judged and condemned.

2 Thess 2:13 - 16 But Paul and his companions were led to thank God always for the Thessalonian Christians, who are loved by the Lord, because God chose them for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth of the gospel from the beginning of Paul’s ministry in Thessalonica. God called them to salvation through the gospel message given by Paul and his companions so they would possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a consequence, the Thessalonian Christians should stand unshaken and keep a firm grasp on the traditions taught to them by speech or letter from Paul and his companions. Paul prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us everlasting comfort and secure hope, would encourage their hearts and strengthen them in all the good things they do or say.

2 Thess 3:1 - 5 Paul and his companions asked the Christian men and women in Thessalonica to pray that the word of the Lord would spread rapidly and be glorified as it was among the Thessalonians, and that Paul and his companions would be protected from worldly and evil people. Not all have faith in Jesus. But the Lord is faithful and will make them stronger and will protect them from Satan. Paul and his companions were confident about the Thessalonians in their Christian lives that they would continue to follow the teachings and instructions of Paul and his companions. Paul prayed that the Lord would guide their hearts toward the love of God and give them endurance for Christ.

2 Thess 3:6 - 15 Paul and his companions commanded the Christian men and women at Thessalonica in the spirit of alignment with the example and character of our Lord Jesus Christ that they would not associate with any Christian who chose to live an unruly, undisciplined life and who did not follow the teachings and examples the Thessalonians received from Paul and his companions. The Thessalonian Christians knew personally that they must follow the examples of Paul and his companions because he and his companions were not unruly or undisciplined as they lived among the Thessalonians, and they did not eat the food of the Thessalonians without paying for it. Instead, they worked hard in various ways, night and day, so they would not be a burden to any of the Thessalonian Christians. They acted this way not because they lacked the right to financial support, but that they would set a good example for the Thessalonians to follow. They should remember that when they lived in Thessalonica they said ‘If anyone is not willing to work, neither should he eat.” Paul and his companions had heard that some of the Christians in Thessalonica were behaving in an unruly and undisciplined manner in that they were not busy with work, but instead, were busybodies interfering in the lives of others. Paul and his companions commanded and urged in the Lord Jesus Christ that those busybodies would work quietly and earn the food they ate. Paul also asked that Christian men and women would not give up in doing what is right. Suppose anyone would not be obedient to the teaching and instruction in this letter. In that case, that should be recognized and the others should not be close associates of that person, so the person would be ashamed ( glc…and brought to better thinking about their behavior). But, that person should not be thought of as an enemy but should be warned as a fellow believer.

2 Thess 3:16 - 18 Paul prayed that the Lord of peace would give them peace continually and in every way. He prayed that the Lord would be with each one of them. Paul wrote the final greeting in his own handwriting, as he did in all his letters. (NET…Paul dictated his letters to a secretary but wrote at the end to authenticate the letters.) Paul prayed that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ would be with each of them.

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1 Timothy

(QUEST … Author was Paul … 1 Timothy was written shortly after Paul was released from prison in Rome in the time period of 63 to 65 A.D. The letter was written to help Timothy deal with false teachers in Ephesus.)

(ESV … Author was Paul … Written after Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome in the time period of the middle 60s A.D.)

1 Tim 1:1 - 11 Paul, a special messenger of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior (NET…using the title “Savior” for God the Father is common in 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus) wrote to Timothy (GLC… who came to Christ through Paul’s ministry). Paul prayed for grace, mercy, and peace to be on Timothy from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul repeated the request he gave to Timothy as he left to go to Macedonia, that Timothy stay in Ephesus to give instruction to those who were spreading false teachings, to those spending time talking about myths and endless genealogies. These discussions lead to useless speculations rather than the effectiveness of God that comes from faith. The goal of the instruction from orthodox Christian teachers is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and unwavering faith. Paul noted that some have wandered from these and now engaged in meaningless discussions. Those people wanted to be teachers of the law, but they did not fully understand what they were saying or the things they spoke so boldly about. The Orthodox Christians know that the (NET..Old Testament) law is good if someone uses it rightly, understanding that the law is not written for a righteous person, but for the lawless and rebellious people, for those who reject God and sin, for the unholy and those who disrespect religion, for those who kill their parents, for those who murder, for sexually immoral people, those who practice homosexuality, for kidnappers, liars, those who lie under oath - for all who have a lifestyle that is opposed to the gospel entrusted to Paul (Romans 7:7-16; Galatians 3:23-26). This aligns with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God that was entrusted to Paul.

1 Tim 1:12 - 17 Paul was thankful to Christ Jesus our Lord who strengthened him because he evaluated Paul as faithful in assigning him his ministry, even though before his conversion to Jesus he spoke evil of Jesus and persecuted Christians in his arrogance. But Paul received mercy because he acted from lack of knowledge in his unbelief, and our Lord’s grace was overflowing and brought faith and love in Christ Jesus. The phrase “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Timothy 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8) is worthy of trust and should be fully accepted. Paul admitted he was the worst of sinners before his conversion. But Paul received mercy so that Christ Jesus could show his utmost patience with the worst of sinners as an example for those who will believe in him for eternal life. Now to the king of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory unto the ages of the ages! Amen.

1 Tim 1:18 - 20 Paul gave the instruction to Timothy to correct false teachers in keeping with the prophecies spoken concerning Timothy, in order that by following these uplifting prophecies Timothy would fight the good fight. To do this fight Timothy must keep a firm hold on faith and a good conscience that some have rejected and suffered a tragic loss of faith. Among these people were Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom Paul then allowed Satan to persecute them so they would learn not to blaspheme (NET see 1 Corinthians 5:5).

1 Tim 2:1 - 8 Paul urged that Christians would offer petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanks on behalf of all people, even for kings and all who have positions of authority so that we may have a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. These prayers for all are good and acceptable before God our Savior because he wants everyone to be saved (glc…have salvation through faith in Jesus) and come to agree with the truth. There is only one God and one bridge between God and people, Christ Jesus, who was human, who freely offered himself as a payment for all, and thus revealed God’s purpose at his appointed time. For this message Paul was appointed a preacher and apostle - he emphasized he was telling the truth. Paul did not lie - he was a teacher to the Gentiles using faith and truth. Paul wanted adult men in every location to pray, lifting up holy hands - and offering requests from a holy life without anger or dispute.

1 Tim 2:9 - 15 In a similar inner attitude, women are to dress in acceptable apparel, with modesty, decency, and sound judgment. The adornments for women must not use fancy braided hair, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, but they should put on good deeds, as is suitable for women who say they reverence God. A woman must receive instruction quietly and accept authority. (NET…this was a liberating departure from the Jewish view that women were not to learn the law.) Paul did not allow a woman to teach or assume a position of independent authority to give orders to a man. (glc…???instruction from Paul to prevent the culture from outright rejection of Christianity for allowing women to be more independent??? - today it is acceptable for me that women have the authority to teach and have valued opinions) Paul instructed that women should be quiet in the church assembly. His reason was that 1) Adam was created first and then Eve, 2) Adam was not deceived but the woman, because she was fully deceived came to be in transgression. But a woman will be preserved through childbearing, if she continues to have faith in Jesus with love, holiness, and self-control. (NET…Eve’s childbearing did not save her directly - but her childbearing ultimately led to the birth of Jesus - faith in Jesus saves women and men)

1 Tim 3:1 - 13 Paul repeats a worthy phrase regarding church leaders: “If someone seeks the office of bishop (having oversight), he desires a good work.” The bishop must have good character, be a faithful husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:12; 1 Timothy 5:9; Titus 1:6), live with moderation, be self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not getting drunk, not violent but gentle, not seeking conflict, free from the love of money. He must arrange his household's affairs well and have well-behaved, respectful children. If someone cannot manage his own household, how will he care for the church of God? He must not have recently accepted Christ, so that he would not be tempted to be arrogant and fall into the judgment the devil received. He must have a good reputation with those who are not Christian so that he won’t become disgraced and be trapped like the devil was (2 Timothy 2:26). Deacons (glc…those ministering to the needs of the Church and believers) must also be respectable and honorable, not misleading, not drinking too much wine (glc…etc.), not greedy for gain, keeping a firm grip on the revealed truths of Christianity with a clear conscience. The deacon candidates must also be interviewed first and they can serve as deacons if they are found blameless. Also, their wives must be dignified, not speaking slander, live with moderation, faithful in all things. Deacons must be the faithful husband of one wife and arrange the affairs of their household and children well. Those who have served well as deacons benefit by having a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:14- 16 Paual hoped to come to Timothy soon but he wanted to send the instructions in this letter in case he was delayed so the Christians would know how to conduct themselves because it is the church of the living God, the support and protector of the truth. We all most certainly agree that the church possesses amazing revelations: (Rom 16:25; 1 Cor 2:7; 4:1; Eph 1:9;3:3;3:4; 3:9;6:19; Col 1:26-27;4:3) Jesus was revealed in the flesh, vindicated by the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the Gentiles, believed on int he world, taken up in glory.

1 Tim 4:1 - 16 The Holy Spirit delivered a message that in later times some will abandon faith in Jesus and become involved with deceiving spirits and the teachings of demons, influenced by the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are no longer able to discern right from wrong. They will forbid marriage and require people not to eat certain foods that God created to be eaten with thanksgiving by those who believe in Jesus and know the truth. Every creation of God is good, and nothing is to be avoided if it is eaten with thanksgiving. The food is sanctified by God’s word and by prayer. Paul instructed Timothy that when he taught this to Christian men and women he would be acting as a good servant of Christ Jesus, as he strengthened himself on the message of faith in Jesus and of the good teaching that he has been following. Timothy is to reject the invented tales that are suitable only for the godless and easily influenced. He is to train himself for godliness. Physical exercise has some value for the body, but godliness is valuable in more ways. It has promise for life on Earth and for eternal life to come. This phrase can be trusted and is worthy of following. (1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1,2; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8) With these promises Paul and his companions worked hard and endured struggles because they had a firm hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of believers. (ESV…Jesus died for all people, and his sacrifice is available to all, but only those who believe in him have salvation.) Paul wanted Timothy to command and teach these principles. He was not to let anyone look down on him because he was young, but he was to set a good example for believers in his words, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Until Paul came, he was to make time for the public reading of scripture (NET…not many could afford to have their own copies of scripture), to strongly encourage people, and to teach. He was not to neglect the spiritual gift which was in him, which was given to him and confirmed by prophecy when the elders laid hands on him. He was to pay close attention to these things and be dedicated to them, so that everyone would see him progress in his faith and living. He was to be thoughtful about how he lived and about what he taught to others. He was to continue in his ministry in the face of difficulties because this would save both himself and those who listened to him. (glc…he would not lose his faith and his message would help others get and maintain their faith)

1 Tim 5:1 - 16 Do not speak harshly to an older man but appeal to him as a father. Speak to younger men as you would to a brother, speak to older women as you would to a mother, and speak to younger women as you would to a sister - in complete purity. Give respect and financial support to widows who have a real need. If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should be instructed to practice their religion toward their relatives and in this way make some deserved repayment to their parents and grandparents. This action and attitude pleases God. For the widow who has a real need and is left alone without a family has put her faith and hope in God and is consistent in prayer with her pleas and requests day and night. But the widow who seeks out worldly pleasure has died even though she is alive on Earth. Command these things so that the widows and families will be in good standing in the church and in the world. But if a person does not provide for his own relatives, especially his immediate family, he has denied the influence and principles of his faith and is worse than someone who does not believe in Jesus. No widow should be added to the enrollment for support from the church unless she is older than 60 years, was married only once, is known for performing good works such as raising children, hospitality, washing the feet of Christians, helping those in need - and has pursued other good works. Do not add younger widows to the enrollment list, because their sensuous desires may lead them away from Christ and they will seek to be married which would bring judgment on them for breaking the pledge not to marry when they were put on the enrollment list for widows. In addition, younger widows on the list learn to be lazy as they wander about from house to house. They also become women who gossip and are busybodies, discussing things that are none of their business. Paul wanted the younger widows to marry, raise children, and organize their households so that our opponent (glc…Satan) has no opportunity to accuse us. Some have already drifted away to follow Satan. If a believing woman has relatives who are widows she should help them. The church should not be burdened with these women so that it is able to help the widows who have a real need.

1 Tim 5:17 - 25 Elders who lead well must be recognized and supported (NET…given an honorarium), especially those who work hard in preaching the word and teaching. For in the Old Testament scripture (Deuteronomy 25:4) it is written: “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and, “The worker deserves his pay.” (Luke 10:7) Do not accept an accusation against an elder unless there is supporting testimony from two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15). Elders who sin must have their sin exposed before the congregation as a warning to the rest of the elders. Paul seriously charged Timothy with God, Christ Jesus, and the elect angels as witnesses, that Timothy would carry out these commands impartially and without personal feelings of any kind. Timothy was to avoid ordaining or installing people too quickly and thus become associated with the sins of others. He was to maintain his purity. (As a side note - He was to pay attention to his health - including drinking a little wine instead of just water to help his digestion and frequent illnesses.) The sins of some people are plain to see and go before them into judgment, but for some the sins show up later. Also, good works are also plain to see, and the ones that are not good cannot remain hidden indefintely..

1 Tim 6:1 - 2a The person who is a bondservant (NET…servant or slave - either voluntarily or involuntarily - not a free individual serving another person – today, perhaps the word employee could be used) must regard the person over them as deserving of full respect. This will prevent the name of God and the teaching about Christ from being slandered. Those who have a supervisor must not show less respect to the supervisor because they are Christian brothers. Rather, they should serve even more diligently because those who benefit from their work are faithful to God and dearly loved.

1 Tim 6:2b - 10 Timothy was to teach and strongly encourage these principles to the people. If someone teaches other principles as doctrine and does not agree with the words of Jesus Christ and with the teaching that aligns with godliness, they think too highly of themselves and don’t understand anything, but have a debilitating interest in controversies and verbal arguments. These attitudes lead to jealousy, dissension, speaking badly of others, evil suspicions, and continual complaining over minor issues by those who have had their minds corrupted and starved of the truth, who plan that godliness is a method of making money. To be sure, godliness with contentment is very profitable. We had no possessions when we were born and we cannot take any possessions out of this life either. If we have food and shelter we will be content with that. People who have a continual desire to be rich will fall into temptation and a trap, and many meaningless and destructive desires that envelop people in ruin and destruction. The love of money is the base cause of all kinds of evil (NET…there are other causes of evil, this construction is hyperbole). Some people have made money a goal and have deviated from faith in Jesus and brought many afflictions upon themselves.

1 Tim 6:11 - 21 Paul reminded and instructed Timothy that, as a person committed to God, he should keep away from the things discussed above. The person committed to God should rather seek and develop righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and a gentle spirit. The person should seek to excel in faith and get a firm hold of the eternal life that they are called to. They are to remain steadfast to the confession of their faith made in front of others. Paul charged Timothy before God who gives life to all and Christ Jesus who testified his good confession before Pontius Pilate, to preserve and be seriously committed to the duties given to Timothy for his ministry in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3-20; 6:2c-5) without fault or failure until our Lord Jesus Christ appears on Earth - the appearing of Jesus will be revealed at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone has immortality and exists in unapproachable light, whom no human has ever seen or is able to see. To him be honor and eternal power! Amen. Paul wrote to Timothy that he should instruct those who are rich in Earthly possessions not to be proud or to put their hopes in riches, which can pass away, but put their hope in God who abundantly provides us with things for our enjoyment. He is to instruct them to do good, to be abundant in good deeds, to be generous in giving, to be generous in sharing with others. In doing this they will store up a treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future and obtain what is truly life. Paul dearly asked Timothy to take good care of what was entrusted to him. Paul directed him to stay away from worthless chatter and contradictions of falsely named knowledge. Paul noted that some who claimed to have this knowledge had wandered from true faith in Jesus. Paul prayed that grace would be with Timothy and those who read the letter.

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2 Timothy

(QUEST…Paul wrote this book probably in 66 or 67 A.D. while in a prison in Rome. Paul suffered both physically and emotionally as many of his companions had left him.)

(ESV…Paul wrote this book after the imprisonment recorded in Acts 28, and after writing 1 Timothy and Titus, probably in the time of 64-65 A.D. though some date it to 67 A.D. This letter is a “call for perseverance in the gospel in spite of suffering.”)

2 Tim 1:1-5 Paul was an apostle (glc…special messenger) of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and wanted to advance the revelation of the promise of life in Christ Jesus. He is writing to Timothy, his dear child in the faith. He prays for grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord! Paul thanked God, whom he served with a clear conscience as did previous generations of Jewish people, when he prayed for Timothy night and day. Paul remembered Timothy’s tears and Paul very much wanted to see him, so that he would have joy. Paul remembered Timothy's sincere faith, which was also in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, and Paul was convinced it was now in Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:6 - 14 Paul had this confidence in Timothy and thus reminded him to build up God’s gift that was in him through the laying on of Paul’s hands. God does not give us a Spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control. Paul encouraged Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel of our Lord or of Paul, who was a prisoner for his sake, but through God’s power, he should accept his share of the hardships for the gospel. God is the one who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but based on his own plans and grace, given to us in Christ Jesus before time started, but now seen through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. He has demolished the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel! Paul was appointed for this gospel to be a preacher, apostle, and teacher. This has led to his suffering many things. But Pual was not ashamed because he knew the one in whom he had believed and Paul was convinced that he is able to take care of the truth of the gospel until Paul stood before Jesus. Paul encouraged Timothy to follow the pattern of sound words that he heard from Paul and to do this with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Paul encouraged Timothy to guard the truth of the gospel that was entrusted to Timothy, using the Holy Spirit who lives in Christians.

2 Timothy 1:15 - 18 Paul wrote about those in the western side of present-day Turkey who left him alone, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. Paul prayed that the Lord would grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus because he ministered to Paul and was not ashamed of his imprisonment. When he arrived in Rome, Onesiphorus actively searched for Paul and found him. Paul prayed that Onesiphorus would have mercy from the Lord when Onesiphorus stood before Christ. Timothy was familiar with all the ways Onesiphorus served Paul in Ephesus.

2 Tim 2:1 - 7 Paul fondly encouraged Timothy to stay strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Paul directed him that what he heard Paul say in the presence of many witnesses he should pass on to faithful men and women who will be able to teach these principles to others as well. Timothy was to join with Paul and others in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No person in military service gets hindered by the circumstances of everyday life because the entanglement would prevent them from pleasing the one who recruited him. Also, if anyone is in an athletic competition, they will not receive the winner’s wreath unless they follow the rules of the competition. The farmer who works hard should have the first share of the crops. Paul asked Timothy to consider what Paul was saying and the Lord would give him understanding in all things.

2 Tim 2:8 - 13 Paul wrote that Timothy should remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David; this was the message Paul preached, and for which he suffered hardship even to being imprisoned as a criminal, but the word of God is not imprisoned! Because of this, Paul endured all things for the benefit of those chosen by God, so that they also would receive salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. Paul wrote a familiar Christian saying that could be trusted (1 Timothy 1:15 3:1; 4:9; Titus 3:8): If we die with him, we will also live with him. If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we renounce or disown him, he will also disown us (glc…sounds harsh, but it was our decision to renounce and totally reject Jesus…don’t do it!). If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself.

2 Tim 2:14 - 26 Paul wrote that Timothy should remind people of these teachings and seriously charge them before the Lord not to have a long and complicated argument over words. This does not produce good results; it just misleads and confuses those who listen. Timothy was to make every effort to stand before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately teaching the message of truth. He was to stay away from irreligious chatter (NET…characteristic of false teachers in Ephesus) because those who spend time doing this will progress even more into things opposed to God, and their message will eat away at the truth like a skin infection. Hymenaeus and Philetus have done this. They strayed from the truth by telling people the resurrection of Christians had already taken place, and they were weakening the faith of some people. However, God’s firm foundation remains in place, bearing this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” (Numbers 16:5) and “Everyone who confesses and claims the name of the Lord must turn away from evil.” In the home of the wealthy, there are gold and silver vessels but also vessels made of wood and clay, and some vessels are for honorable use (glc…drinking vessels, decorating with flowers, etc, but others for dishonorable use (glc…waste baskets, chamber pots, etc.). If someone cleanses himself of bad behavior (NET… of errors and deeds of false teachers), they will be a vessel for honorable use, separated, useful for the Master, ready for every good work. But keep separated from youthful passions, and seek after righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart. (NET..the value of the community of believers for the development of Christian virtues. glc…follow Paul’s example as he follows Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:1) Reject foolish and uninstructed controversies because they easily lead to small disagreements (glc…that can grow larger). The bondservant of the Lord (Isaiah 43:10; Joshua 14:7; Psalm 89:3; 2 Samuel 7:5,8; 2 Kings 10:10) must not take part in heated quarrels but must be kind toward all, an accomplished teacher, patient, correcting and disciplining opponents using gentleness. Perhaps God will help them change their ways and come to the knowledge of the truth, and they will realize their mistakes and escape the devil’s trap where they are held captive to do his will.

2 Tim 3:1 - 9 Paul wrote that Timothy (and the other readers of the letter) sh ould understand that, during the last days, dangerous and difficult times would come. Men and women will be focused on themselves, will be in love with money, be boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, without gratitude, unholy, without love, set in their ways, slanderers, lacking self-control, mean, fighting against what is good, treacherous, reckless, thinking too much of themselves, seeking and loving pleasure rather than seeking and loving God. They will keep some outward show of religion but will not believe in its power. Avoid people who have these characteristics and attitudes. Some of these people will cleverly gain influence in homes and get the attention of silly women who are full of sin and influenced by many passions. These women seek to be taught but they can’t take hold of the knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres (NET…traditional names of two of Pharaoh’s magicians who opposed Moses) opposed Moses, so these people - who have misled minds and are disqualified in the faith - also fight against the truth. But they will not have much more progress, for their foolishness will be plain to everyone, just as happened with Jannes and Jambres.

2 Tim 3:10 - 17 Paul reminded Timothy that he was different and had followed Paul’s teaching, example in living, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, as well as the persecutions and sufferings that Paul endured in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra. (Acts chapters 13 and 14) Paul endured those persecutions and the Lord rescued him from all of them. All who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil people and deceivers will become even worse in their deceiving others and being deceived themselves. Paul wrote to Timothy that he must not deviate from the things he had learned and was confident about. Paul asked Timothy to remember who had taught him and that from his young childhood, he had heard the holy writings, which are able to give a person wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for correction, and for training a person in righteousness, that the person who is committed to God may be complete and competent for every good work.

2 Tim 4:1 - 8 Paul seriously gave this task to Timothy before God and Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his kingdom: preach the gospel, be persistent and ready whether it is convenient or not, reprove, correct, encourage with full patience and instruction. There will be a time when people will not allow sound teaching. Instead, they will follow their own human desires and gather teachers for themselves because they have an unquenchable desire to listen to new ideas. They will make the decision to stop listening to the truth and will make the decision to listen to myths and legendary tales (1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; Titus 1:14). Timothy was to be different and be self-controlled in all areas of his life, endure hardships, be an evangelist, fulfill his ministry. Paul had given much of himself, was near the end of his ministry, and knew the time for him to depart Earth was near. Paul knew he had competed (glc…reference to athletic competition earlier 1 Timothy 1:18); he had finished the race of his ministry; he kept his faith in Jesus! He knew the crown of righteousness (glc…similar to an athletic wreath for victory…but in heaven… was reserved for him). The Lord, the righteous Judge, would award it to him in that day (glc…Jesus returns) - and not to Paul only, but also to all who have put their faith, love, and hope in his appearing.

2 Tim 4:9 - 22 Paul made a strong appeal to Timothy to come to him soon. Paul reported that Demas (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24) had deserted Paul since he gave his allegiance to the current world and he went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia, and Titus went to Dalmatia. Only Luke stayed with Paul. Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark ( glc…Mark had left the missionary trip of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:13; 15:37-39) with him because he was useful to Paul in his ministry. Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus. Paul asked Timothy to bring the cloak he left with Carpas in Troas and the parchments (glc…OT scriptures?) Alexander the coppersmith hindered Paul. Paul wrote that the Lord would repay him in proportion to his deeds. Paul warned Timothy to be on guard for Alexander because he forcefully opposed the message Paul had delivered to the people. At Paul’s first defense no one stood up to support him; instead they left Paul alone - Paul prayed that they would not be held accountable for their actions. But the Lord stood near Paul (glc…in spirit) and strengthened him, so that through Paul the gospel message would be completely fulfilled and all the Gentiles would hear it. Paul was delivered from the lion’s mouth! Paul trusted that the Lord would deliver him from every evil action and would bring him safely into his heavenly kingdom. Paul wanted the Lord to have glory forever and ever. Let it be so. Paul asked Timothy to greet Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:2;18;26; Rom 16:3-4;1 Cor 16:19) and the family of Onesiphorus. Paul wrote that Erastus stayed in Corinth and Paul left Trophimus ill in Miletus. Paul urged Timothy to come to him before winter. Paul relayed greetings to Timothy from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the Christian men and women. Paul prayed that the Lord would be with Timothy’s spirit. Paul prayed that grace would be with Timothy.

—---------------------- Titus

(QUEST - Paul wrote this book after his first imprisonment in Rome, sometime between 63 to 65 A.D.)

(ESV - Paul wrote this book between his first and second imprisonments - Acts 28 — mid-60s A.D. The letter has strong similarities to 1 Timothy.)

Titus 1:1 - 4 Paul identified himself as a bondservant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ, whose task was to increase the faith of those chosen by God and increase the knowledge of the truth that aligns with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who always tells the truth, promised before time began. Now, in God’s own time, God has made his message plain to see through the preaching Paul was entrusted with according to the command of God our Savior. Paul wrote to Titus, his true spiritual son in a common faith. Paul prayed for grace and peace for Titus from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Titus 1:5 - 16 Paul left Titus in Crete to set up an orderly church and appoint elders in every town. An elder must be blameless, devoted to his wife ( ESV…no marital unfaithfulness), having faithful children who are not uncontrolled or rebellious. The elder must be blameless in his work for God, not overbearing, not easily angered, not a drunkard, not violent, not having the goal of financial gain. He must be hospitable, put priority on doing good, have common sense, upright, devoted to God, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grip on the faithful message according to the teaching of the apostles, so that he will be able to give exhortation using the apostles’ teaching and correct those who speak against it. There are many people who don’t follow the proper order, idle talkers, and deceivers, especially those with Jewish backgrounds, who must be held back from teaching because they mislead entire families by seeking to get dishonest gain by teaching what is not true. One of Crete’s own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” (NET…the poet Epimenides of Crete - 6th Century B.C.) This testimony is true. Paul encouraged Titus to sharply rebuke these false teachers so they would become healthy in the faith and not be influenced by Jewish myths (NET…legendary tales) and instructions of people who reject faith in Jesus. All is pure to those who are pure. But to people who are polluted and don’t believe in Jesus, nothing is pure, but both their minds and inner conscience are polluted. They say they know God but their actions show they deny God, since they are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good deed.

Titus 2:1 - 10 Paul encouraged Titus to be different than the false teachers. He was to behave in line with what is fitting for sound teaching. Older men should show moderation and restraint, be dignified, have self-control, and be consistent in their faith, love, and endurance (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Corinthians 13:13). Older women likewise are to have behavior that shows the characteristics of a person who is holy, doesn’t slander, is not addicted to alcohol, but teaches what is good. By doing this they will guide younger women to love their husbands, love their children, be self-controlled, be pure, fulfill their household duties, be kind, and be under their husband’s authority so that the message of the Lord will not be slandered. Titus was also to encourage the younger men to be self-controlled and give them an example of one who does good works in every way. Titus was to teach with integrity, and dignity, and deliver a sound message that could not be criticized so that his opponents would be put to shame because they have nothing bad to say about Titus and Paul. Bondservants (glc…servants, slaves–today employees) are to be in submission to their supervisors in all things, to do what is asked of them and not complain, to not steal even small things, and to show their supervisors that sincere faith results in holy behavior, in order to bring a good reputation to the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

Titus 2:11 - 15 The grace of God has appeared (glc…Jesus coming to Earth), bringing salvation to all men and women. It guides us to reject godless ways and the desires of the world and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives while we are on Earth, as we wait for the blessed fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (NET…” ‘God and Savior’ both refer to the same person, Jesus Christ. This is one of the clearest statements in the New Testament concerning the deity of Christ.”) Jesus gave himself for us to release us from every manner of lawlessness and to purify for himself people (glc…men and women) who are his very own, who are eager to do good works. Titus was to tell these things and exhort and rebuke with full authority. Paul encouraged Titus not to let anyone value him as unworthy.

Titus 3:1 - 7 In this chapter, Paul instructed Titus to remind the Christians to be under the rule of those in authority in government, to be obedient, and to be prepared for every good work. Christians must not damage the reputation of anyone but must be peaceful, and gentle, using full courtesy to all people. Paul noted that Christians were at one time foolish, disobedient, misled, addicted to different kinds of passions and desires, using the time in our lives in evil and jealousy, having thoughts of hate and hating people. Paul then quoted a phrase: “when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for people appeared, he saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us in abundance through Jesus Christ our Savior. In order that, being justified by his grace, we would become heirs with the confident expectation of eternal life.”

Titus 3:8 - 11 The preceding saying can be relied on, and Paul wanted Titus to emphasize such truths, so that those who have put their faith in God may be focused on doing good works. These principles are good and will benefit all people. Christians should avoid foolish controversies, genealogies (1 Tim 1:4), petty arguments, and fights about the law (1 Timothy 1:3-7; Titus 1:10,14) because these things are of no benefit and have no true meaning. Separate yourself from a divisive person after one or two warnings because such a person is perverted from the truth and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Titus 3:12-15 Paul planned to send Artemas or Tychicus to Titus. After they arrived Titus was to try to come to Paul at Nicopolis (on the west coast of Macedonia … NW Greece) because Paul had plans to spend the winter there. Paul asked Titus to eagerly help Zenas the lawyer (NET…probably a specialist in civil law) and Apollos in their travels by making sure they had everything they needed. Paul noted that meeting pressing needs was a way for Christians to learn to be active in good works and to be fruitful. Paul passed on greetings from those who were with him. He asked Titus to greet the faithful Christians. Paul prayed that grace would be with all the Christians around Titus.

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Philemon

(Quest – Paul wrote this book from prison in Rome around 60 to 62 A.D. Philemon was a wealthy Christian in the church at Colosse who may have come to faith in Jesus through Paul’s ministry.)

(ESV – Paul is the main author, and Timothy also participates in the message. Philemon was probably written around 62 A.D. near the time Paul wrote Colossians and Ephesians. All three letters were sent with Tychicus and Onesimus. This date assumes the imprisonment Pual reuters to is the imprisonment in Rome given in Acts chapters 27 and 28.)

Philemon vv 1-7 Paul was a prisoner as a result of his outspoken faith in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote the letter with Timothy to Philemon, their dear friend and fellow spiritual worker, and to Apphia (NET…perhaps Philemon’s wife), and to Archippus, a fellow Christian worker, and to the church that met in Philemon’s house. Paul prayed for grace and peace for them from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Paul always prayed with thanks to God as he remembered Philemon and his friends because he had heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus and their demonstrated love for all Christians. Paul prayed that the faith they let Paul know about would deepen their understanding and administration of everything good that belonged to them in Christ. Paul had great joy and encouragement because of their love, for the hearts and inner feelings of the Christians had been refreshed through Philemon, Paul’s brother in Christ.

Philemon vv 8 - 22 As a consequence of all this, and even though Paul had much confidence in Christ and could command Philemon to do what is right, Paul preferred to encourage Philemon on the basis of love - Paul was now an old man (glc…if Paul was 20 years old when Stephen was stoned, he might be in his 40s when in prison …That would be considered to be getting old for the New Testament era.) and in prison because of his ministry for Christ Jesus - Paul encouraged Philemon concerning Onesimus, who Paul considered to be his spiritual child as he had ministered spiritually to Onesimus during his imprisonment. Onesimus had been of no benefit to Philemon (glc…because Onesimus ran away and was not with Philemon???), but now he was useful to Philemon (glc…remotely) and to Paul. Paul sent Onesimus - whom he cared for deeply - back to Philemon (NET…Onesimus may have been present when Paul wrote the letter). Paul wanted to keep Onesimus with him so he could help Paul, when Philemon was not there to help Paul, during Paul’s imprisonment because Paul was spreading the gospel. However, Paul did not want to make that decision without Philemon’s consent so this good deed would not be done because Paul compelled Philemon, but because of Philemon’s willingness. Paul considered that perhaps Onesimus was separated from Philemon for a little while so that Philemon would have Onesimus as a Christian brother eternally, not just as a slave, but more than a slave, a dear brother. Paul regarded Onesimus as a dear brother and believed Onesimus would be considered a dear brother in the flesh and in the Lord for Philemon. Paul asked Philemon to regard Paul as a partner and thus accept Onesimus as Philemon would accept Paul. Paul asked that if Onesimus had defrauded Philemon of anything or owed Philemon anything, Philemon should charge it to Paul. Paul wrote the letter in his own hand (glc…many of Paul’s letters were dictated to someone who did the writing) (NET…Paul may have considered this matter as too delicate to be dictated to a secretary). Paul said he would repay the debt. Paul noted that Philemon owed Paul his very self (NET…perhaps referring to the spiritual truth Paul had taught Philemon). Paul fondly asked Philemon to have some benefit from him in the Lord. He asked that his heart would be refreshed in Christ by Philemon’s actions. Paul was confident Philemon would agree and wrote to Philemon because Paul knew Philemon would do even more than Paul had asked him to do. Paul also asked Philemon to prepare a guest room for him since he hoped that through Philemon’s prayers, Paul would return to Philemon.

Philemon vv 23 - 25 Epaphras, (NET..Epaphroditus Philippians 2:25; Colossians 1:7, 4:12) who was also a prisoner with Paul because of his ministry for Christ Jesus, sent greetings. Mark, Aristarchus (NET…Acts 27:2; Colossians 4:10), Demas (NET…Colosians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10 …listed in Philemon before he abandoned the faith) and Luke, Paul’s fellow workers for God, sent their greetings. Paul prayed that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with Philemon’s spirit.