

**Life in Community: A Study of the Pastoral Epistles**  
**Getting Started: Introducing 1 Timothy**  
**1 Timothy 1:1-2**

- I. Authorship – Was It Paul?
    - A. Many critical scholars reject Pauline authorship of the three Pastoral Epistles.
      1. Differences in vocabulary
      2. The style of writing is significantly different from Paul’s other letters
      3. The theological focus seems less “cross-centered” and more “action-centered”
      4. The Pastoral Epistles seem to be combating a fully-formed 2<sup>nd</sup> century Gnosticism rather than issues of Paul’s day
      5. The church appears to be too structured and organized for this to have been written in Paul’s time
    - B. Why should we accept Pauline authorship?
      1. Differences in vocabulary and style are unconvincing because of the nature of the letters: they are personal correspondences to friends – not theological manifestos to entire congregations
      2. Paul is much older during the writing of these letters. We believe inspiration to be God using of the personality and life experience of the human author as a means to the end result of the text. As a person ages, matures, continues to grow and develop, so too will their writing style.
      3. Paul maintains a “cross-centered” focus in these letters. However, he is explaining to fellow ministers how they and the congregations they serve should live-out the cross, thus the focus on action.
  4. Paul is combating theological and ecclesiastical arrogance and error – present during all times of the church.
  5. The church was developing structure for nearly 30 years.
  6. There is strong evidence from the earliest Christian history that Paul wrote these letters, with sections of them quoted or referred to by Clement of Rome (w. ~90-100), Polycarp (w. 100-135), Ignatius (w. ~110)...later references include Irenaeus (w. 180s), Clement of Alexandria (w.190-200), Tertullian (w.~193-216).
- II. Date and Circumstances: Finding the Context
    - A. The letter was written around 63AD, after Paul’s release from his first Roman imprisonment
    - B. Likely Paul leaves Titus in Crete and then Timothy in Ephesus, later the same year writing to them both to encourage them in the work
    - C. Timothy is gifted, yet timid minister of the gospel. Paul is calling him to help organize the churches, preach the word, and demonstrate the life of Christ to those under his care.
  - III. Looking Ahead: What Can We Expect To See
    - A. A tender tone for someone deeply cared for
    - B. A desire for Jesus Christ to be made much of
    - C. Looking ahead – a desire for the church of Jesus Christ to be:
      1. Sound in doctrine
      2. Structured with order
      3. Full of love and compassion
      4. Living lives in keeping with the gospel