

21. The First Epistle to Timothy

I. The First of the Pastoral Epistles: The three Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus. A two-centuries old designation. They belong to the same mini-corpus, but this does not necessarily mean that all three have the same author. These epistles are generally considered to be pseudepigraphic, and doubly so. Reasons for this opinion. Doubly pseudepigraphic, that is, both Paul and Timothy (Titus) are referred figures from the past whose name, memory, and authority are invoked

II. The First Epistle to Timothy: The named author of the First Epistle to Timothy: "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ" (1:1) The named recipient: "Timothy, my loyal child in the faith" (1:2a). The Greek word translated as "loyal" is *gnesio*, which means "legitimate." The assumed situation: Paul urges Timothy to remain in Ephesus, as Paul had previously done while on his way to Macedonia, in order to instruct and warn "certain people" (tines). A hint that the text is not really intended for "Timothy": In the final salutation (6:21), "Grace be with you," the pronoun is in the plural (*hymori*). The real situation: A late first first-century text, which is, like the Epistle to Titus, a document of church order, almost a first attempt at ecclesiastical law

III. Some people desire to teach the law but don't understand the law (1:6-20) The proper understanding of the Law (1:8-11) The "et cetera" clause (1:10-11; cf. 4:6) For example, Hymenaeus and Alexander (1:19-20)

IV. The example of Paul (1:12-17) The greatest of sinners (1:12-15) The greatest of saints (1:16) The final doxology (1:17) An embedded formula: "The saying is sure (*pistos ho logos*) and worthy of all acceptance" (1:15; cf. 4:9, and in the shorter version, 3:1; 2 Tim 1:11; Titus 3:8).

V. Instructions on Prayer (2:1-14) For whom should we pray: We should pray for all including kings and civil authorities (2:1-6). Note on God our Savior (vv. 5-6) How should we pray? (2:8-10) Men (v. 8) Women (vv. 9-10) Note on women (vv. 11-15)

Review Questions

1. What is the nature and purpose of 1 Timothy?
2. Do you consider the author's "exaggerated" portrayal of Paul's "conversion" useful?
3. How does a person deal with what the anonymous author says about women?