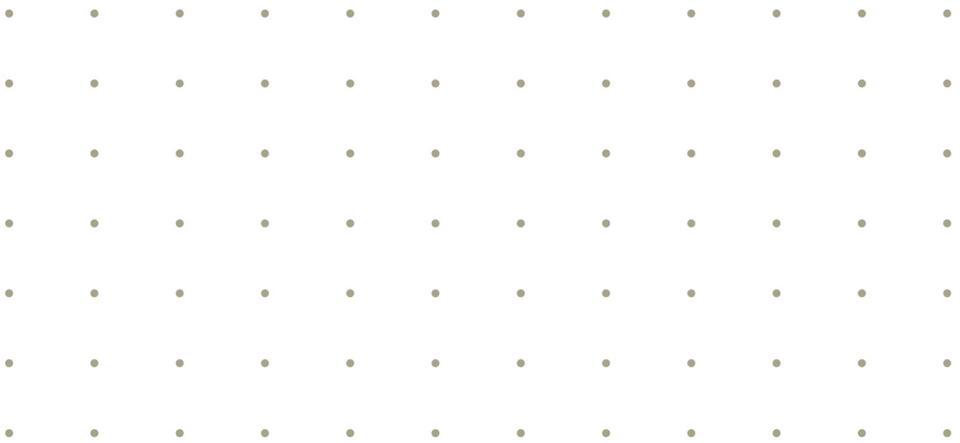




1–2 TIMOTHY *and* TITUS

A 12-WEEK STUDY

Brian J. Tabb



J. I. Packer

THEOLOGICAL EDITOR

Dane C. Ortlund

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“This series is a tremendous resource for those wanting to study and teach the Bible with an understanding of how the gospel is woven throughout Scripture. Here are gospel-minded pastors and scholars doing gospel business from all the Scriptures. This is a biblical and theological feast preparing God’s people to apply the entire Bible to all of life with heart and mind wholly committed to Christ’s priorities.”

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KNOWING THE BIBLE

J. I. Packer, Theological Editor
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Genesis	Psalms	John	1–2 Thessalonians
Exodus	Proverbs	Acts	1–2 Timothy
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	Romans	and Titus
Deuteronomy	Isaiah	1 Corinthians	Hebrews
Joshua	Jeremiah	2 Corinthians	James
Ruth and Esther	Daniel	Galatians	1–2 Peter
1–2 Kings	Hosea	Ephesians	and Jude
Ezra and	Matthew	Philippians	Revelation
Nehemiah	Mark	Colossians and	
Job	Luke	Philemon	

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1-2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS

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Brian J. Tabb

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S E R I E S P R E F A C E

KNOWING THE BIBLE, as the series title indicates, was created to help readers know and understand the meaning, the message, and the God of the Bible. Each volume in the series consists of 12 units that progressively take the reader through a clear, concise study of that book of the Bible. In this way, any given volume can fruitfully be used in a 12-week format either in group study, such as in a church-based context, or in individual study. Of course, these 12 studies could be completed in fewer or more than 12 weeks, as convenient, depending on the context in which they are used.

Each study unit gives an overview of the text at hand before digging into it with a series of questions for reflection or discussion. The unit then concludes by highlighting the gospel of grace in each passage (“Gospel Glimpses”), identifying whole-Bible themes that occur in the passage (“Whole-Bible Connections”), and pinpointing Christian doctrines that are affirmed in the passage (“Theological Soundings”).

The final component to each unit is a section for reflecting on personal and practical implications from the passage at hand. The layout provides space for recording responses to the questions proposed, and we think readers need to do this to get the full benefit of the exercise. The series also includes definitions of key words. These definitions are indicated by a note number in the text and are found at the end of each chapter.

Lastly, to help understand the Bible in this deeper way, we urge readers to use the ESV Bible and the *ESV Study Bible*, which are available in various print and digital formats, including online editions at esv.org. The Knowing the Bible series is also available online. Additional 12-week studies covering each book of the Bible will be added as they become available.

May the Lord greatly bless your study as you seek to know him through knowing his Word.

J. I. Packer
Lane T. Dennis

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW



Getting Acquainted

First and Second Timothy and Titus are among Paul's most personal and practical letters. Paul writes to his spiritual children Timothy and Titus in order to instruct and encourage them in gospel ministry. These books are often called the Pastoral Epistles because they focus significantly on the character and responsibilities of those who teach and lead God's church. However, these letters apply broadly to all Christians and include some of the most explicit biblical teaching on various topics, including:

- the difference between true and false teaching (1 Tim. 1:3–11);
- the power of the gospel to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:12–16);
- the goodness of God's creation (1 Tim. 4:4);
- the dangers of pride and the love of money (1 Tim. 6:4–10);
- the divine quality and effectiveness of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15–17);
- and,
- the vital importance of good works in the Christian life (Titus 2:14; 3:14).

Above all, Paul stresses that the gospel of Jesus Christ saves and transforms sinners, and this gospel is the “good deposit” that should be protected and passed on to others through intentional discipleship (1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14; 2:1–2).

First Timothy stresses the need to confront false teaching in Ephesus and to promote a positive vision for doctrine, order, and conduct in God's household,

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW

the church. Timothy must guard the gospel and also set an example to the believers in his speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (4:12; 6:20).

Second Timothy is Paul's farewell discourse to his "beloved child" (1:2). Although Paul is in chains for Christ, he rejoices that God's Word is "not bound," and he eagerly anticipates final salvation and glory (2:8–10). Paul charges Timothy to preach the Word, endure suffering, and entrust the apostolic gospel to faithful men who will teach others (2:2–3; 4:2).

Titus stresses that the gospel and good works are inseparable. Paul directs his coworker to appoint qualified elders in Crete (1:5–9), rebuke false teachers (1:10–16), and model sound doctrine and good works (2:1; 3:14).

Placing These Letters in the Larger Story

God created his world, and it was very good. Then sin brought disorder, devastation, and death for God's world and humanity. The Old Testament portrays God's patience with his rebellious covenant people and his promises to rescue sinners and restore his broken world. The New Testament announces that God has fulfilled his ancient promises and demonstrated his goodness and loving kindness by sending Jesus Christ, our Savior. The Gospels narrate the life, death, and resurrection of the Savior and King Jesus Christ. Acts records how Jesus' followers continued his mission by proclaiming the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit among all nations. The Epistles provide apostolic instruction for believers living between Jesus' first and second comings.

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus beautifully summarize the gospel message: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15); he "gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14). This glorious good news is the standard for sound doctrine and the motivation for godliness. These three letters promote sound teaching and godly leadership in the church while warning against false teaching and ungodly leadership.

Key Verses

"I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:14–15).

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:1–2).

“The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people” (Titus 3:8).

Date and Historical Background

Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus in order to encourage and instruct his coworkers in difficult ministry situations in Ephesus and Crete. Timothy and Titus were to confront false teaching and promote order and godly conduct in the church. Some interpreters argue that Paul wrote these two letters in the mid-50s, identifying Paul’s journey to Macedonia in 1 Timothy 1:3 with Acts 20:1, where Paul travels to Macedonia after the riot in Ephesus. Others date these letters to the mid-60s, following Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:16).

Paul wrote 2 Timothy near the end of his life, during his second imprisonment in Rome, in the mid- to late-60s. Paul had “fought the good fight” and “kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7), and he charged Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel but to follow his example of faithful ministry in suffering (1:8, 13). Paul also asked Timothy to visit him soon in prison (4:9).

Outline of 1 Timothy

- I. Doctrine Makes a Difference (1:1–20)
 - A. Paul’s greeting to Timothy (1:1–2)
 - B. Timothy’s charge to confront false teaching (1:3–11)
 - C. Paul’s gratitude for gospel grace (1:12–17)
 - D. Timothy’s charge restated (1:18–20)
- II. Gospel-Shaped Living and Leadership in God’s Household (2:1–3:16)
 - A. Gospel-shaped prayer and orderly worship (2:1–15)
 - B. Gospel-shaped leadership (3:1–13)
 - C. The mystery of godliness (3:14–16)
- III. Instructions for the Church and Its Leaders (4:1–6:2a)
 - A. False teaching in later times (4:1–5)
 - B. Teach and model sound doctrine (4:6–16)
 - C. Encourage older and younger believers (5:1–2)
 - D. Honor widows (5:3–16)

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW

- E. Honor elders (5:17–25)
- F. Honor masters (6:1–2a)
- IV. Contrast between True and False Teaching (6:2b–21)
 - A. Negative: False teachers motivated by gain (6:2b–10)
 - B. Positive: Godly teachers motivated by eternal life (6:11–16)
 - C. Charge to the wealthy (6:17–19)
 - D. Guard the gospel (6:20–21)

Outline of 2 Timothy

- V. Suffering for Christ (1:1–2:7)
 - A. Paul's greeting to Timothy (1:1–2)
 - B. Paul's gratitude for Timothy's sincere faith (1:3–5)
 - C. Suffer for the gospel by God's power (1:6–11)
 - D. Examples of fearless faithfulness (1:12–18)
 - E. Entrust the gospel to faithful men (2:1–7)
- VI. Dealing with Opposition in the Church (2:8–3:9)
 - A. Remember Jesus Christ and the promises of the gospel (2:8–13)
 - B. Faithful ministers rightly handle the Word (2:14–21)
 - C. Faithful ministers pursue righteousness and avoid quarrels (2:22–26)
 - D. Difficulty in the last days (3:1–9)
- VII. The Minister's Conduct, Commitment, and Charge (3:10–4:8)
 - A. Hold fast to Scripture and Paul's example (3:10–17)
 - B. Preach the Word (4:1–8)
- VIII. Concluding Instructions (4:9–22)

Outline of Titus

- IX. Appoint Elders (1:1–16)
 - A. Paul's greeting to Titus (1:1–4)
 - B. Titus's charge: Establish order, appoint elders (1:5–9)
 - C. Titus's challenge: False teachers (1:10–16)

- X. Teach Sound Doctrine (2:1-15)
 - A. Good works for God's people (2:1-10)
 - B. The gospel foundation for good works (2:11-15)
- XI. Saved for Good (3:1-15)
 - A. Good works toward outsiders (3:1-2)
 - B. The gospel foundation for good works (3:3-8)
 - C. Avoid controversies and division (3:9-11)
 - D. Concluding instructions (3:12-15)

As You Get Started

As you begin this study, do you have a sense of specific emphases in Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus? Without consulting your Bible, are there any particular passages that come to mind? Have these letters been meaningful to your own walk with the Lord in any specific ways?

What is your current understanding of what 1-2 Timothy and Titus contribute to Christian theology? That is, how do these letters clarify our understanding of God, Jesus Christ, sin, salvation, the end times, or other doctrines?

What aspects of these three epistles have confused you? Are there any specific questions you hope to have answered through this study?

As You Finish This Unit . . .

Take a few minutes to ask God to bless you with increased understanding and a transformed heart and life as you begin this study of Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus.



THE BOOKS OF 1–2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS are among Paul’s most personal and practical letters. The apostle writes to instruct these younger men in the importance of sound doctrine and urge them to rebuke false teaching.

This accessible study shows how the books of 1–2 Timothy and Titus exhort all Christians to protect and pass on the true gospel of Jesus Christ—the only power capable of saving and transforming sinners.

ABOUT THE *KNOWING THE BIBLE* SERIES

Over the course of 12 weeks, these studies explore books of the Bible and:

- Ask thoughtful questions to spur discussion
- Show how each passage unveils the gospel
- Tie the text in with the whole story of Scripture
- Illuminate the doctrines taught in each passage
- Invite you to discover practical implications
- Help you better understand and apply God’s Word

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GRAEME L. GOLDSWORTHY

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