

Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Three: Paul's Pastoral Epistles – 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Read 1 Timothy 1-3.

- 1) 1 Timothy 1:3 tells us that Timothy was in Ephesus when Paul wrote to him with the leadership instructions we know as “1 Timothy.”
 - a) According to Acts 18:19-19:1, who was involved in the founding of the church in Ephesus?

 - b) What additional information does Acts 19:8-10; 20:17, 29-31, and 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 3:14-15 give about the church at Ephesus and about why Paul wrote to Timothy?

- 2) Some understand Paul’s instructions in 1 Timothy 2:11-12 as a universal command, flowing from clearly defined roles for men and women in the Bible. However, many find that position problematic, based on other Bible passages. From the information given in 1:3-7, 19; 4:1-2, 6-7, 16; and 6:3-5 about what was going on in Ephesus at the time Paul wrote, can you suggest an explanation that might support the idea that Paul’s restriction on women teaching in the church was a *local* command to control a *local* church as a result of a *local* problem, rather than a universal restriction?

- 3) Regarding 1 Timothy 3:
 - a) Why do you think Paul carefully outlined the qualities that church leaders must possess for Timothy (consider the particular problems Timothy faced from questions 1-2)?

 - b) Over whom do you exert some kind of influence? Which aspect of your character needs to be constantly guarded or improved in order that your influence is God-honoring?

Read 1 Timothy 4-6.

- 4) Summarize the truths Paul taught in 1 Timothy 5-6 below:
 - a) 5:1-2

 - b) 5:3-16

 - c) 5:17-20

 - d) 6:1-2

e) 6:3-10

5) Write out the first sentence/phrase of 1 Timothy 4:16:

- a) Is what a person believes (his or her “teaching” or “doctrine”) always reflected in the way they live their life? Explain your answer.
- b) Which doctrine or teaching have you come to understand more clearly and believe more wholeheartedly since you began the *Acts 2* study? How has it impacted your behavior (or how do you believe it *will* impact your behavior)?

6) Reread 1 Timothy 4:11-12. Imagine Timothy’s feelings. The apostle Paul charged him, a “young” man, with the task of commanding and teaching a congregation that was struggling with divisive false teachings.

a) What did Paul tell Timothy about handling controversy in 1 Timothy 1:3-5?

b) Are you facing a difficult situation in which you can apply these instructions?

Read Titus 1-3.

7) Who was Titus (see 2 Corinthians 2:13; 7:6, 13-15; 8:6, 16-17, 23; 12:18; Galatians 2:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:10; Titus 1:4-5)?

8) What similarities do you find in the books of Titus and 1 Timothy?

9) The book of Titus contains a short doctrinal passage in each chapter (1:1-4; 2:11-14; and 3:4-7). Those in chapters 2 and 3 mention God’s grace. How is God’s grace teaching you to “say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live a self-controlled, upright and godly life” (2:11-12) this week?

Read 2 Timothy 1-2.

10) 2 Timothy was Paul's last epistle. What can you glean from 1:12, 15; 2:9; 4:6-8, 9-11, 13, 16-18, 21a about Paul's state of mind and circumstances?

11) Briefly list Paul's exhortations in chapters 1-2.

12) Paul told Timothy to reflect on the meaning of the three illustrations in 2:3-7. What main idea is taught by all three and specifically how does it apply to the ministry to which God had called you?

Read 2 Timothy 3-4.

13) In 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and 4:3-5, what did Paul prophesy and how did he instruct Timothy to respond (3:14 and 4:2, 5)?

14) What does Paul present as our sure foundation (see 2 Timothy 2:9, 15; 3:15-17; 4:2a)?

15) According to the content of Paul's pastoral epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus), what was his focus at the end of his life? What are you presently focused on? How does Paul's example challenge you?