



Ministry or Misery? You Choose!
August 28-29, 2021

The Pastoral Epistles

1 Thessalonians – Paul wrote this letter while in Corinth to encourage the Thessalonians to be faithful while facing persecution. He challenges them to grow in faith, knowing that the ultimate hope is the rapture and return of Christ. Paul gives practical instruction for our spiritual growth, how to cling to our hope and avoid sexual immorality while learning to rejoice always.

2 Thessalonians – Paul warns us about false teachers deceiving everyone so the Anti-Christ/Man of Lawlessness can rule during the Tribulation. He teaches practical application for the believers while teaching future events still yet to happen.

1 Timothy – Paul writes to the young pastor Timothy to encourage him during his ministry in Ephesus. This letter teaches the most explicit and complete instructions on church leadership and organization in the entire Bible. This letter is to be the basis for all Christian church leadership – teaching that all Pastors, Elders and professional church staff are to be respected, protected and provided for, unless they are in violation of their sacred calling.

2 Timothy – Paul writes this letter to Timothy after he has been a pastor for 4 years and had not heard from Paul since the first letter. Paul was writing from a dark, dingy Roman prison just before he died – no doubt at the hands of the psychotic Emperor Nero. Timothy would be imprisoned after keeping the church focused on sound teaching to the very end.

Titus – Paul writes to Titus as his “true son in the faith.” He had accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey and Paul held him in a position of high respect. All three chapters are rooted in the incarnation of Jesus becoming man to die for our sins. Paul commands Titus to teach God’s grace as the motivation to live a godly life.

How to Choose Ministry over Misery

1 **Commit your life to a church that follows the Bible’s plan for leadership.**

How:

- **Devoted to the clear gospel of grace.**

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

- **Dedicated to being a godly example to the community.**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

- **Diligently working.**

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

- **Determined to finish the race with excellence.**

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

1 Peter 5:1b-3 (NLT)

... As a fellow elder I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.

2 **Choose godly character.**

- **Character worth passing on to the next generation.**

Titus 2:1-2 (NLT)

As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

- **Character that focuses on Heaven.**

Titus 2:11-14 (NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

- **Character that demonstrates humility by avoiding petty conflict.**

Titus 3:1-2 (NLT)

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.



Celebrate our guaranteed victory in Christ.

- **Endure temporary suffering as a soldier of Christ.**

2 Timothy 2:3,12 (NLT)

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus...If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us.

- **Expect Jesus to rescue us soon.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.

Memory Verse for August, 2021

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.



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