

Introduction: Authority & Identity

- Key Points:** (1) Paul initially understood the authority that Jesus possessed as _____ and what that meant for him.
- (2) He wrote the Pastoral Epistles in order that Jesus' authority might be _____ in the churches so that believers might live properly as His people.

The Apostle Paul & His Mission

- Paul had a unique _____ and _____ background.

Phil. 3:4-6—⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Acts 22:3—"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

The influence of his family:

The influence of his early education:

The influence of his theological education:

Key Point: Saul of Tarsus was the perfect person to either _____ the early church or to _____ its message throughout the Roman world both to Jews and gentiles.

- Paul was uniquely appointed by Jesus as an _____.

Gal. 1:11-14—¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

⇒ Paul was instructed in the truth of the Gospel by the _____ Christ. (Acts 26:16)

- Paul was given a unique _____.

Gal. 4:15-17—¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

⇒ The primary focus of Paul's ministry was the spread of the Gospel among the _____.

⇒ The book of Acts provides a record of 3 of Paul's missionary journeys:

1. Acts 13:4-14:26 (Roughly 46-47 A.D.) →

2. Acts 15:36-18:22 (Roughly 49-51 A.D.) →

3. Acts 18:22-21:17 (Roughly 52-57 A.D.) →

Key Point: Paul's ministry is important for the _____ of Jesus' words to the disciples in Acts 1:8.

The Pastoral Epistles

- These letters were written during the final _____ of Paul's life and ministry.

Two important recipients: _____ (in _____) & _____ (in _____)

A 4th missionary journey?

Rom. 15:24—I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

“After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects.” —1 Clement 5:7 (2nd C.)

“Thus after he had made a defense it is said that the apostle was sent again upon the ministry of preaching, and that upon coming to the same city [Rome] a second time he suffered martyrdom.” —Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* (4th C.)

⇒ This would allow for Paul to have visited Crete along with Titus and to have established churches on the island.

- These letters reflect Paul's _____ for the wider church as he recognized that his time was short.

1. The churches must recall the truths they had learned about _____.

⇒ These letters each seem to include short doctrinal statements that were perhaps intended for Christians to memorize (1 Tim. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Titus 3:1-7)

2. The churches must recall truths about how they must _____ themselves as Christians.

⇒ These letters each contain “household code” statements which show that Paul understood the church and home to be the primary means of reflecting the truth of the faith to the surrounding world (1 Tim. 2:8-15; Titus 2:1-8)

Key Point: Paul recognized that it was the authority of Jesus that had given him a place in the unfolding of God's _____ and _____ and he therefore sought to apply that authority in the churches in order that they too might understand their own place within that same great story.

The Authority of Jesus Applied in Titus

1. The authority of Jesus is applied in Titus through the establishing of the _____ structure of the church.

⇒ The church is to be led by a group of biblically _____ men known as “elders.” (Titus 5:1-9)

2. The authority of Jesus is applied in Titus through the exhortations about _____ & _____ within the church.

⇒ Those who are _____ and those who are _____ are to relate properly to one another in both their instruction and their conduct.

3. In each of these examples, the authority of Jesus is applied through:

(1) _____ biblical truth.

Titus 1:9—He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 2:3b-5—[Older women] They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

(2) _____ biblical truth.

Titus 1:7-8—⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

Titus 2:2-3a—² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

Titus 2:6-7—⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity

Questions for Reflection:

1. What other believers do I look to for encouragement in my identity as a believer in Christ?
2. In what ways am I both teaching and modeling biblical truth to others?