

Letters to Young Preachers

One of my favorite books is called “Letters to Young Preachers.” This book is a collection of letters from older preachers to younger preachers in regard to some of the things they need to do to be effective in their work for God. But before “Letters to Young Preachers” was published in 2011, the Apostle Paul wrote an inspired collection of letters to young preachers 2,000 years ago. These letters have been preserved in the canon of scripture. They are the letters of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

Here are some fast facts about these letters (remember we begin reading tomorrow):

- They were written to two young preachers .
- Timothy was in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3). Titus was in Crete (Titus 1:5).
- Both had a close relationship with Paul (1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4).
- 1 Timothy and Titus were written after Paul’s release from his first imprisonment (shortly after the events of Acts).
- 2 Timothy was written during Paul’s second imprisonment (shortly before his death).
- They are extremely useful to preachers !
- They are extremely useful to all Christians !

I. Issues that Paul deals with in these letters:

- A. Departing from the faith (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:15; 2:17-18; 4:10)
- B. Preaching that pleases God (1 Timothy 1:3; 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:15, 25-26; 4:2-25; Titus 2:1, 15)
- C. Church leadership (1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23)
- D. Righteous living (1 Timothy 3:15; 4:12; 5:8; 6:6, 10; 2 Timothy 2:22-23; Titus 2:1-8, 11-14)
- E. Perseverance and never quitting (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3; 3:12-14; 4:5-8)

II. Blessings that will come when you read these books:

- A. You will receive reassurance that you are not weird because you want to stick with the Bible!
- B. You will receive a renewed sense of appreciation for your brethren!
- C. You will be reminded of the most important thing God has done for us (1 Timothy 1:15; 2:6; Titus 2:11, 14).

Conclusion: This lesson was designed to give you some highlights from these three books. For the rest you will have to read for yourself over the next few weeks. I certainly hope you will do the reading because these books will benefit you immensely.

- Shawn Jeffries