

PAUL'S LAST LETTERS

1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy

Three other letters were written by Paul after those studied in the previous lessons. Study these now to see what you can discover about events toward the end of his life:

A. Paul's First Letter to Timothy: Read 1 Timothy 1:1-3, 6:20, 21

1. What two places had Paul visited by the time he wrote this letter?

1 Timothy 1:3a

2. For what purpose had he left Timothy in the first of these places?

1 Timothy 1:3b, 4

B. Paul's Letter to Titus: Read Titus 1:1-5, 3:12-15

1. What other place had Paul visited by the time he wrote this letter? Titus 1:5a

2. For what purpose had he left Titus there? Titus 1:4, 5
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3. Where was Paul planning to spend the winter? Titus 3:12
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C. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy: Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18, 4:6-22

1. By the time Paul wrote this letter, he had visited several other places:

- a. Where had he left Trophimus sick? 2 Timothy 4:20b

- b. Where had he left his overcoat and books? 2 Timothy 4:13

- c. Where had he left Erastus? 2 Timothy 4:20a

2. If Paul was free to visit all these places, could he have been a prisoner any more?
(*THINK!*)
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3. Could these visits fit logically into the journeys recorded in the book of Acts? (*THINK!*)
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4. What does this prove must have happened as a result of Paul's first trial? (*THINK!*)
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5. **Note:** There are several reliable statements from early Christian writers which seem to prove that Paul went to Spain as he had planned. Clement, the disciple of Paul mentioned in Philippians 4:3, says that Paul had preached the gospel "in the east and in the west"; and that he "had gone to the extremity (end) of the west" before his martyrdom. From a Roman author, this could mean only one thing—Spain. Other

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witnesses to this fact are Eusebius, Chrysostom, and St. Jerome. He may also have gone to Britain.

6. Conybeare and Howson, authors of "Life and Epistles of Saint Paul", estimate that Paul was free about five years—spending one year in Macedonia and Asia Minor, two years in Spain, and two years in the travels listed above.
7. What was Paul's condition by the time he wrote his second letter to Timothy? 2 Timothy 1:8, 16
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8. Where was he? 2 Timothy 1:17
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9. Possibly it was at Nicopolis, not too far from Rome, that Paul was arrested the second time, and sent to Rome for trial. Which of his friends were with him at this time? 2 Timothy 4:9-13, 21a
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10. How many had stood with him as his first charge was answered? 2 Timothy 4:16, 17
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11. What did he expect to be the outcome of this trial? 2 Timothy 4:6
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12. Did he fear this? 2 Timothy 4:7,8
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13. Where did he expect to be soon? 2 Timothy 4:18
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14. **Note:** Tradition says that Paul was condemned by Nero, possibly on a charge of conspiring with Christians in Rome to burn the city. Then, probably in the summer of A.D. 68, he was beheaded just outside Rome by Nero's swordsmen.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What happened to Paul as soon as he was absent from the body? 2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23b, 21b, 1 Corinthians 15:54
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2. Will my death be one of victory and gain, because I go to meet my Lord?
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