

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

(NT Survey Lesson 176--Chronology of the letters)

Introduction: Many students of the N.T. have concluded that Paul was released from the imprisonment mentioned by Luke in Ac. 28 and by Paul in several of his letters. Our knowledge of the last few years of Paul is derived almost entirely from inferences we may make from 1 & 2 Timothy and

Titus, which seem to have been written after Paul's release from imprisonment. Several writers in the early history of the church after the first century record that Paul was released from imprisonment to preach again and later suffered martyrdom under Nero.

Lesson aim: To become familiar with the background for the epistles of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.

An overview of Paul's life after the first imprisonment

1. Was Paul confident when he wrote the book of Philippians that he would be set free? (Phil. 1:25-26)
2. What statement did Paul make to Philemon that indicates that he expected to be released from imprisonment soon? (Philemon 22)
3. What had been one of Paul's long range evangelistic plans according to Romans 15:22-29? Would it be likely that Paul upon release would have followed through on his plans? Is it possible that he could have abandoned this effort to return to the churches in the east?
4. From the letter to Titus, where may we infer Paul traveled sometime after his release from prison to what place? (Tit. 1:5)
5. Where did Paul urge Timothy to remain? (1 Tim. 1:3) Where was Paul going at the time?
6. Where did Paul say he left Trophimus sick? (2 Tim. 4:20)
7. While in Macedonia, Paul indicated that he would spend the winter where? (Tit. 3:12) What did Paul ask Titus to do?

8. Where is Paul when he writes 2 Timothy? (Cf. 2 Tim. 1:8,16-17; 4:16)
What did he want Timothy to do? (2 Tim. 4:9) Why? (2 Tim. 4:10ff)
9. What is Paul's view of the outcome of this imprisonment? (2 Tim. 4:6-8)