

INTRODUCTION TO TIMOTHY & TITUS

The Pastorals

These writings known as the “Pastorals,” comprising the First and Second Epistles to Timothy and to Titus, differ considerably from other writings attributed to Paul, due to their new destination and their predominantly pastoral character. All the other Epistles of Paul, with the exception of the Epistle to Philemon, are addressed to Churches and are obviously, in most cases, examples of a chief pastor’s work in advising, admonishing, and disciplining the flock over which he has supervision. But the pastoral Epistles are directed to men who are themselves pastors. These letters are examples of the supervisory work of a chief pastor addressing himself to those who are under-shepherds. ¹

The central concern of the letters is what has come to be called the “cure of the souls” as that ministry was being carried on in Ephesus and Crete by Timothy and Titus respectively. Paul is giving advice and warning, exhortation and encouragement to his sons in the gospel who are now his assistants in the care of the churches. Out of the wealth of his knowledge of the faith and his experience in dealing with men and churches of varying types, he gives these young ministers admonitions and guidance. ¹

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 541.

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