

1 Timothy: *How to Build a Church*

Introduction

I. The Author—Paul’s first Roman imprisonment (house arrest) lasted for 2 years from A.D. 60-62. It was not until after his release from house arrest in Rome that he began to travel extensively. It was during this time that Paul planted Timothy in Ephesus and Titus in Crete. The unanimous testimony of the early church is that Paul was later executed by the Roman emperor Nero during a second Roman imprisonment. These facts coupled with the fact that Nero committed suicide in June A.D. 68 lead most conservative scholars to conclude that Paul wrote 1 Timothy between his house arrest in Rome and his second imprisonment or somewhere between 62-66.

II. The Audience—First Timothy 1:3 seems to indicate that Paul was in Macedonia when he wrote this epistle. Timothy, the recipient of the epistle, was in Ephesus. Paul had apparently placed Timothy there to provide the church there with spiritual leadership.

III. The Aim— The designation “Pastoral Epistles” is appropriate for the letters to Timothy and Titus because they contain instructions for pastoral work in local churches. First Timothy was written to the young minister Timothy because of a possible delay in Paul’s arrival (3:14). During his absence, which could be prolonged, Timothy needed instructions concerning specific matters of church polity. *Therefore, the overall purpose of this epistle is to provide instruction on how to administer the affairs of the local church.* The key verse is 3:15. *“But in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”*

IV. The Arrangement

I. Salutation (1:1-2)

II. Instructions Concerning Sound Doctrine (1:3-20)

III. Instructions Concerning Public Worship (2:1-15)

IV. Instructions Concerning Church Leaders (3:1-13)

V. Instructions Concerning Guarding the Truth (3:14–4:16)

VI. Instructions Concerning Various Groups in the Church (5:1–6:10)

VII. Final Charge to Timothy (6:11-21)

V. The Analysis

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VI. The Application