

as Paul's last letter, was written from prison, probably in Rome, while Paul anticipated his death. The evidence of the letters themselves seems to imply that Paul had recently been with Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3) and with Titus in Crete (Titus 1:5) and was writing from Nicopolis (Tit. 3:12). Second Timothy 4:13 may imply that he had recently been in Troas and had left behind two coworkers--perhaps on his return to Rome--Trophimus in Miletus and Erastus in Corinth (II Tim. 4:20). Paul had evidently travelled in Asia, Crete, and Greece before writing II Timothy.

Paul wrote to his younger associates for several reasons. He wanted to encourage them in their work and Christian life, to give them (further) guidelines in setting up the offices of their respective churches and to warn them against false teachers. He wrote II Timothy to beg Timothy's presence before his (Paul's) death and to encourage him once more in the ministry.

These epistles were written, therefore, near the end of Paul's life to strengthen his younger disciples in their ministries and lend them some of his authority by putting his directions concerning the church in written form.

These letters are mainly prose, but contain two poetic sections which may have been hymns of the early church (1 Tim. 3:16; II Tim. 2:11-13).

Outlines:

1 Timothy

- I. Paul and Timothy 1:1-20
- II. Church Order 2:1-4:16
- III. Church Discipline 5:1-25
- IV. Various Instructions 6:1-19
- V. Conclusion 6:20-21

II Timothy

- I. Paul and Timothy 1:1-14
- II. Paul's Associates 1:15-18
- III. Directions for Timothy, part I 2:1-26
- IV. The Last Days 3:1-9
- V. Directions for Timothy, part II 3:10-17
- VI. Paul's farewell 4:1-22

History of Redemption

Although these epistles are not considered "doctrinal epistles" as are, for example, Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians, they contain much that rests on theological concepts. Doctrine is not the focus of I and II Timothy; it is rather the support of their focii.