

I Timothy thru Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-3

- Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.
- Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.
- Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

I Timothy

A. Means: First to Timothy (Timothy means “honouring God”).

- a. Despite unsupported objections of forgery this letter was authored by Paul. After all, why would a forgery name names as this letter does (eg:1:20)?
- b. The time is during the release from prison to his “rented house” (Acts 28:30) the first time due to no witnesses to his alleged crime (Acts 28:21).
- c. I Timothy deals guidance for the young preacher that he may “charge some to teach no other doctrine nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith” (1:3-4). Paul’s credentials are laid bare “as a pattern” (1:16) to deal with correct public worship (2 et al); qualifications of a God acceptable elder, deacon and the conduct of one “in the house of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (3 et al). A detailed description of false teachers vs. the truthful teacher and use of Timothy’s gift to lay on hands of the eldership (4 et al). The treatment of widows, elders and the requirement to be “without prejudice” in these matters (5 et al). To live life with contentment and to not let riches get in the way of godly living and to remain faithful (6 et al).

B. Keys to I Timothy:

- a. Key word: Leadership manual.
- b. Key Verses: I Tim.6:11-12 “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses”
- c. Key Chapter: 3 the qualifications of the eldership that will, upon faithful adherence to the faith, be able to lead God’s people in the faith.
- d. Key to Christ: Christ is the “one Mediator between God and men” Who “gave Himself a ransom for all” (2:5-6).

II Timothy

A. Means: Second to Timothy.

B. Written around AD 67 during Rome’s persecution of Christians who were blamed by Nero for the fire AD 64. Christianity was declared *religio illicito* and it appears Paul was caught up in this and prophetically perhaps even knowingly declared “my departure is at hand” (4:6). A letter of edification in spite of persecution with words such as “Hold fast the pattern of sound words” and illustrations of the single-minded soldier, farmer who endures after planting crops, the diligent worker, set aside vessel and the gentle servant (2:1-26). A prophesy of apostasy within the church and the charge to preach in “season and out of season” and the hope one has in Christ even in death (chapters 3-4).

C. Keys to II Timothy:

- a. Key word: Pattern of living in Christ.
- b. Key verses: 3:15-17 “how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work”; 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.”
- c. Key chapter: Chapter 2 and the keys to endurance.
- d. Key to Christ: The “crown of righteousness” to those who are faithful in Him.

Titus

A. Means: To Titus.

B. Authored by Paul to a young preacher on how to set forth the proper organisation of the church on the island of Crete. Given that the inhabitants of this island are noted as ‘always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons’ (1:12) from which the saying “Cretans” comes from, it seems Titus needed encouragement on how to mould these types into a congregation acceptable to the Lord’s church. Written around AD 63 the letter explains the ordination of elders, how to rebuke false teachers that abound, the essential element of sound doctrine and

how to maintain those good works by simply “avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless” (3:9).

C. Keys to Titus:

- a. Key word: Ideal church living.
- b. Key verses: 1:5 “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you”; 3:4-7 “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
- c. Key chapter: 2 the essential ability to speak sound doctrine for “fidelity” in Christ to be established and maintained.
- d. Key to Christ: The redemptive work of Christ as per 3:4-7.

Philemon

- A. Means: To Philemon (one of four prison letters; Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians being the other three).
- B. A short 25 verse letter of appeal from Paul to a fellow worker and beloved brother in Christ to consider the plight of a runaway slave of Philemon who is now a fellow brother in Christ. The slave and brother in question is Onesimus who had run to the security in numbers to Rome but had somehow come in contact with Paul’s message and now is one who realises his crime and due punishment but wishes to truly repent (II Cor.7:9-10 of restorative justice). Paul is simply asking that Philemon forgive as he has been forgiven (Matt.6:12) and not to worry about debt incurred as Paul will pick up the tab.
- C. Keys to Philemon:
 - a. Key word: Forgiveness.
 - b. Key verses: verse 16-17 “no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother--especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.”
 - c. Key to Christ: Matthew 6:12 “forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Hebrews

- A. Means: To Hebrews.
- B. Earthly author unknown. Some suggest the apostle Paul but there is no evidence to comprehensively link the letter to him. One thing we do know and that is the Holy Spirit “moved” the writer’s words (II Peter 1:21). The time is prior to AD 70 and the destruction of the temple for the temple significance in Hebrew sacrificial worship is mentioned albeit prophesied to be obsolete (chapter 8). Timothy and those originally from the church in Rome are alive and well (13:23-24). The recipients are being told there is something “better” than the Law of Moses which can be considered the theme. These people are Christians for Timothy is referred to as “our brother” and is planning along with the writer to see them soon (13:23). It is a letter of exhortation to stop listening to and believing Judaizing heretics and to grow and learn to become advanced teachers of the gospel message (chapter 6).

The message can be outlined in three simple steps:

1. Christ and His message is “better” than the message of the Law and the Prophets – (1:1-4:13).
2. Christ and His work is “better” than the works of the Levitical priesthood – (4:14-10:18).
3. Christ and His servant’s walk is a “better” faith than that of the “witnesses” of old – (10:19-13:25).

C. Keys to Hebrews:

- a. Key word: “better”.
- b. Key verses: 1:1-4 “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”
- c. Key chapter: 11 Faith’s Hall of Fame for “without faith it is impossible to please God” (11:6).
- d. Key to Christ: Chapter 7:14-17 “For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”