

Introduction to Epistles 2

Epistles 2 is a survey of 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon.

1 & 2 Thessalonians are DOCTRINAL and especially concerned with the Second Coming of Christ

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are PASTORAL with much practical advice for young pastors.

Philemon is PERSONAL and is a plea for forgiveness and mercy on a runaway slave.

Dates are extremely difficult to pin point when studying such ancient things, but following is a logical timeline concerning Paul and his epistles.

6 BC Paul's Birth

A.D. 33 Paul's Conversion

A.D. 48 Galatians

A.D. 51 1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians

A.D. 54-55 1 Corinthians

A.D. 55-57 Romans & 2 Corinthians

A.D. 61 Ephesians, Colossians, & Philemon

A.D. 62 Philippians & 1 Timothy

A.D. 63 Titus

A.D. 64-67 2 Timothy, Paul's Death, Peter's Death (67 AD)

A.D. 68 Nero's death

Between A.D. 51-64 are the years concerning our study of Epistles 2. Rome was a great world empire and even the homeland of the Jews was under Rome's authority.

In A.D. 51, Paul begins his Second Missionary Journey.

In A.D. 52, Thomas supposedly lands in Kodungallur, India to preach the Gospel. Paul preaches about the UNKNOWN GOD on Mars Hill in Athens.

In A.D. 53, Paul begins his Third Missionary Journey. Emperor Claudius accepts Nero as his heir.

In A.D. 54, Emperor Claudius was poisoned with mushrooms and succeeded by Nero at age 16. Nero was the great grandson of Caesar Augustus and committed suicide in A.D. 68. Apollos is converted to Christianity in Ephesus.

In A.D. 56, war breaks out between Rome and Parthia.

In A.D. 58, Ming-Ti, new emperor of China, introduces Buddhism to China and sacrifices to Confucius are ordered in all government schools.

In A.D. 60, Paul is shipwrecked in Malta. Romans build the first "London Bridge."

In A.D. 61, Mark is executed after having preached in Egypt. Pliny the Younger, Roman author and statesman, is born.

In A.D. 62, Nero seems to drastically turn into a maniac and his rule becomes highly abusive from here on out. A great earthquake damages cities in Campania (Pompe2).

In A.D. 64, July 18 the great fire of Rome burned 4 ½ days and Christians are blamed. Persecution of early Christians begins under Nero. Peter was among those executed, but probably not until AD 67. I Peter was written around A.D. 64.