

# 1st and 2nd Timothy and Jude.

False teaching was a serious problem for the early church. You had new Christians with backgrounds ranging from strict Jewish tradition to people that had worshiped idols or even the sun and stars. The church spread rapidly and not a lot had been written down yet so it was a challenge for the disciples to keep everything in line with Jesus teachings. 1st and 2nd Timothy are pastoral advice on how to deal with issues at the churches in Ephesus and Crete. Ephesus was a wealthy and important city that Paul had already addressed in several letters.

Paul wrote these letters to Timothy, who had been his assistant and traveled with him on his missionary journies. 1st Timothy was also written to be read to the church to address false teachers that were there. These were leaders within the church, not outsiders. Because of this the letter goes on to describe the qualifications for church leaders .

Timothy had been with Paul on several journies by this time. Paul trusted him enough by now that they would split up and go to different churches at times. But Timothy was still a young man. 2nd Timothy is directed more towards Timothy himself as encouragement from Paul. It is important for us to continue to encourage each other.

Jude was also written in the first century AD to address false teaching, but is attributed to James brother. These passages are still very relevant today. There have been many false teachers in our life time that have led others down a dark path. Jim Jones, Waco and Heaven's Gate cult immediately come to mind, but there are many more subtle ones that dont get the media's attention. Even locally it is important for each of us to constantly check what we say and do against what is written in God's word to ensure we are in line with biblical principles.

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