

## THE PASTORAL EPISTLES – A POSSIBLE CHRONOLOGY

Taken from *Acts and Epistles* by A.D. Norris

If Paul was released from prison after 2 years (Acts 28: 30) some material in the pastoral letters is difficult to fit into the framework of Acts, so this is suggested as a possible timeline for Paul's last years.

63 Summer	Paul travels from Rome to Philippi (Phil 2:24) then to Colossae ((Philemon: 22)
63 Autumn	To Ephesus (a visit he had thought he would be unable to make (Acts 20: 29). Assisted by Onesiphorus (2 Tim 1:18)
64 Autumn	To Crete, staying with Titus for the winter. During this time Nero's great fire broke out in Rome, providing the pretext for a great persecution of Christians.
65 Spring	Journey west to Rome and Spain (Romans 5: 18)
65 Summer	Return to Rome, perhaps via Galatia
66 Spring	Journey to Crete and leaves Titus there (Titus 1: 5)
66 Summer	To Ephesus, where he finds hostility and defection (2 Tim 1: 15; 4: 14)
66 Autumn	From Ephesus to Troas in Macedonia, from where the letter to Titus may have been written. Problems arising from Fire in Rome now catch up with Paul. He is arrested and taken to Rome. Luke is retained as Paul's companion. Tychicus is sent to Ephesus.
66 Winter	Paul confined to prison again, probably in a common prison cell this time, (2 Tim 2: 9) where Onesiphorus had difficulty finding him(1: 17)
67 Spring	Timothy is urged to bring Mark and visit Paul in prison during the navigational season (2Tim 4: 11, 21) Paul's threatened execution may have prevented these visits, or they may have occurred shortly before his death. Paul had found himself unbefriended by some (4: 16) but there were some who sustained him (4: 21 – Eubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia).

Some traditions put the date of Paul's execution at June, A.D. 67.