

Paul's Later Letters

Fully Establishing the Churches According to Christ's Design

Paul's Later Letters

In the last two years, my Timothy, Michael Vos, and I have worked through the commending of Michael to step up to leading our apostolic team with me and assuming the full role of CEO of BILD, our apostolic team tool of training networks of leaders all over the world.

Leaders tell us again and again they have never seen this happen before. And neither have we.

But when we work out our own cultural situations around the principles of 2 Timothy, it works at an incredible new level. The network now has the best of both of us, and we are beginning to see, the best of our entire team.

Paul's Later Letters

This is a very important letter, Paul's last letter, on preserving his network, setting the course for intergenerational multiplication, and passing the baton to key apostolic leaders.

Last 2 years — Michael and I (never seen before)

- Michael's adjustments were instinctive: marriage and parents, next gen leaders, positional and apostolic leadership
- Jeff — invest in Michael's priorities, additional paradigm empowering tools, transition him to apostolic leadership

Not an accident

- Michael — Timothy to full apostolic leadership
- Jeff — truly invest in Michael as emerging next gen apostolic leadership

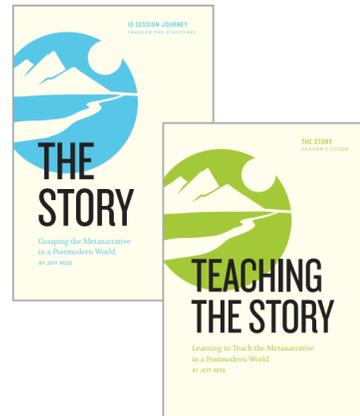
Paul's Later Letters

Issue: Significance of Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy in Later Letters

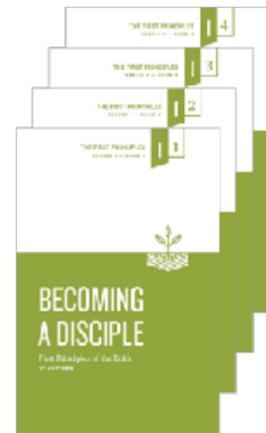
Questions:

1. How is this personal letter to Timothy related to the “family of families” topoi of Paul's later letters?
2. What is the role of our grandmothers and mothers in building intergenerational key apostolic leaders and strong multiplying networks of churches?
3. What are the key elements of developing intergenerational key apostolic leaders? What functions of Paul's apostolic role did Paul intend to be intergenerational in key apostolic leaders?
4. What sorts of things are key to developing a true apostolic trust network? What sorts of things are clues that many emerging apostolic leaders are not reliable (are crackable)?

New Perspective on Paul



Kerygma
Early Acts
Apostles' Teaching
6 months
Paul: 3 years "night and day"



Didache
Body of Acts
Theology of Paul
1½ years

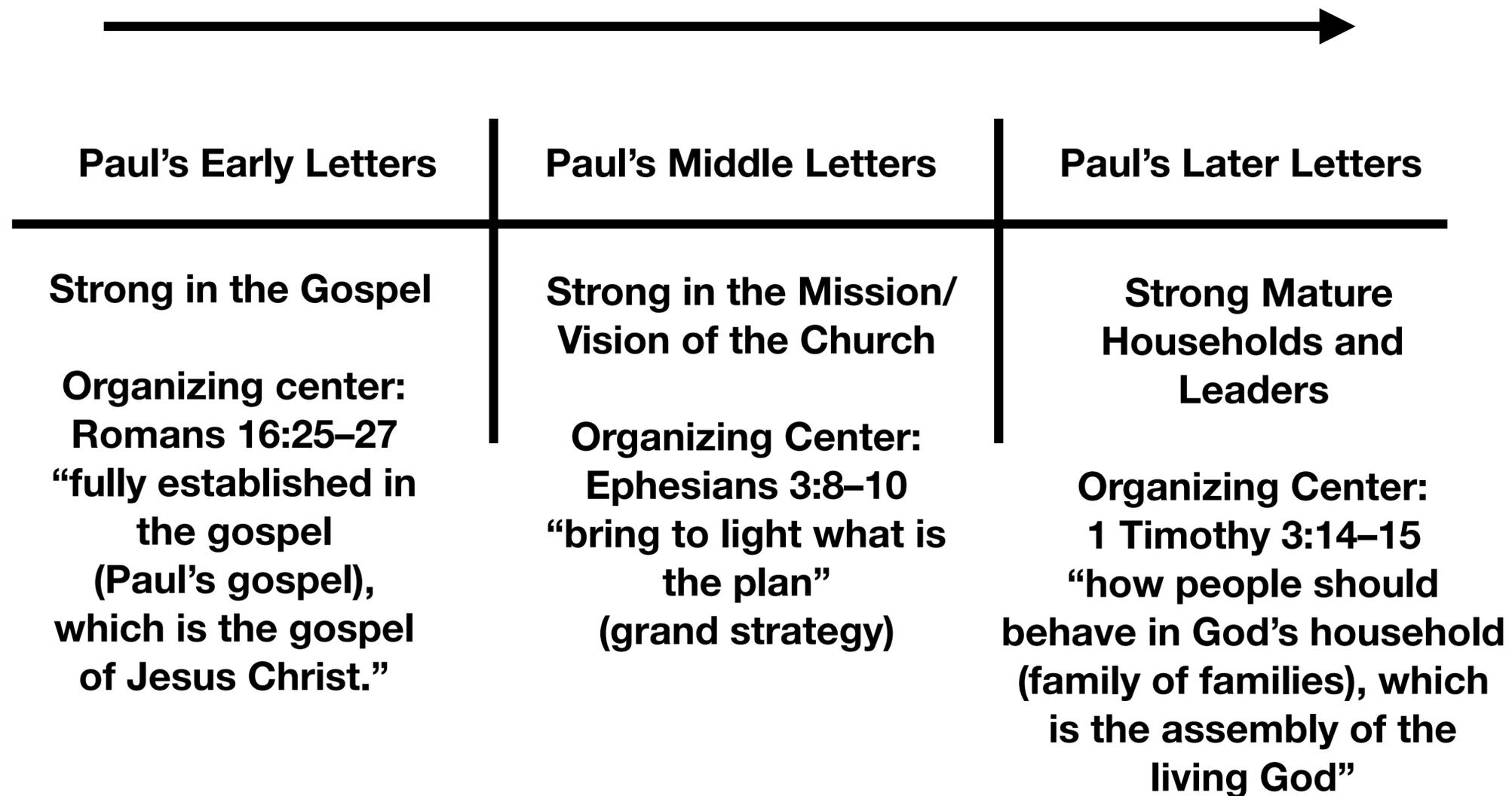


Full Kerygma
After Acts
Apostles' Gospels
1 year



Paul's Early, Middle, and Later Letters

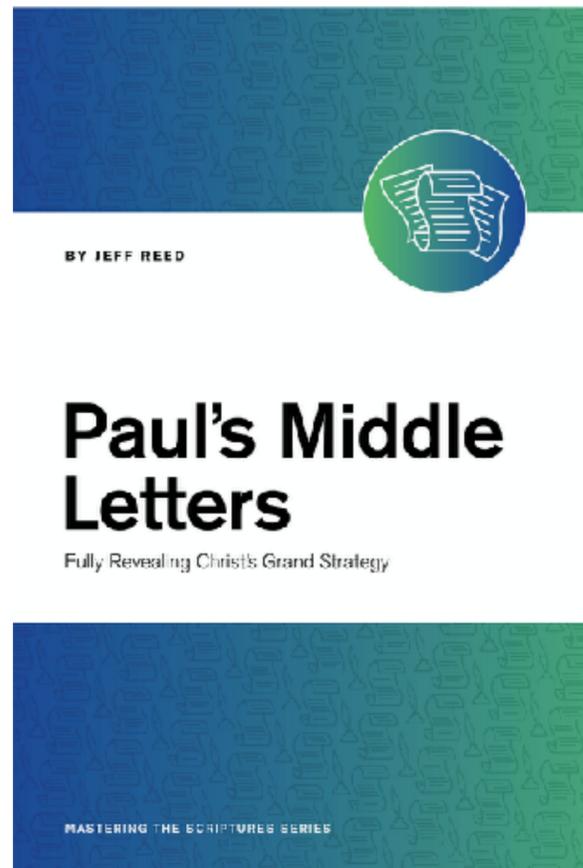
The Process of Building Strong Churches



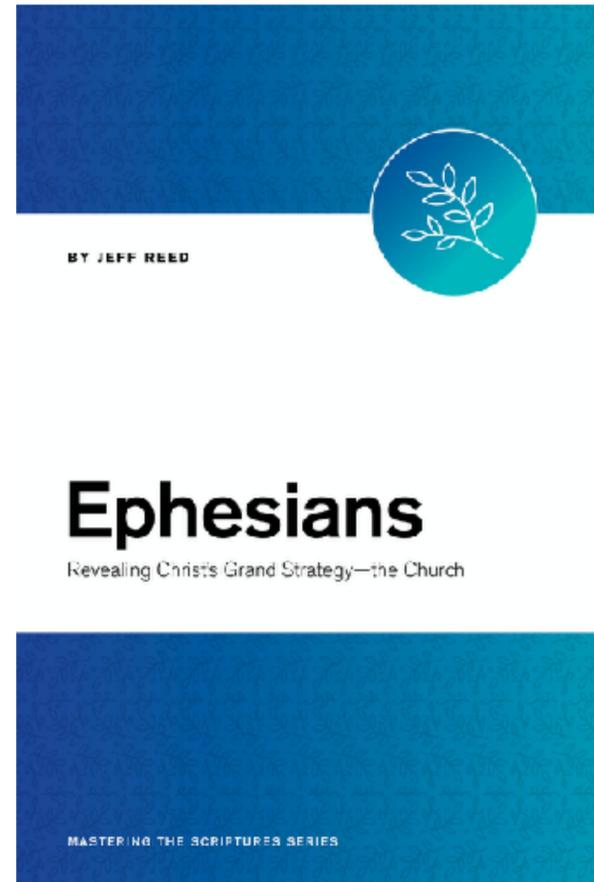
Paul's Early Letters	Paul's Middle Letters	Paul's Later Letters
Strong in the Gospel Organizing center: Romans 16:25–27 “fully established in the gospel (Paul's gospel), which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.”	Strong in the Mission/ Vision of the Church Organizing Center: Ephesians 3:8–10 “bring to light what is the plan” (grand strategy)	Strong Mature Households and Leaders Organizing Center: 1 Timothy 3:14–15 “how people should behave in God's household (family of families), which is the assembly of the living God”

2021

Paul's Middle Letters



Feb. 60 to March 62



Autumn 60



Autumn 61



Spring 62

Paul's Later Letters

Now we turn to Paul's Later Letters, which brings us to the third and final phase of Paul's process of establishing strong, mature, multiplying churches with solid leadership and high community impact with the gospel.

1 Timothy—written to Timothy when at Ephesus, Autumn, AD 62

Titus—written to Titus who was in Crete, Summer of 66

2 Timothy—written to Timothy, Spring of 67 (shortly before his death)

Middle and Later Letters

1 Timothy and Titus are similar in relationship to Ephesians and Colossians.

Ephesians — framework

Colossians — put into action in a cluster of churches

1 Timothy — framework

Titus — put into action in a small network

Ephesians is sort of the framework for Christ's grand strategy. And Colossians, written in a very similar manner and content, is an example of establishing a cluster of churches in the grand strategy revealed in Ephesians.

1 Timothy is sort of the framework for fully setting in order the churches according to Christ's design as a household of God: a "family of families." (Timothy was at Ephesus fully establishing them.) And Titus is an example of establishing a small network of churches.

Paul's Later Letters



Book 1: Paul's Later Letters: Fully Establishing the Churches
According to Christ's Design

Book 2: 1 Timothy: Ordering the Churches as Households of God

Book 3: Titus: Setting in Order What Remains in the Churches

Book 4: 2 Timothy: Investing in Intergenerational Apostolic
Leadership

Paul's Later Letters



Book 1: Paul's Later Letters: Fully Establishing the Churches According to Christ's Design

Session 1: The Household: Organizing Center of the Later Letters

Session 2: 1 Timothy: The Church as an Extended Household

Session 3: Titus: Setting in Order What Remains in the Churches

Session 4: 2 Timothy: Investing in Intergenerational Leaders

Session 5: Completing Paul's Process of Establishing Church Networks

New Perspective on Paul

Old Perspective on Paul

Paul's letters contain miscellaneous, often unrelated topics that would be useful for future believers, especially in dealing with sin, salvation, and living the Christian life. These topics are a significant part of today's ever growing systematic theologies.

New Perspective on Paul

Paul's letters form a coherent, interlocking shape, foundational for churches in any generation to fully understand Christ's grand strategy of the Church being central to His unfolding kingdom and to living in full alignment of that grand strategy.

Paul's Later Letters

Topoi (common topics in one place) is a very important form of Greek rhetoric that enables you to structure an argument including several topics around one memorable schematic, or rubric, or literally in one place.

The organizing center (a topoi) of Paul's Later Letters is 1 Timothy 3:14–15

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.

1 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

As we master this first of Paul's later letters and understand the household topoi, we will gain great insight into completing the process of establishing churches and church networks and to building intergenerational leadership. Here is what we saw in 1 Timothy as we looked at some of the topics swirling around his topoi of the church as a household of households (family of families).

Key "Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs" of 1 Timothy:

1. The Importance of solid apostolic leaders guarding sound doctrine

Paul begins his later letters by focusing on the importance of apostolic leaders who guard the sound doctrine entrusted to them, which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith (and affirmed by a council of elders), and includes a mixture of apostolic, prophetic, and teaching gifts.

1 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

2. Sound doctrine entrusted to apostolic leaders

Sound doctrine, which is rooted in the gospel, has been entrusted to these leaders. They must possess the ability to confront different doctrines, which will be a constant battle, that many younger emerging apostolic leaders will easily be entrapped by.

3. Sound doctrine and community-wide understanding of authority

One of the first things in setting in order the churches (1 Timothy 3:14–16) is for the churches to understand basic community-wide authority structures: in the context of governmental authority, men are not to become involved in angry causes toward the government, but to be at peace; women in the churches are to submit to men who are primarily responsible for guarding and teaching this sound doctrine—both are key to maintaining sound doctrine. So the churches are to be well ordered and not be in turmoil externally or internally.

1 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

4. Setting order in the churches as an extended household

Paul expected Timothy to develop a household style leadership: recognizing elders, deacons, and leading women who assist, who will manage and teach the household of God, which requires that they manage their own households well. All of this clearly establishes the social structure of the churches as an extended household (a family of families).

5. Apostolic leaders engaging entire false doctrine systems

Paul warns Timothy of the coming constant barrage of entire doctrinal systems that will demand his own personal, lifelong discipline in the Scriptures. It's a kind of discipline that demands constant progress in his ability to handle the false doctrines emerging in his context. His progress must be evident to all the churches as they are part of that teaching and dismantling of false doctrine systems.

1 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

6. Functioning as an extended household in matters of both honoring and authority

Paul gives Timothy guidelines focused on the church as an extended household: instructing him as he continues to “set the churches in order” and keep them stable, establishing a basic extended household culture of the younger honoring the older, establishing a real extended household structure of honoring (caring for) widows who cannot be cared for by their own households, and honoring (paying for) elders who are carrying out extensive ministry. He must establish this social structure, recognizing that he must not show partiality, holding to these instructions as Christ’s design.

In addition, just as hands were laid on Timothy as an apostolic leader, he must lay hands on elders worthy of double honor very carefully. And they must see that those who have masters (slaves) do not use the grounds that they are both members of the church, to disrespect them. (Remember Paul’s Colossians–Philemon argument and model.)

1 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

7. Household order as sound words to be taught with authority

Teach this “household order” with authority, not letting those who ignore these sound words get a foothold; take care to instruct those who are rich not to lead people a different direction but to focus on these things and invest in them; take care yourself, Timothy, to guard what has been entrusted to you.

Titus Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

As we master this second of Paul's later letters and understand the household topoi, we will gain great insight into completing the process of establishing churches and church networks and to building intergenerational leadership. Here is what we saw in Titus as we looked at some of the topics swirling around his topoi of the church as a household of households (family of families).

Key "Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs" of Titus:

1. The importance of next generation apostolic leaders stepping up to the function of fully establishing churches.

Paul begins this letter by addressing the entrance of Titus to the full function of establishing churches, which demands he now functions with the authority of a young, fully commissioned apostolic leader.

Titus Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

2. The primary importance of appointing well-trained elders in every city.

and recognizing of well trained elders in every city. That assumes that Titus needs to be involved in the training of that senior network-wide eldership—an eldership that can guard the teaching at the same level of Titus, with a clear focus of keeping the churches well established in sound doctrine.

Titus Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

3. Sound doctrine includes how we are to live in a family of families.

Paul makes it clear that the sound doctrine Titus is to teach with all authority as an emerging apostolic leader includes, as part of its essence, how we are to live in community together as a family of families and that living in this way confirms the Word of God to be true, builds intergenerational families, and makes the gospel attractive.

Titus Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

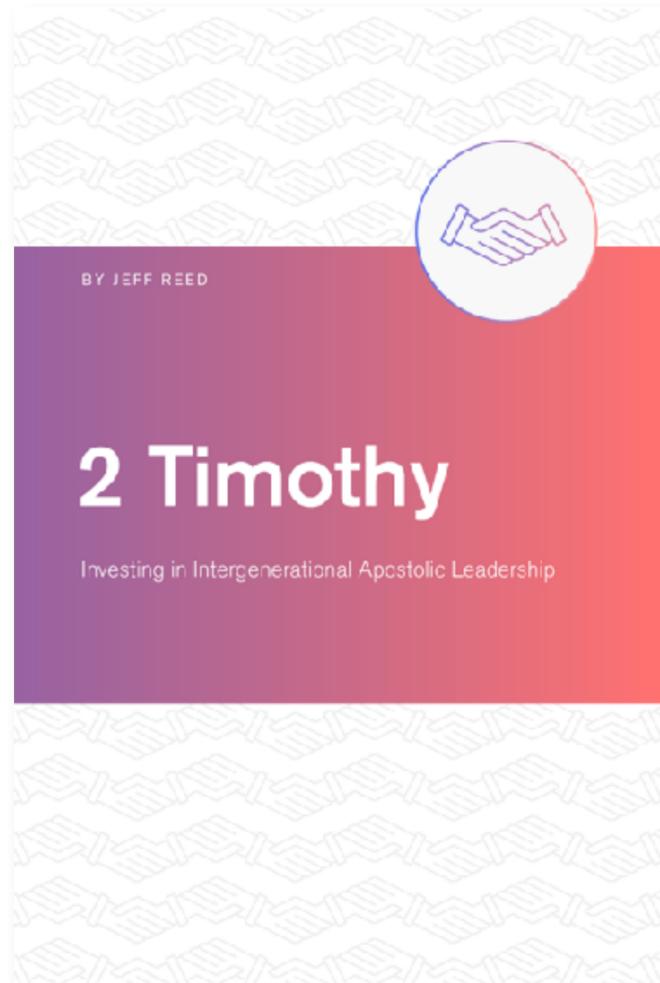
4. Abstract, unsound doctrine, must be dealt with severely

Paul clearly states that those who promote an abstract doctrine (abstracted from true life as a family of families) that leads to endless controversies must not be allowed to fester inside the churches. And those who will not embrace sound doctrine, as he predicts in his letter, must be removed from the churches after the second warning if they continue.

5. Engaging in good occupations and meeting pressing needs.

Engaging in good occupations and meeting pressing needs around us are intrinsic parts of Paul's concept of sound doctrine. But they are also an outcome, because engaging in good occupations and meeting pressing needs both adorn the gospel; therefore, they are central to the progress of the gospel, in and beyond their own communities.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs



Book 4: 2 Timothy: Investing in Intergenerational Leaders

Session 1: Who Was Timothy? Thanks to His Grandmother and Mother

Session 2: Intergenerational Process of Developing Apostolic Leaders

Session 3: Passion of Ongoing Shaping of Apostolic Networks

Session 4: Paul as a Finisher, Fighting the Good Fight

Session 5: The Incredible Network Acumen of Paul

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

Now we turn our focus to 2 Timothy to seek greater understanding of the “household topoi” and to gain an even fuller insight into completing the process of establishing churches, church networks, and building intergenerational leadership. Let’s read through a few core passages of 2 Timothy.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:3–7 NRSV

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

As we master this second of Paul's Later Letters and understand the household topoi, we will gain great insight into completing the process of establishing churches and church networks and to building intergenerational leadership. Here is a final set of topics swirling around his topoi of the church as a household of households (family of families).

Key "Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs" of 2 Timothy:

1. The importance of paradigm shaping grandmothers and faithful mothers in shaping the foundations of the next generation of key apostolic leaders

Paul refers to the importance of paradigm shaping grandmothers and faithful mothers in laying a foundation in the Scriptures for next generation key apostolic leaders, again showing his awareness that being part of a family of families is part of developing future apostolic leaders.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

Paul is not saying that all future apostolic leaders must come from a background of a strong spiritual heritage, but in the context of the church being a family of families and the importance of building intergenerational families, you can see the tremendous advantage of the future generation of apostolic leaders coming from strong churches with strong households.

Michael and I both can testify to the tremendous shaping influence our grandmothers had on us. His grandmother worked hard with him on the farm and filled him with life principles and sayings. My grandmother introduced me to a great teacher and encouraged me to read his books and booklets before I was in Junior High. (She gave me her whole collection.)

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us....

2 Timothy 1:11–14 NRSV

¹⁶ Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who ²² Shun

3:8 As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth. ⁹ But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men, a their folly will become plain to everyone.

2 Timothy 2:16–18, 22; 3:8–9 NRSV

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

¹ You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; ² and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. ³ Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. ⁵ And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. ⁶ It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.... ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:1–7, 15

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

2. Intergenerational Process of Developing Apostolic Leaders

Paul saw his process of developing the next generation of key apostolic leaders— in the context of building a complex apostolic network of churches who are committed to the progress of the gospel—as a pattern that Timothy should follow, and he expected it to be a pattern for all future generations.

3. Becoming a Master Craftsman

Paul expected Timothy to become a master craftsman in handling accurately the Word of truth, with a focus on guarding the deposit of sound doctrine delivered to him by Paul, and to take care to avoid teachings and arguments that distract from it, giving an illustration of how difficult it is to stay solid in that teaching, with leaders who don't make it.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

¹⁰ Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:10–17 NRSV

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

4. Passion on Ongoing Shaping of Apostolic Networks

Paul saw that his function as an apostolic leader—working tirelessly amongst the churches and keeping them solid, fully equipped, and multiplying—was to be carried on by apostolic leaders after him. Paul reviews that work as the central focus for Timothy after he leaves, which means his function as a key apostolic leader was perpetual.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

The debate goes on with many evangelical leaders I work amongst. They see Paul as an Apostle, but after him, the gift of apostle does not continue. Instead, we have pastors and missionaries. Some may agree that we can use the term “Pauline teams,” but not “apostolic teams.” Yet here, Paul refers to himself as essentially apostle, prophet, and teacher. He expected his function amongst the churches to continue after him. How do I know?

1. He tells Timothy to train others as Paul trained him, generation after generation.
2. He reviews his own work amongst the churches and tells Timothy to follow his example, doing the same exact work.
3. Paul tells Timothy he has fulfilled his own ministry, and now Timothy is to be faithful and fulfill his.
4. All this implies, in these later letters, that this is a vital function in order for church networks to be strong, multiply, and progress the gospel in each generation.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 NRSV

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6–8 NRSV

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

5. Lifelong Challenge to Fulfilling Paul's Apostolic Stewardship

Paul saw he was near the end of his ministry. And on that basis, he challenged Timothy to fully fulfill his future ministry, again emphasizing the difficulty of that, emphasizing that the future will entail many who “will not put up with sound doctrine,” and again showing us that Paul understood his apostolic function to be needed and continue on in each generation.

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹² I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them!... ¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained in Corinth; Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.

2 Timothy 4:9–15, 16, 19–21 NRSV

2 Timothy Key Topoi-Based Topic Paragraphs

6. The Incredible Network Acumen of Paul

Paul demonstrated, at the end of his last letter, his network acumen: greeting team members located in several cities, giving strategic instructions, assessing leaders, warning against some, and continuing to shape the network.

In this letter

- Gives assessments—some left him and reasons for their failure (Hymenaeus and Philetus; Demas; at my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me).
- Evaluated use of marginalized leaders (Mark).
- Stationed key leaders in key cities for periods of time (I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia).
- Some of his team served close to him at times: Luke and Timothy.
- He has his team in several cities now: Ephesus, Dalmatia, Galatia cities, Corinth, and Miletus.

2 Timothy Household Topoi Today

Now let's look at these key 2 Timothy "topi-based topic paragraphs" through the lens of our churches today:

1. The importance of paradigm shaping grandmothers and faithful mothers in shaping the foundations of the next generation of key apostolic leaders
Grandmothers and mothers must realize that the shaping of their sons and daughters can play a key role in the development of paradigm shaping next generation key apostolic leaders and teams, and it is part of Christ's integrated design for His churches.
2. Intergenerational Process of Developing Apostolic Leaders.
Paul's process of developing the next generation of key apostolic leaders—in the context of building a complex apostolic network of churches who are committed to the progress of the gospel—is a pattern that we should follow, and he expected it to be a pattern for all future generations.

2 Timothy Household Topoi Today

3. Becoming a Master Craftsman

Young, emerging apostolic leaders like Timothy should seek to become master craftsmen in handling accurately the Word of truth, with a focus on guarding the deposit of sound doctrine delivered by Paul's letters and to take care to avoid teachings and arguments that distract from it, giving the illustration of how difficult it is to stay solid in that teaching, with leaders who don't make it.

4. Passion of Ongoing Shaping of Apostolic Networks

The core function of key apostolic leaders is to work tirelessly amongst the churches, keeping them solid in sound doctrine, fully equipped, and multiplying. And Paul expected that function to continue in each future generation, which means his apostolic type role is needed in every network of churches, in every culture, and every point in history.

2 Timothy Household Topoi Today

5. Lifelong Challenge to Fulfilling Paul's Apostolic Stewardship

We need to challenge future young, emerging apostolic leaders like Timothy to fully fulfill their future ministry, again emphasizing the difficulty of that, emphasizing that the future will entail many who “will not put up with sound doctrine,” and again showing us that Paul understood his apostolic function to be needed and continue on in each generation.

6. The Incredible Network Acumen of Paul

We need to carefully study all of Paul's letters and Luke's account of Paul's activities in order to develop his network acumen: greeting team members located in several cities, giving strategic instructions, assessing leaders, warning against some, and continuing to shape the network. We need to assume they are catechetical for us today, which is the reason these network instructions are given in letter after letter.

Paul's Later Letters

In the last two years, my Timothy, Michael Vos, and I have worked through the commending of Michael to step up to leading our apostolic team with me and assuming the full role of CEO of BILD, our apostolic team tool of training networks of leaders all over the world.

Leaders tell us again and again they have never seen this happen before. And neither have we.

But when we work out our own cultural situations around the principles of 2 Timothy, it works at an incredible new level. The network now has the best of both of us, and we are beginning to see the best of our entire team.

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This is a very important letter, Paul's last letter, on preserving his network, setting the course for intergenerational multiplication, and passing the baton to key apostolic leaders.

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- Jeff — invest in Michael's priorities, additional paradigm empowering tools, transition him to apostolic leadership

Not an accident

- Michael — Timothy to full apostolic leadership
- Jeff — truly invest in Michael as emerging next gen apostolic leadership

Paul's Later Letters

Issue: Significance of Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy in Later Letters Today

Questions:

1. How does this personal letter to Timothy, related to the “family of families” topoi of Paul's later letters, apply to us today?
2. What is the role of our grandmothers and mothers in building intergenerational key apostolic leaders and strong multiplying networks of churches today?
3. What are important elements of developing intergenerational key apostolic leaders? What functions of Paul's apostolic role did Paul intend to be intergenerational in key apostolic leaders today? What functions of Paul's role as a key apostolic leader were intended to be carried out in every generation and in every culture?
4. What sorts of things are key to developing a true apostolic trust network? What sorts of things are clues that many emerging apostolic leaders are not reliable (crackable)? How do we avoid laying hands on the wrong leaders, even if they appear exceptionally gifted?