

Proposed Historical Situations for the Pastoral Letters

	Titus	1 Timothy	2 Timothy
If there are gaps in our record of Paul's career	by Paul from Ephesus (?) to Titus in Crete, ca. 52–56	by Paul from Macedonia to Timothy in Ephesus, ca. 52–56	by Paul from prison in Rome to Timothy, ca. 60–64
If Paul had a "second career"	same as above but ca. 63–66	same as above but ca. 63–66	same as above but ca. 65–67
If all three letters are by the same pseudonymous author	by an unknown admirer of Paul from an unknown location to Christians in general, late first or early second century		
If the letters are expansions of Pauline notes	brief personal references in all three letters, same as first row above; bulk of all three letters, same as third row above		
If 2 Timothy was written first and by a different author	by admirer of Paul with a copy of 2 Timothy from an unknown location to Christians in general, late first or early second century		same as first row above, or, written by Pauline admirer shortly after his death