

Paul's Ministry After Acts

After Acts 28, Scripture itself requires a further period of Paul's ministry at liberty: he left Timothy in Ephesus while he went into Macedonia (not found anywhere in Acts); he left Titus in Crete to organize churches and planned to winter at Nicopolis; later, he was imprisoned again in Rome and wrote 2 Timothy. These markers anchor the Pastoral Epistles after Acts.

What Paul Wrote After Acts (the Pastoral Epistles)

Book	Probable Date (A.D.)	Likely Writing Location	Why It Must Be Post-Acts (Scripture)
1 Timothy	~63–65	Somewhere in Macedonia (after returning via Ephesus)	Paul says he left Timothy in Ephesus when he went into Macedonia — a configuration that never occurs in Acts: 1 Tim 1:3.
Titus	~63–65	In transit in the Aegean; planning Nicopolis	Paul left Titus in Crete to "set in order" and appoint elders in every city (Acts only reports a weather-stop), and tells him to come to Nicopolis to winter: Titus 1:5; 3:12.
2 Timothy	~66–67	Rome (second, harsher imprisonment)	Paul faces death ("time of my departure is at hand") and recalls recent free-period stops (Troas, Miletus, Corinth): 2 Tim 4:6–8, 13, 20.

Seven Post-Acts Places We Know Paul Reached (Scripture Only) - Required while at liberty:

- Ephesus — Timothy left there (1 Tim 1:3).
- Macedonia — Paul went there as Timothy remained (1 Tim 1:3).
- Crete — Titus left to organize churches 'in every city' (Titus 1:5).
- Nicopolis — Paul planned to winter there (Titus 3:12).
- Troas — cloak left with Carpus (2 Tim 4:13).
- Miletus — Trophimus left sick (2 Tim 4:20).
- Corinth — Erastus stayed there (2 Tim 4:20).

Tradition only (not Scripture)

- Spain? Paul planned Spain (Rom 15:24), and early writers say he reached the 'farthest West,' but Scripture does not record the trip — treat as tradition, not certainty.