The end of the Apostolic Age, with the deaths of Paul in c60 and Peter in c64, was a catastrophe for early Christianity, since their whole system of local church maintenance and doctrinal uniformity was based on periodic apostolic visits. The saga of these churches, as they adapted to locally chosen leaders and teachers, is hinted at in the Pastoral Epistles. Another, and rarely consulted, source is the Didache, whose basic advice for church leaders ends with warnings about how to detect false apostles (those who ask money, or seek to stay more than three nights) – but then continues with advice on how to handle the apostle who decides to remain, and accepts payment for his services. This extra added Didache section has some points of seeming contact with the three Pastorals. I here seek to disentangle the administrative relationships, and the relative chronology, of these four texts.

[148 words]