

# THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

Week I: Introduction to the Pastorals

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful. Sanctify this congregation by your abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things. Enlighten the minds of your people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ, and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast to the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul. Guard those who are strong and prosperous from forgetting you. Increase in us your many gifts of grace, and make us all fruitful in good works. This we ask, O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*COLLECT FOR*

**INNER  
RENEWAL  
THROUGH  
THE WORD**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS

- The Class Outline
- Supplemental Material

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> The Class Outline

Supplemental Material

## The Class Outline

### 1 Timothy & Titus

- Week 1: Introduction to the Pastorals  
*(you are here)*
- Week 2: The Problem  
The False Teachers & Their Doctrine
- Week 3: Sound Doctrine  
The Gospel, The Church, & Good Works
- Week 4: Sound Doctrine  
The Gospel & Holy Baptism
- Week 5: Sound Leadership  
Holy Orders & Church Ministers
- Week 6: Sound Relationships  
Being the Family of God
- Week 7: Sound Obedience  
Christians & Authority
- Week 8: Entrusted with the Gospel

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> The Class Outline

Supplemental Material

## The Class Outline

### 2 Timothy

- Week 9: Fidelity in Suffering
- Week 10: Fidelity in Ministry
- Week 11: Infidelity in Opposition
- Week 12: Fidelity Anchored in Holy Scripture
- Week 13: Fidelity to the End

# INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS

The Class Outline

> Supplemental Material

## Supplemental Material

- **NOT REQUIRED READING!** 😊
- “Chapters” follow the lecture structure
- Includes all lecture material, and...
- Extra material that gets cut because I talk too long
- Footnotes & Full Bibliography
- Questions for Reflections with each chapter

Note: The supplemental material is almost ready and should be available in the next week or two.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

- Why should we study the Pastoral Epistles?
- Who are Timothy and Titus?
- When were the epistles written?
- Where were Timothy and Titus ministering?
- What are the main themes of the Pastorals?

# Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

## WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE PASTORAL EPISTLES?

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## Two Concerns Regarding the Audience

- The Epistles are addressed to specific individuals
- The title “Pastoral Epistles” suggest a limited audience

## Specific Recipients

- All New Testament epistles have specific recipients
- The Letters themselves suggest a wider reading
- They give us an inside look at Paul’s pastoral-ness and discipleship, affection, and concern for fidelity
- 1 Corinthians 11.1

## The “Pastoral Epistles” Title

- Title is relatively new. Coined in early 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Not meant to be pastoral manuals
- Content is beneficial for the whole church

## Holy Scripture is meant to be read!

- 2 Timothy 3.16–17



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### **Holy Scripture is meant to be read!**

- 2 Timothy 3.16–17

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

# Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

## WHO ARE TIMOTHY & TITUS?

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## Timothy

- First mentioned by name in Acts 16.1–3
- Raised by his devout Jewish Grandmother and Mother, both of whom later converted to Christianity
- Possibly converted under St. Paul’s preaching
- Mentioned in 8 of 11 Pauline Epistles (excluding 1 and 2 Timothy; 10 of 13 inclusive).
- Mentioned in the “greetings” in 6 of these letters (cf. 2 Corinthians 1.1-2)

Paul...and Timothy... to the church of God that is in Corinth

## Titus

- Likely converted under St. Paul’s preaching
- Not named in the Book of Acts, but present with Paul during missionary journeys
- Named several times in 2 Corinthians & Galatians

# Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

## WHEN WERE THE EPISTLES WRITTEN?

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## General Timeline

- 59 AD Paul's first imprisonment in Rome
- ~60–62 AD Paul Released from prison
- **~62–64 AD 1 Timothy and Titus written\***
- 64 AD Great Fire
- 64–68 AD Neronic Persecution
- ~64 or 67 AD Paul's second imprisonment in Rome
- **~64/65 or 66/67 AD 2 Timothy written\***
- ~64/65 or 67/68 AD Paul's Martyrdom
- 68 AD Nero dies by suicide
- 66–73 AD First Jewish Roman War
- 70 AD Destruction of the Temple

\* Dates are approximate; For example, J.A.T. Robinson dates them to 55, 57, and 58 AD respectively.

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## Ephesus

- One of the most important cities in the Roman Empire
- Port city on the Aegean & Mediterranean Sea
- in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)
- Cultural, Political, & Religious Center
- Stronghold for Emperor Cult
- Dedicated to fertility goddess Diana/Artemis



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## Ephesus

- Important city for apostolic Christianity
- Mentioned in Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Revelation
- Paul lived in Ephesus for 3 years
- 1st of 7 churches addressed by John in Revelation
- Hub for missionary activity



Image © crossway, esv.org

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## Crete

- Large, mountainous island in the Mediterranean Sea
- Presence of a Jewish Community
- Bookends the Book of Acts
  - Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
  - Paul hoped to spend winter there, but was overruled (Acts 27)



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## Crete

- Converted Jews brought Christianity back after Day of Pentecost
- Titus was to “put to order what remains unfinished and appoint pastors in every city”
- Christianity languished without formal instruction, leading to a flourishing of heresy



Image © crossway, esv.org

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## Major Themes

- 1 Timothy and Titus: False teachers and their heresy
  - Rarely explains their theology
  - Focus is on their behavior and how it effects the Church's reputation  
(cf. 1 Timothy 3.2, 7; 5.7, 14; 6.1 and Titus 2.5, 8, 10)
  - Two influences: Jewish mysticism and Hellenistic Dualism
- 2 Timothy: Fidelity during trials, tribulations, suffering, & persecution
  - We'll be looking at this much more in depth in weeks 9–13



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## Fidelity

- The one theme to rule them all
- Fidelity is more than faithfulness, if by faithfulness you mean some general, ethereal “faith”
- Fidelity is
  - faithfulness that has a concrete object
  - faithfulness with time and direction
- For example:
  - Fidelity *to* God
  - Fidelity *to* the gospel and sound doctrine
  - Fidelity *to* one another
  - Fidelity *to* God’s mission

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## Sub-themes

- Sound Doctrine & its Fruit
  - Entrusted by Jesus to the apostles, apostles to faithful ministers (1 Timothy 1.11, 6.20; 2 Timothy 2.2, 3.1—11)
  - Chiefly, the Gospel – we are saved by God’s mercy and grace, through faith (Titus 2.11–14, 3.4–8a)
  - The Holy Spirit empowers and equips us to live out the good works God has ordained for us (1 Timothy 1.10–11; 1 Timothy 3.14–16 NIV2011; Titus 2.1–10, 3.1–3; 2 Timothy 2.1; cf. Ephesians 2.10)
- Worship & Mission
  - The Church is the “pillar and bulwark of truth” (1 Timothy 3.14)
  - Bishops and Priests steward sound doctrine through teaching, encouraging, reproof, correction, etc. (1 Timothy 1.3, 3.2; Titus 1.11, 14; Titus 2.1; 2 Timothy 3.16–17)
  - Worship to be done with order and no partiality (1 Timothy 2.1–10)
  - Our good works promote the reputation of the gospel and church (1 Timothy 3.2, 7; 5.7, 14; 6.1; Titus 2.5, 8, 10)

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## Sub-themes

- Sound Doctrine & its Fruit
- Worship & Mission
- Family & Relationships
  - The Church is the family/household of God (1 Timothy 3.15; cf. Mark 3.31–34)
  - “My son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1.2; Titus 1.4; 2 Timothy 1.2)
  - Church leadership is a reflection of leadership in home (1 Timothy 3.5; cf. 1 Timothy 3.4, 12; Titus 1.6)
  - How we are to relate to one another in the church is modeled after the ideal family (1 Timothy 5.1–2; cf. Titus 2.1–10)
- Perseverance
  - All of 2 Timothy, basically

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## The Fidelity of God

- We are faithful, because he is faithful to us first
- God's love and covenantal faithfulness embodied in the person and work of Jesus Christ, lavished upon us by the Holy Spirit
- Romans 8.31–39

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## The Fidelity of God

- Romans 8.31–39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not without his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who will condemn? It is Jesus Christ who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## TODAY'S SOURCES

- D.A. Carson & Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
- Eusebius, *Chronicle Canons*, Book II
- E.M.B. Green & C.J. Hemer, "Ephesus," *New Bible Dictionary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.
- Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles*
- J.A.T. Robinson, *Redating The New Testament*
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*
- Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.44