

Pastoral Epistles

BI 424
Baptist College of Ministry
Course Syllabus

Professor: Mr. John R. Himes
Paul A. Himes assisting

Course Description:

Pastoral Epistles (2 hours): An expositional study of I and II Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on Paul's practical and doctrinal discussions of local church ministry. Special attention is given to discussions of the personal character and qualifications of church leaders and practical interpersonal ministry in the church. (Prerequisites: BI 121 and BI 131)

Objectives for the Course:

- (1) To gain a general knowledge of the Pastoral Epistles, including background and introductory material.
- (2) To understand the relevance of the Pastoral Epistles for pastoral ministry and church life.
- (3) To develop a humble but discerning approach to the difficult passages in the Pastoral Epistles.

Textbook:

The Pastoral Epistles, by Donald Guthrie (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries). Pp. 19-251.

Required Additional Reading

(some of these, but not all of them, have study sheets that you need to fill out):

- a. Pages 28–51 (the section “Paul as *Working Pastor*”) in Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*, PNTC (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018). On reserve in the library.
- b. Goodrich, John K. “Overseers as Stewards and the Qualifications for Leadership in the Pastoral Epistles.” *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 104 (2013): 77–97. Full out study sheet.
- c. Pages 137–144 in Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. On reserve in the library.
- d. Your choice of 30 pages from the section “Biblical and Theological Themes” (pp. 357-544) in Andreas J. Köstenberger, *1-2 Timothy & Titus*, Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2017). On reserve in the library.
- e. Merkle, Benjamin L. “Paul's Arguments from Creation in 1 Corinthians 11:8-9 and 1 Timothy 2:13-14: An Apparent Inconsistency Answered.” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 49 (September 2006): 527–548. Fill out study sheet.
- f. Philip H. Towner, “The Function of the Public Reading of Scripture in 1 Timothy 4:13 and in the Biblical Tradition,” *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 7.3 (Fall 2003): 44–54.

- g. Poythress, Vern S. “The Meaning of *μάλιστα* in 2 Timothy 4:13 and Related Verses.” *Journal of Theological Studies* n.s. 53.2 (2002): 523–532.
- h. Wieland, George. “Grace Manifest: Missional Church in the Letter to Titus.” *Stimulus: The New Zealand Journal of Christian Thought* 13.1 (Feb 2005): 8–11.
- i. Pages 504–524 (the section on “Summary for Pastoral Direction”) in Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. On reserve in the library.
- * Although you do not have to read it, your professors will also provide you with a copy of the following article in order to assist in your research: Charles J. Bumgardner, “Paul’s Letters to Timothy and Titus: A Literature Review (2009-2015),” *Southeastern Theological Review* vol. 7.2 (Winter 2016): 77-116.

Requirements:

- (1) Quizzes from the lectures and assigned reading.
- (2) Master chapter content of the textbook. This will be on scheduled quizzes and tests.
- (3) Learn lecture notes and handouts.
- (4) Read the textbook according to the assignment schedule. Be prepared to state completion of reading and answer selected reading content questions from the chapter reading questions.
- (5) Read the assigned articles as listed above, as well as the material from Robert Yarbrough’s new commentary. Total number of pages for reading will come to about 440 pages (including the textbook).
- (6) Memorize verses: 1 Tim. 1:12, 1:15, 3:1, 3:16, 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:2, 3:16–17; Titus 2:11-14, 3:10–11.
- (7) Write one paper: five-page minimum (please no more than ten pages!), double spaced, typed paper on some aspect of the Pastoral Epistles. See below for further details. Due: Monday, December 24th, 5pm, either e-mail or hardcopy.
- (8) Reading: Read through the Pastoral Epistles at least three times (or one time in Greek).
- (9) Reading: Read completely through the textbook by the final day of class on Dec. 14.
- (10) Reading: Read the assigned articles and fill out the study guides for two of them.
- (11) Produce your own outline of one of the Pastoral Epistles (without reference to the class notes).
- (12) You may earn extra credit by reading a designated journal article and writing a two-page, double-spaced response! (ask Paul Himes, he will assign you an article to read/discuss)
- (13) There will be a midterm exam in the 1:10 hour on Dec. 7, and a final exam starting at 1:10 on Dec. 14.

Grading:

Quizzes and reading – 30%

Supplementary articles and study guides – 10%

Paper – 20%

Tests – Midterm and final - 40% (final cumulative)

Late work will be penalized 10% per day to a maximum of 30%

Extra Credit: up to 4%

Buying donuts for professors (bonus 200%)

Instructions for the Paper

(P. Himes)

1. Almost any topic related to the Pastoral Epistles is fair game, including the discussion of a particular passage, discussion of a particular theological theme, issues of authorship or setting, etc. All paper topics should be approved by Paul Himes on or before the last day of class.
2. The **minimum** is 5 pages (not “4 pages and a couple paragraphs”). Please do not exceed 10 pages, however.
3. You must conform to the BCM guidelines for research papers, including title page and bibliography (that lists only works cited). You do not need a table of contents.
4. You must cite a minimum of **five academic sources** (“academic” by the professor’s definition).
 - a. **One** of those sources must be an academic **journal article**. (It may be a journal article you were already assigned to read, if that article is relevant to your topic).
 - b. **Two** of those sources must be from the “big 5” of commentaries: Philip Towner (NICNT), George Knight (NIGTC), William Mounce (WBC), I. Howard Marshall (ICC), and Robert Yarborough (Pillar). However, any student who quotes from Ceslas Spicq’s commentary in the French will automatically receive 3 bonus points on the paper!
 - c. If you wish to quote non-academic sources such as John MacArthur, Matthew Henry, John R. Rice, Oliver B. Greene, etc., that’s fine (especially if they have a zippy quote), but they do not count as one of your required number of sources, and any substantial reliance on such sources or other devotional sources will result in a lower grade.
5. You must have a clear thesis. I need to know what you are going to argue for and how you are going to argue. In other words, within the first two or three paragraphs of your paper, I should be able to clearly understand what are you trying to prove and what the main points of your paper are. Also, make sure the thesis has narrowed the topic somewhat—for example, “Salvation is very important in the Pastoral Epistles” is way too broad. A more appropriate thesis would be: “According to Paul, a proper understanding of soteriology is the key for Titus’ confrontation of the false teachers.”
6. Solid writing—both in the technical details (use of commas, etc.) and style. You should strive to write a paper that is both enjoyable and informative. Also, avoid plagiarism.
7. **Argue correctly**—be respectful of those that disagree with you, avoid circular reasoning, make sure your conclusions are clearly supported by the evidence, don’t scare off the reader with “loaded language,” etc.
8. **Conclude with something practical and spiritual**—ideally, a better understanding of the Pastoral Epistles will benefit you and the reader spiritually.
9. The professor reserves the right to require a **rewrite** in the following circumstances:
 - a. You did not follow instructions in regards to the sources you cited (not enough academic sources, no journal article, failure to consult at least two of the “big 5”).
 - b. Your paper is less 5 pages (one line less may be ok; a paragraph less would result in a rewrite).
 - c. The paper exhibits an incredible degree of sloppiness (hint: proofread, ideally often).

“Suggested paper topics for the Pastoral Epistles”
(for those that have trouble making up their mind)

- “A Theology of Scripture in the Pastoral Epistles.”
- “Paul’s Use of the Old Testament in the Pastoral Epistles.”
- “Saved through Childbearing—What in the World Does that Mean?”
- “The Situation Timothy (or Titus) Was Facing” [or: “The False Teachers of the Pastorals”]
- “The Christology of the Pastoral Epistles”
- “The Soteriology of the Pastoral Epistles”
- “Church Structure in the Pastoral Epistles”
- Take any text and exegete it (make sure you have a clear thesis: “This text means/refers to . . .”,
or “This text is significant because . . .”)
- “Authorship and the Pastorals”
- “Where do the Pastorals Fit in the Chronology of Paul’s Life?”
- “The Greek Style of the Pastoral Epistles [or an individual book]” [for the brave student who did
very well in 2nd year Greek]
- “Literary Structure of the Pastoral Epistles [or an individual book]”
- “The Pastoral Epistles in Church History” [canonical recognition, etc.]
- “The Nature of Heresy in the Pastoral Epistles”
- “Why Is This Class So Hard? An Inquiry into the Devious Minds of My Professors in Pastoral
Epistles and Why They Delight in Torturing Their Students”

More suggestions on paper topics for the Pastoral Epistles (courtesy of Chuck Bumgardner,
friend of Paul Himes and expert and budding scholar on the Pastorals):

- The question of pseudonymous authorship of New Testament letters
- Leadership in the Pastoral Epistles
- Mission in the Pastoral Epistles
- Church discipline in the Pastoral Epistles
- Should the Pastorals be treated as a corpus or as individual books, or both, and why does it
matter?
- Hellenistic virtues and the Pastoral Epistles
- In the Pastoral Epistles, is Paul teaching the church to “fit in” with the culture? [the “*christliche
Bürgerlichkeit*” idea]
- Is Paul writing to Timothy/Titus, the churches of Ephesus/Crete, or both? Who are the recipients
of the letters?
- How does the NT’s description of Timothy/Titus outside the Pastorals relate to the Pastorals?
- How can Timothy be considered “young” (1 Tim 4:12) if the Pastorals were written at the end of
Paul’s life?
- In the Pastoral Epistles, what is the relationship between what the false teachers believe and how
they live?
- In the Pastoral Epistles, what is the relationship between what Christians believe and how they
live?

Why do some scholars think that Luke had a hand in the writing of (at least some of) the Pastoral Epistles?

Does Paul use traditional material in the Pastorals, and if so, where and why?

Discuss the use of πιστὸς ὁ λόγος in the Pastorals.

How does Paul present himself in each of the Pastoral Epistles?

Satan and related topics in the Pastoral Epistles

Good works in the Pastoral Epistles

Apostolic delegates

μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα / ἑνὸς ἀνδρὸς γυνή

When Paul speaks of someone potentially “worse than an unbeliever” (1Ti 5:8) what specifically does he have in mind, and what implications for us today?

Prayer in the Pastoral Epistles

The Pastoral Epistles and the Acts of Thecla

Honor and shame in the Pastoral Epistles

Homosexuality in 1 Timothy 1:10: What does Paul teach about it and what alternate understandings are promoted today?

How does the material on widows in 1 Tim 5 relate to discussions of widows in the rest of the NT/rest of the Bible?

Who are the “women” of 1 Tim 3:11?

Slavery in the Pastoral Epistles.