

NT 3XP3/5XP5 - The Pastoral Epistles



Term: Spring/Summer 2021 **Dates:**
May 26 – June 25 **Programs:** MDiv,
MTS, Cert CS, DPT **Specializations:** BS,
CC, PS

Instructor: Phil Strickland, PhD
Email: strickpd@mcmaster.ca
Office: 213
Office Hours: By appointment
(virtual meetings only)

Format: Online
Wednesdays

(livestream via Zoom) 10:00 AM – 11:50 AM
Meeting Dates: May 26; June 2, 9, 16, and 23

Fridays
(prerecorded)

I. Description: The letters of 1–2 Timothy and Titus, known collectively as the Pastoral Epistles, provide a unique glimpse into Pauline ideas about ministry within the early church. These letters, addressed by Paul to two of his proteges, have long been a source of wise counsel for people in Christian ministry, but also a source of some controversy in modern theological discussion. This course provides an in-depth study of these New Testament letters, attempts to situate them within their original contexts, and provide readers with a clearer understanding of their meaning and continued relevance for the church. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: the authenticity of the Pastoral Epistles, their relationship to the other Pauline writings, their depiction of pastoral ministry and church leadership, Paul's vision for men and women in the church, and various literary and theological themes found throughout these letters.

II. Objectives:

Knowing

- Have a good understanding of the content of the Pastoral Epistles and their relationship to the other Pauline letters.
- Understand the Pastoral Epistles in their socio-historical context and their relevance for the church today.
- Gain awareness of important critical, exegetical, and theological issues related to the interpretation of the Pastoral Epistles.

Being

- Be shaped intellectually and spiritually by a deeper encounter with Scripture.
- Become more adept at reading and expositing texts from the New Testament.
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Doing

- Read and gain mastery of the content of the Pastoral Epistles.
- Engage with relevant commentaries and biblical/theological scholarship on the Pastoral Epistles.
- Identify and explain important theological themes, as well as controversial passages/issues, within the Pastoral Epistles.

III. Course Requirements:

Required Texts

- Fee, Gordon D. *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1988.
- *The Holy Bible* (a standard English translation [e.g., CEB, TNIV, NRSV]).
- Westfall, Cynthia L. *Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Various articles to be assigned (these will be provided by the course instructor on Avenue)
- Clarke, Andrew D. *A Pauline Theology of Church Leadership*. Library of New Testament Studies 362. London: T. & T. Clark, 2008. (required for DPT students only)

* All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, The Hurlburt Family Bookstore, McMaster Divinity College (Across from Cullen Hall). Texts

may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934, Text: 416 668 3434. fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

** Other course materials will be posted on the course website on Avenue2Learn. Online access to the course will be given upon registration.

Recommended For Further Reading

Aageson, James W. *Paul, the Pastoral Epistles, and the Early Church*. Library of Pauline Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Bruce, F. F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

Barrett, C. K. *The Pastoral Epistles*. London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

Bassler, Jouette M. *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville, Abingdon, 1996.

Blomberg, Craig, and James R. Beck. *Two Views on Women in Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Bray, Gerald L. *The Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus: A Theological Commentary*. London: T & T Clark, 2019.

Clarke, Andrew D. *A Pauline Theology of Church Leadership*. Library of New Testament Studies 362. London: T. & T. Clark, 2008.

_____. *Serve the Community of the Church: Christians as Leaders and Ministers*. First-Century Christians in the Graeco-Roman World. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Dibelius, Martin, and Hans Conzelmann. *The Pastoral Epistles*. Translated by P. Buttolph and Adela Yarbro. Heremeia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Guthrie, Donald. *The Pastoral Epistles: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: IVP, 1990.

Hanson, A. T. *The Pastoral Epistles*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

- Johnson, Luke T. *Letters to Paul's Delegates: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1996.
- _____. *The First and Second Letters to Timothy*. Anchor Bible 35a. New York: Doubleday, 2001.
- Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on The Pastoral Epistles*. Harper's New Testament Commentaries. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1963.
- Kidd, Reggie M. *Wealth and Beneficence in the Pastoral Epistles*. SBL Dissertation Series 12. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.
- Knight, George W. *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Kroeger, Richard and Catherine Kroeger. *I Suffer Not A Woman: Rethinking 1 Timothy 2:11–15 in Light of Ancient Evidence*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Liefield, Walter L. *1 & 2 Timothy, Titus*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Pastoral Epistles*. International Critical Commentary. London: T. & T. Clark, 1999.
- Marx, Benjamin. "'Wifely Submission' and 'Husbandly Authority' in Plutarch's *Moralia* and the *Corpus Paulinum*: A Comparison." *Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism* 14 (2018), 56–88.
- Mounce, William D. *Pastoral Epistles*. Word Biblical Commentary 46. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000.
- Oden, Thomas C. *First and Second Timothy and Titus*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox 1989.
- Porter, Stanley E. *The Apostle Paul: His Life, Thought, and Letters*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- _____. "What Does it Mean to be 'Saved by Childbirth' (1 Timothy 2:15)?" *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 49 (1993), 87–102.
- _____. "Pauline Authorship and the Pastoral Epistles: Implications for Canon." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 6 (1996), 133–38.
- _____. "Pauline Chronology and the Question of Pseudonymity of the Pastoral Epistles." In *Paul and Pseudepigraphy*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter and Gregory P. Fewster, 1–8. Pauline Studies 8. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

- _____. "The Pastoral Epistles: Common Themes, Individual Compositions. Concluding Reflections." *Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters* 9.1-2 (2019), 167–82.
- Quinn, Jerome D. *The Letter to Titus*. Anchor Bible 35b. New Haven: Doubleday, 1990.
- Stott, John R. W. *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- Towner, Philip H. *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Wall, Robert, and Richard B. Steele. *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. Two Horizons New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Ward, Ronald A. *Commentary on 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, Word, 1974.
- Witherington, Ben III. *Letters and Homilies for Hellenized Christians*. Vol. 1. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.
- Wright, N. T. *Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters*. Louisville: John Knox, 2004.

III. Assignments:

3XP3 (master's students):

Class Participation and Reading – Attendance of all synchronous online sessions is mandatory, and students are expected to be prepared and ready to engage in class discussions. Additionally, students are required to view all recorded lectures each week. Students must also complete all required course readings, including any supplemental readings assigned throughout the course not on this syllabus, and will be asked to provide a report on the percentage of readings they have done. **Value: 5%**

Journal and Discussion Groups – To encourage intellectual and spiritual formation, students will keep a journal of their insights from, and reflections on, 1–2 Timothy and Titus. How do Paul's words have relevance for your situation, for the church, or your community? Is there anything in these passages that you find inspiring, challenging, controversial, surprising, or strange? Are there any connections between these passages and passages in any other Pauline letters? How are the course readings and class discussions impacting how you read and understand these letters? These and other relevant questions should be explored in each entry. Thoughtful interaction is key. Your entries will also serve as a basis for breakout group discussions each week which will be a feature of our livestream meetings.

Students should provide an entry of at least 4 or 5 good paragraphs for each major section of 1–2 Timothy and Titus (6 entries total: 1 Tim 1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Titus 1–3; 2 Tim 1–2, 3–4). **Value 20%**

Book Review – Students will read Westfall’s *Paul and Gender* and write a review. Reviews should be 7–10 pages in length, should follow MDC style, and evince substantive, in-depth engagement with the book of choice. A good review will include 1–2 pages of summary, 4–5 pages of thoughtful analysis and critique where appropriate, and 2–3 pages of concluding thoughts and evaluation. **Value 35%**

Final Paper – Students will do a major project in line with their chosen specialization. More details on the assignment will be provided by the instructor. **Value 40%**

Pastoral Studies (PS) – Students in this stream will write a 10 to 15-page research paper on a topic related to Paul’s theology of the church as expressed in the Pastoral Epistles and his other letters. Students may choose one of the following topics:

- Paul’s theology of church governance in the Pastorals and other letters
- Paul’s use of authority and power dynamics in leadership in the Pastorals and other letters
- Paul’s approach to mentoring people for ministry, focusing on Timothy and Titus as examples

Biblical Studies (BS) – Students in this stream will write a 10 to 15-page exegetical paper on a select pericope (a defined textual unit, usually about 5–10 verses) from the 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, or Titus. This paper should address relevant historical, interpretive, text-critical, and linguistic facets of the text. Those who can use Greek competently should be prepared to do so in this paper.

Church & Culture (CC) – Students in this stream will write a 10 to 15-page research paper on a selected topic related to the interpretation of the Pastoral Epistles. Potential Topics for CC papers (other topics may be suggested):

- Graeco-Roman Household Codes and the “Household of God” in the Pastoral Epistles
- Men and Women in the Pastoral Epistles and Paul’s other letters
- Pauline Ecclesiology in the Pastoral Epistles and other letters

- Debates over the authenticity and canonicity of the Pastoral Epistles

5XP5 (DPT students):

Class Participation and Reading – Attendance of all synchronous online sessions is mandatory, and students are expected to be prepared and ready to engage in class discussions. Additionally, students are required to view all recorded lectures each week. Students must also complete all required course readings, including any supplemental readings assigned throughout the course not on this syllabus, and will be asked to provide a report on the percentage of readings they have done. **Value: 5%**

Journal and Discussion Groups – To encourage intellectual and spiritual formation, students will keep a journal of their insights from, and reflections on, 1–2 Timothy and Titus. How do Paul’s words have relevance for your situation, for the church, or your community? Is there anything in these passages that you find inspiring, challenging, controversial, surprising, or strange? Are there any connections between these passages and passages in any other Pauline letters? How are the course readings and class discussions impacting how you read and understand these letters? These and other relevant questions should be explored in each entry. Thoughtful interaction is key. Your entries will also serve as a basis for breakout group discussions each week which will be a feature of our livestream meetings. Students should provide an entry of at least 4 or 5 good paragraphs for each major section of 1–2 Timothy and Titus (6 entries total: 1 Tim 1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Titus 1–3; 2 Tim 1–2, 3–4). **Value 20%**

Book Review – DPT students will read and write a review of Clarke’s *Pauline Theology of Church Leadership*. Reviews should be 7–10 pages in length, should follow MDC style, and evince substantive, in-depth engagement with the book of choice. A good review will include 1–2 pages of summary, 4–5 pages of thoughtful analysis and critique where appropriate, and 2–3 pages of concluding thoughts and evaluation. **Value 35%**

Final Paper – DPT students will write a research paper detailing Paul’s approach to power dynamics in leadership, mentoring, and ministry in the Pastoral Epistles. The paper should also explore the relevance of Paul’s approach to leadership within the context your own praxis in ministry. The paper must be well researched and display sound exegetical reasoning and a good understanding of Paul’s social context. It

must also evince thoughtful connection to one's own ministry praxis and be rooted in a Practice-led approach. This paper should be 25-30 pages in length and conform to MDC style guide standards. **Value 40%**

V. Course Schedule:

Format – This class will be delivered online, featuring both synchronous (livestreaming) lecture/discussion and asynchronous (prerecorded) material. Each week we will have 1 live session on Zoom (Wednesdays), and 1 prerecorded session uploaded on Avenue to Learn (Fridays). **Zoom sessions will meet on Wednesdays, 10:00 AM–11:50 AM.** Students must attend all live sessions and watch all prerecorded sessions. **Zoom session dates are: May 26 and June 2, 9, 16, and 23.** The instructor will send the invites to the class prior to each Zoom meeting. Below is a schedule of topics to be covered each week:

Weeks	Topic	Readings
May 24–28	Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles	Fee 1–31
May 31–June 4	The Household of God and the Character of the Church: 1 Timothy	1 Timothy; Fee 35–163
June 7–11	Finishing the Work of Establishing a Church: Titus	Titus; Fee 167–216
June 14–18	Passing the Torch to the Next Generation: 2 Timothy	2 Timothy; Fee 219–303
June 21–25	A Pauline Vision for the Church in the Pastoral Epistles	

Schedule of Assignments

Date	Assignment Due
June 4	Journal Entries 1–2
June 11	Journal Entries 3–4
June 18	Journal Entries 5–6
June 25	Book Reviews
July 2	Final Paper / Reading Report

Grade Summary

5% - Participation and Readings
 20% - Journal Entries and Discussion Groups
 35% - Book Reviews
 + 40% - Final Paper

= 100% - Final Grade

VI. Rules and Regulations:

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including: plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences (e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College). Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses, which can conveniently be found online at <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for livestream sessions. Students are expected to be prepared and ready to engage. In the event of an emergency (e.g., serious health issue, family emergency), please be sure to contact the course instructor who will help to make appropriate arrangements for making up assignments.

Technology

This is an online course. Students are expected to have access to the technology necessary to successfully complete the course. Students are expected to use their McMaster email accounts and Avenue to Learn. For IT information, see <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/educational-technology-help-page/>.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is the property of the course instructor, who reserves the right to make changes and revisions to assignments until, and including, the first day of class.