“I have finished my course”

The Pastoral Epistles
(First, Second Timothy; Titus)
Goals

- To help overcome the challenging nature of Paul’s letters by demystifying the many references to people, geographic regions, and ancient references
- To help understand how the Pauline epistles have impacted Christianity
- To help provide a glimpse into the early Christian Church
- Provide evidence of the ‘Great Apostasy’
- To help encourage us all to follow and teach correct doctrine and be true to the Church and our leaders
- Be a righteous example to others as Paul encouraged
Pastoral Epistles

- Letters from Paul to Timothy and Titus
- Addressed to individuals who were responsible for churches (thus called Pastoral)
- Deals with leadership and doctrine
- 1 Timothy – Letter to Timothy focuses on organization of the Church and overcoming false doctrine
- 2 Timothy – Letter to Timothy; Paul admits coming to the end of his journey
- Titus – Very short letter to Titus a Christian in Crete
Who is Timothy?

- Bishop of the Christian Church who died in 80 A.D.
- Paul was his mentor, he frequently traveled with Paul
- Paul first records the relationship with his disciple on his visit to Lystra (in southern Turkey, on a famous Persian road)
- Son of Jewish Woman
- Uncircumcised – It is recorded that Paul performed this himself on Timothy (doubtful)
- Timothy was well versed in the scriptures
- Tradition is that Paul ordained him as the Bishop of Ephesus (one of the seven churches of Asia)
- Tried to stop a pagan march in which he was beaten and dragged through the streets and stoned to death
Rembrant – Timothy with his Grandmother
Who was Titus?

- With Paul at Antioch (city in Turkey where Paul and Peter had a dispute re: Mosaic Law)
- Titus was a gentile, Paul refused to have him circumcised
- Was with Paul at Ephesus, Paul sent him to Corinth
- Charged with the organization of the Church in Corinth
- Interesting Note: His skull (and other relics) were returned to Crete in 1966 with much Fanfare
Titus Relic and Church of Titus
Definitions – 1 Timothy

- Ephesus: Major Greek and Roman City in Turkey, famous for the Temple of Artemis, one of seven Churches of Asia (revelations) (1 Tim 1:1)
- Macedonia: Ancient Greek Region on North Part of the Peninsula (1 Tim 1:1)
- Jangling: Non-musical banging of instruments (1 Tim 1:6)
- Menstealers – Kidnappers (1 Tim 1:10)
- Broided hair – Hair that was curled and fixed up real nice (1 Tim 2:9)
- Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn: Reference to Deuteronomy law that Jews could not muzzle an ox while he was threshing corn (some churches use this to justify paying pastors) (1 Tim 5:18)
- Potentate: Latin for a person with Supreme Power (1 Tim 6:15)
Definitions – 2 Timothy

- Thessalonica – Second largest city in Greece in Central Macedonia (Demas goes here) (2 Tim 4:10)
- Galatia – A region in Northern Turkey (Crecens goes here) (2 Tim 4:10)
- Dalmatia: Modern Day Croatia (Titus goes here) (2 Tim 4:10)
- Ephesus: (Tychicus goes here) (2 Tim 4:12)
- Troas: Where Paul leaves his cloak, Most likely Troy, Western Turkey (2 Tim 4:13)
- Miletum – City on West Coast of Turkey (Trophimus left here sick) (2 Tim 4:20)
Definitions - Titus

- Crete – An island in the Mediterranean Sea (Paul’s leaves Titus there) (Titus 1:5)
- Purloining – breach of trust, thievery (Titus 2:10)
- Nicopolis – A city on West Coast of Greece (Paul expected to be Wintered there) (Titus 3:12)
Paul refers to the cloak that he leaves with Carpus at Troas (2 Tim 4:13)
The phelonian: a poncho with a hole for the head worn draped across body
Used in Most Orthodox Churches, especially Greek and Eastern
Worn during Divine Liturgy (Eucharist ceremony or Lord’s Supper)
Presbytery

- Governing body of the Church referred to by Paul
- Presbyterian Polity is a terminology to reference the structure and organization of a local church (1 Tim 4:14)
- Presbyters are a local congregation of Church Elders
- Elders are elected consisting of Ministers (teachers or pastors) and Ruling Elders
- Elders make decisions in what is called a Session
- Deacons take care of the day to day functions, welfare and financial functions of the local Church
- This was developed by John Calvin and is followed by Reformists in France, Swiss, Scotland, Reformed, Presbyterian, and Nazarene Churches
Evil Teachers – 1 Timothy

- Hymenæus and Philetus: False Teachers of Christian doctrine in Ephesus - Paul did not have kind things to say about them (1 Tim 1:20).
- Paul referred to him as a shipwreck of the faith (1 Tim 1:19).
- Alexander: An individual who strongly resisted the teaching of the Apostles, A coppersmith? (1 Tim 1:20).
- Most likely they were teaching a form of Christian Gnosticism, interestingly enough was the idea that Christ was actually a representation of the Supreme Being coming to Earth.
- Paul delivers them both to Satan (1 Tim 1:20).
People – 2 Timothy

- Lois – Timothy’s grandmother (2 Tim 1:5)
- Eunice – Timothy’s mother (2 Tim 1:5)
- Phygellos and Hermogenes – fair weather friends who deserted Paul during his second imprisonment (2 Tim 1:15)
- Demas – Also rejected Paul during his second imprisonment (2 Tim 4:10)
- Crescens – Bishop of the Galatian Churches (most likely not a traitor to Paul) – One of the seventy (2 Tim 4:10)
- Tychicus: One of Paul’s traveling companions, mentioned throughout Paul’s letters – One of the seventy (2 Tim 4:12)
- Carpus (of Beroea a city in Macedonia) – One of the Seventy (2 Tim 4:13)
- Prisca and Aquila: Of the House of Onesiphosus (see next slide) – Missionary Couple Paul refers to a few times (2 Tim 4:19)
People – 2 Timothy

- Erastus – Steward in Corinth (public works) – Referred to by an inscription on a Theatre in Corinth indicated he gained favor in the Church by laying the pavement (2 Tim 4:20)
- Miletum – Is with Paul in Jerusalem, Paul brings into Temple which most likely leads to his imprisonment, Paul mentions that he leaves him sick in Trophimus (2 Tim 4:20)
- Eubulus – A Greek Christian Paul Mentions (2 Tim 4:21)
- Pudens – Mentioned by Paul, supposedly baptized by Peter, Martyred under Roman Caesar Nero’s rule, Son of a Roman Senator – Roman Centurian (2 Tim 4:21)
- Linus – Mentioned by Paul, becomes the Second Pope of The Roman Catholic Church (after Peter) (2 Tim 4:21)
- Claudia – Possibly the wife of Pudens (2 Tim 4:21)
Onesiphorus

- Sought Paul out during his imprisonment, courageous for a Christian to do in Rome at the time
- Paul refers to him in the past tense, meaning that he must have died
- Used as an example of someone who remained faithful during persecution
- Interesting: Roman Catholics believe that Paul’s blessing on him in 2 Timothy is a justification for the Prayer for the Dead (reference to the fact that the dead can repent during their time in Purgatory)
- 2 Timothy 4:19; 2 Timothy 1:16
Artemas – One of the seventy – Believed to be the Bishop of Lystra (Titus 3:12)

Tychicus – Companion of Paul mentioned several times, possibly one of the seventy – must have been highly favored of Paul (Titus 3:12)

Zenas – “the lawyer” – One of the Seventy – A follower and companion of Paul (Titus 3:13)

Apollos – Mentioned several times in New Testament – Set correct in his doctrine by Prisca and Aquila – Becomes an Apostle (Titus 3:13)
Signs of Apostasy

The Fall of Christianity Foreseen by Paul
1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.
Teaching Correct Doctrine

Paul’s encouragement to represent the truth
1 Timothy 4: 6-7

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

7 But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.
13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.
16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.
16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.
24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
2 Timothy 3: 14 - 17

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
Important Scriptures from the Pastoral Epistles

Lessons Learned from the Apostle Paul
6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.