

KNOW THE BIBLE



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The Epistles #2

Pastoral Letters

The second group is referred to as the Pastoral Letters. They are written by Paul and are addressed to Timothy and Titus specifically. Paul reveals his concern for the future of the church and its ministry. These letters were written to give instructions about the qualifications and responsibilities of those that are to be the leaders of the church.

Paul urges them repeatedly to be on their guard against false doctrine and to teach the Word of God faithfully as well as to exhibit a godly life.

These 3 letters, unlike his other 10 letters, do not blend into the historical framework of Paul's missionary journeys recorded in the Book of Acts. The Pastoral Letters were written shortly before his death in A.D. 67.

According to Christian tradition Paul suffered martyrdom in Rome. It is therefore thought that Paul wrote his Second Letter to Timothy at that time.

“Pastor” originally meant “shepherd”. There are 3 books that make up the Pastoral Epistles. They are:

- ***1 Timothy***
- ***2 Timothy***
- ***Titus***

How to remember this section:

This second set of letters and third section of the NT are from Paul as well. They are the Pastoral letters written to the (small T's) the Tim's and Titus, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. As you can see, there are only 3 books in this section. They were written just before Paul's death.

- **1 Timothy** – *was written by the Apostle to the Gentiles, namely Paul. It was directed to Timothy, whom Paul converted, and was of mixed Jewish Christian and Gentile parentage. Written late in Paul's life, 1st Timothy focuses more **on teaching correct doctrine and church organization**. Jesus' second coming recedes into the background compared to references in Paul's earlier letters. These letters were first named "Pastoral Epistles" in the eighteenth century because they all are concerned with the work of a pastor in caring for the community or communities under his charge. The central theme of this letter is to guide the conduct of Timothy and successive leaders into preserving the purity of the church's doctrine against false teaching.*

- **2 Timothy** – *written during his second imprisonment in Rome under Emperor Nero under far more harsh conditions. **This was the last letter written by Paul just prior to his death as a martyr.** Ever since Rome had burned in July of A.D. 64 and Nero had blamed the Christians, it had become dangerous to be a Christian. Paul wrote this epistle to urge him to remain faithful to his calling and loyal to his father in the faith. Timothy needed to stand shoulder to shoulder with Paul and the other believers and to continue to "preach the Word" as he had done previously. It is an intensely personal letter making it*

*different than the other two Pastoral Epistles. In this epistle, Paul emphasized **the importance of faithfulness**: God's faithfulness, Paul's faithfulness, and Timothy's need to remain faithful. Throughout this epistle Paul looks backward into the past and ahead into the future, when he would no longer be alive. This reference reveals that Paul regarded his own ministry as part of the continuation of God's great ongoing plan of the ages to loyally served God sincerely, with a "clear conscience."*

- **Titus** – *Titus accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the apostolic council in Jerusalem to discuss the issue of circumcision, which certain Jewish converts called “Judaizers” were insisting was necessary for the Gentiles according to the Law of Moses. Titus was a Greek Gentile himself. The council did not compel him to be circumcised and upheld that Gentiles as well as Jews were saved by God's grace in Christ through faith alone. Titus was one of Paul's early converts and accompanied Paul on Paul's third missionary journey. It was written about the same time as 1st Timothy. Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to encourage Titus to **complete the difficult ministerial work that still needed to be done and give charge to Titus to teach sound doctrine, encourage and rebuke** the various groups of Christians so they would know how to conduct themselves properly denying ungodliness and to live self-controlled, righteous, and godly lives while they wait in hope for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The time of these “Pastoral Letters” is after the first Roman imprisonment and his subsequent death during his second Roman imprisonment. The timeframe is around A.D. 63 until A.D. 67.

This is the 3^d section of books in the New Testament. There are 3 books in this group totaling 57 books to this point. (**remember:** The placement of the Pastoral Letters is before the Book of Philemon from the Pauline Letters.)

(Write the books in the spaces below **according to their flow not necessarily chronological order**; for permanent memory)

R _____

1 C _____

2 C _____

G _____

E _____

P _____

C _____

1 T _____

2 T _____

P _____

1 T _____

2 T _____

T _____

Now you know 18 of the 27 books in the New Testament in order, the flow of the books, and what they are about.

Below are 3 Bible verses from the Pastoral Epistles. Match the correct Bible verse to the corresponding Book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

1. *“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power.”*

1 Timothy 2:9

2. *“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.”*

2 Timothy 3:2

3. *“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”*

Titus 1:15

Below are 3 Bible verses from the Pastoral Epistles. Correctly identify the Bible verse with the corresponding book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

"It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

1. Which book of the Pastoral Epistles? _____

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

2. Which book of the Pastoral Epistles? _____

"So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,"

3. Which book of the Pastoral Epistles? _____

1 Timothy 6:17

2 Timothy 1:8

Titus 2:12

After identifying the previous Bible verses, take the time to find a Bible verse on your own that really identifies with that particular book. Just the act of searching and writing it down gives you a better sense and greater familiarity with the Word of God. You are actively participating in studying the Holy Bible.

1st Timothy

2nd Timothy

Titus

Notes

Describe a topic in this section to remember.

(Example: *Describing the godlessness of the people in the last days; lovers of themselves, of money, boastful, proud, abusive, ungrateful, unholy, unforgiving, etc... 2 Timothy 3*)
