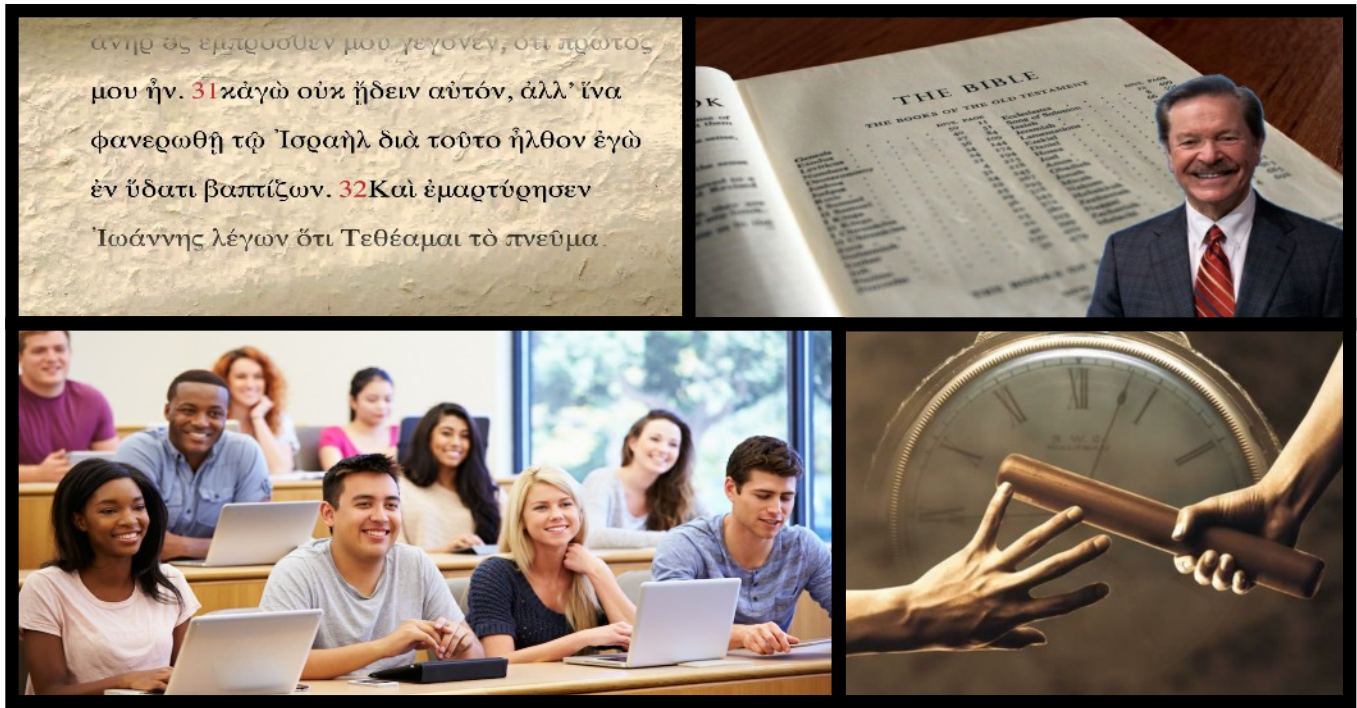


# EMBASSY COLLEGE



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

### The Pastoral Letters

NT760

Rev. Jim Hodges

# BINT421: THE PASTORAL LETTERS

REV. JAMES HODGES

Textbook for the Course:  
*The Pastoral Epistles*  
by Donald Guthrie

## ORIENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

### "THE PASTORAL EPISTLES: A TOPICAL AND EXEGETICAL INTRODUCTION TO I AND II TIMOTHY AND TITUS"

Jim Hodges, Instructor

- I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (described in the title above).
- II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
  - A. To present a clear definition of Biblical leadership in the New Testament Church.
  - B. To motivate leaders in the Body of Christ to maintain doctrinal integrity in their ministries.
  - C. To share scriptural insights for those who aspire to church leadership.
- III. SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY.
  - A. The Holy Bible -- The New American Standard, New International Version, and/or The New King James Bible.
  - B. This printed syllabus.
  - C. The textbook for the course: Donald Guthrie, The Pastoral Epistles.
- IV. SUGGESTED STUDY HABITS.
  - A. Read at least half of the textbook before the class begins. Read the last half before you take the final exam.
  - B. Read this study guide (syllabus) before the course begins.
  - C. Attend every session of the course lectures.
  - D. Take your own notes during the class sessions.
- V. CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY.
  - A. Each lecture includes time at the end for questions and discussion.

- B. Hold any questions or discussion until the end of each lecture.
- C. Those interested in ordering audio tapes to supplement your study may order them from the instructor.

#### VI. EVALUATION PROCEDURE.

- A. Attendance at the lectures.
- B. Reading required materials.
- C. Passing grade on the examination. (The exam is explained at the end of the closing lecture).

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## Lesson 1

### THE BACKGROUND FOR THE LETTERS

Introduction: A vital key to interpreting the letters is a knowledge of the historical setting in which they were written and what occasioned their being written.

#### I. Biographical.

##### A. Timothy.

##### 1. Acts 16:1-3 (read).

- a. Lystra in the province of Galatia his home town.
- b. Probably met Paul during Paul's first journey (cf. Acts 13:49-14:25 and II Tim. 3:11).
- c. His mother and grandmother were believers--see II Tim. 1:5. (Gordon Fee suggests that they became converts during Paul's first journey.)
- d. Became Paul's assistant on the second journey.
- e. Paul had him circumcised because he did not want to undermine his mission among the Diaspora Jews. (Timothy had Jewish mother and pagan father).

##### 2. Apostolic journeys and assignments.

- a. Timothy was with Paul at Troas, Philippi, Berea, and Athens.
- b. From Athens he made a trip to Macedonia (Thessalonica) and returned to Paul at Corinth (see Acts 18:1-5).
- c. He is at Ephesus with Paul on the third journey and is sent with Erastus to Macedonia (Acts 19:22).
- d. He is with Paul in Macedonia when Paul writes II Corinthians (see II Cor. 1:1,19) and must have accompanied Paul to Corinth, for he sends greetings when Paul writes the Romans (Rom. 16:21) from Corinth.

- e. He returns with Paul to Macedonia at least as far as Troas (Acts 20:3-6).
  - f. We lose sight of him during the two years of Paul's Caesarean imprisonment.
  - g. Find him next in Rome joining Paul in sending greetings to Colossae, Philemon, and Philippi.
  - h. From Rome he went to Philippi (Phil. 2:19-23).
  - i. During Paul's possible visit to Spain, Timothy was assigned to minister in Ephesus.
  - j. Timothy probably left Ephesus (II Tim. 4:12). Sometime later he became a prisoner (Heb. 13:23).
3. Summary.
- a. Timothy's primary assignments:
    - (1) Thessalonica (A.D. 50) I Thess. 3:1-10
    - (2) Corinth (A.D. 53-54) I Cor. 4:16-17; 16:10-11.
    - (3) Philippi (A.D. 60-62) Phil. 2:19-24.
    - (4) Ephesus (A. D. 63)
  - b. His ministry in Ephesus the occasion for I and II Timothy.

B. Titus.

- 1. A Gentile whose lack of circumcision was a key factor in Paul's securing the right of the Gentiles to a Judaism-free Gospel (see Galatians 2:1,3; Acts 15:2).
- 2. Early co worker with Paul (ca. A. D. 48-49) and convert of Paul (I Cor. 4:14-15; Philemon 10) who lived at some time in Antioch of Syria (Gal. 2:1).
- 3. To him had been entrusted the situation in Corinth, which included both the delivery of a very difficult letter (see II Cor. 2:3-4; 7:6-16), and the

gathering of the Corinthian gift for the poor in Jerusalem as he and two brothers delivered the II Cor. letter (see II Cor. 8:16-24).

4. His ministry in Crete the occasion for the letter by Paul to him.
5. After completing ministry on island of Crete, Paul sends Artemas or Tychicus to replace him.

## II. Historical and Geographical Background.

### A. The historical situation of Paul.

1. I Timothy and Titus written after Paul's first Roman imprisonment (see Acts 25-28).
2. Wrote Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians during this imprisonment.
3. At his release from Rome (see II Tim. 4:16,17 and Philippians 2:24), he probably went to Brundisium, crossed the Adriatic Sea and made his way on Ignatian Road to Macedonia. From there to Ephesus, Laodicea, and Colossae.
4. At this point, some scholars feel Paul went to Spain and spent two years (cf. Church fathers Clement and Eusebius and Romans 15:28).
5. Other scholars say that Paul went to Crete with Titus and probably Timothy. There they evangelized and encountered opposition from Hellenistic Jews.
6. Paul then leaves Titus on Crete to bring order to the churches. (Paul had been there earlier--see Acts 27:7-13,21).
7. Meanwhile, Paul and Timothy go to Macedonia by way of Ephesus where they discover that false teachings were undermining the church there.
8. Paul excommunicates the two ringleaders of the movement, Hymenaeus and Alexander (I Tim. 1:19-20), and because he had to press on to Macedonia, he leaves Timothy in charge of the work in Ephesus.
9. On Paul's arrival in Macedonia, he writes to Timothy and Titus.
10. Paul probably in Troas when he was arrested. He is suddenly departing the city leaving behind his cloak and parchments (II Tim. 4:13).



11. Imprisoned in Rome where he is visited by Onesiphorus of Ephesus who informs him of the situation in Ephesus which had apparently deteriorated (II Tim. 1:15-18). <We do not know the occasion of his arrest. Possibly he is arrested as a prominent leader of the Christians who were blamed by Nero for the fire in Rome in A.D. 64.
12. Paul sends Tychicus to replace Timothy at Ephesus (II Tim. 4:12,13). With Tychicus, Paul sent a letter to Timothy (II Timothy) urging him to "drop everything" and make his way to Rome before winter closed Mediterranean shipping (II Tim. 4:21).
13. Paul executed shortly before Nero's death (June A.D. 68).

B. Background: The Occasion of the Epistles.

1. I Timothy.
  - a. Occasioned by Paul's having left Timothy in Ephesus as his representative in order to stop the influence of some false teachers. (I Tim. 1:3).
  - b. Read Acts 20:29-30. In contrast to false brothers and false teachers who had infiltrated the churches in Galatia and Corinth, these teachers are "insiders", i. e., some elders of the church in Ephesus.
  - c. The church was being led astray by some of its own elders.
    - (1) teaching was the task of elders (cf. 1:3; 3:2).
    - (2) two of the ringleaders are named and excommunicated (1:19-20).
  - d. The elder-teachers found their greatest response in the church among the younger widows.
  - e. The letter is for the entire church in Ephesus, not just Timothy. But because of defections in the eldership, Paul does not, as before, write directly to the church, but to the church through Timothy.
2. Titus.
  - a. Titus had been left on Crete by Paul to set the churches in order by appointing qualified elders (1:5).

- b. After writing Timothy, Paul remembered Titus faced a similar (although not identical) challenge.
  - c. Written approximately in A.D. 65.
3. II Timothy.
- a. All of the concerns of I Timothy have reappeared, but now in a more urgently personal way.
  - b. Arrested once again, Paul is now confined in prison. He has undergone a preliminary hearing (4:16-18) and is awaiting final trial from which he has little hope of anything except death (4:6-8).
  - c. Situation in Ephesus has worsened. Despite his previous excommunication, Hymenaeus is still at work overthrowing the faith of many (2:17-18).
  - d. This letter is kind of a last will and testament, a "passing on of the mantle".
  - e. Timothy is to no longer stay on in Ephesus, but he is to entrust the ministry to faithful men (2:2) and return to Paul (4:9, 11, 21).
  - f. Basic thrust of the letter is an appeal for Timothy to carry on the ministry after Paul's death (1:5,8,14).
  - g. Paul undoubtedly felt lonesome--all his co-workers had left him (some on assignment and some forsook him--see 4:9-11). Only Luke remained with him.

