

Week 6 Lecture: Understanding the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)

1. Introduction: What Are the Pastoral Epistles?

- 1) Written by Paul in his later years to Timothy and Titus.
 - 2) 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are collectively known as the “Pastoral Epistles.”
 - 3) Focus on church leadership, false teachers, preservation of the gospel, and godly living in pastoral contexts.
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2. Overview of Each Epistle

1) 1 Timothy

- (1) Recipient: Timothy, serving in Ephesus
- (2) Key Themes:
 - ① True doctrine vs. false teaching
 - ② Order and prayer in the church
 - ③ Qualifications for overseers and deacons
 - ④ Paul’s testimony of grace and gospel ministry
 - ⑤ Instructions for various groups in the church

2) 2 Timothy

- (1) Paul’s final letter, written from prison before martyrdom
- (2) Key Themes:
 - ① Encouragement to remain faithful to the gospel
 - ② Perseverance in suffering
 - ③ Warnings about end-times apostasy
 - ④ The inspiration and authority of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16)
 - ⑤ Passing on the legacy of faith to Timothy

3) Titus

- (1) Recipient: Titus, ministering in Crete
- (2) Key Themes:
 - ① Appointing elders with proper qualifications
 - ② Emphasis on good works flowing from sound doctrine
 - ③ Rebuking false teachers
 - ④ Living godly lives in society

3. Central Themes of the Pastoral Epistles

Theme	Description
Church Order and Structure	Clear qualifications and roles for elders and deacons
Warning Against False Teachers	Legalists, quarrelers, and greedy teachers
Godliness and Christian Living	Good works as a fruit of the gospel; self-control and integrity
Authority of Scripture	"All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Tim 3:16-17)
Discipleship and Legacy	Passing on the gospel to faithful leaders like Timothy and Titus

4. Application for Today's Ministry

1) Character of Church Leaders:

Moral integrity, sound doctrine, and gentle leadership

2) Preserving and Passing the Gospel:

Paul's apostolic commission entrusted to faithful disciples

3) Modeling Godliness:

Leaders and believers alike must demonstrate the gospel through their lives

4) Restoring Order in the Church:

Practical guidance for dealing with disorder, false teaching, and spiritual confusion

5. Conclusion

1) The Pastoral Epistles are not just private letters but a gospel blueprint for all generations of churches and pastors. Paul entrusted not only the ministry but the very apostolic legacy to his spiritual sons.

2) These epistles remain vital for preserving the purity and power of the gospel within the church.
