

Pauline Epistles 3

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Elements of Bible Study is an introductory, three-semester-hour college level, which will emphasize the inductive approach—reasoning from a part to a whole, from Welcome to the study of this group of Paul's letters. These letters are unique in their contents and promise great benefit to those who study them seriously.

The Thessalonian letters, which we will study first, are a combination of instructions to a very young assembly of believers and exhortations concerning the second coming of Christ. While the matters concerning the coming of Christ are unparalleled anywhere else in the New Testament (and give these two letters their unique character), the instructions to the young church give the Thessalonian letters something in common with the letters to Timothy and Titus which tends to link the two groups of books together. This is, in fact, the reason why we study all these letters in one course called Pauline Epistles 3.

The so-called "Pastoral Letters," the two to Timothy and the one to Titus, are instructions to Timothy and Titus, two of Paul's proteges, on how to deal with problems and other matters that had arisen in two different places, one in ancient Roman Asia and one on the island of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. Their contents give us valuable help on the function of the church, even in the twentieth century.

This course is built around what is called the "Supplement" part of the study guide, a section of comments on the text which is based upon my classroom notes for the same course taught at the Moody Bible Institute. The two textbooks have been selected for their relative simplicity and scholarly value, and they are used as supplements to the material in the study guide.

The notes in the Supplement are designed to be as practical as possible. In it, I will take note of various differences of interpretation as they occur but will express my own preference of interpretation in order to maintain intellectual and academic credibility.

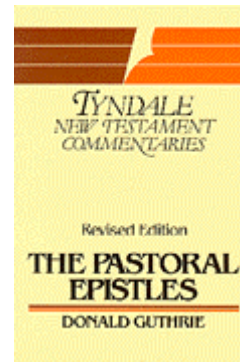
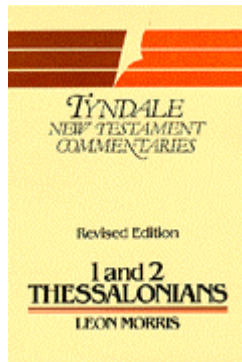
This course is a three-semester-hour study of the Thessalonian letters and the Pastoral Letters. You will study the background of the letters, matters of church life and personal living, and the second coming of Jesus Christ. We will also touch on how these areas apply practically to your life. Having completed this course, you should be able to:

- Expound upon the contents of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus through the careful reading of the study guide and the additional material in the two textbooks.
- Elaborate upon the details of the second coming of Christ and various interpretations of it and relation of the transition of believers to the Day of the Lord.
- Set forth the function of the church and the qualifications of its leaders, as well as the role the believers play in the process of serving one another.

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Unit 2	<i>THE PASTORAL LETTERS</i>
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Lesson 14	<i>Paul's Concluding Remarks (2 Tim 4:9-22; Titus 3:12-15)</i>

The Text Book



The following are the required textbooks for this course. You should be able to purchase these books from a local bookstore, an online book store such as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Christian Book Distributors](https://www.christianbook.com).

- Howard Marshall, *1 and 2 Thessalonians* (The New Century Bible Commentary; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983). ISBN # 0-8028-0034-

- Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Letters* (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957). ISBN# 0802804829

Specific instructions on the reading assignments from the text are found in the Introduction for each lesson. In order to gain the most benefit from this course, you should read the assignment in the text, then read through the Supplement for that lesson.

Course Requirements

For this course you must successfully complete two **exams**, two **papers**, the reading of each of the **five epistles** (two times, each in a different version of the Bible), the reading of the two **textbooks**, the **memorizing** of key Scripture passages from each epistle, answer **10 study questions** and participate in the weekly **threaded discussions**.

Paper 1

The Day of the Lord (5 pages)

Based upon the study guide supplement, the commentary on the Thessalonians letters and a study of the Old Testament passages in the prophets where the phrase "Day of the Lord" occurs, describe what the "Day of the Lord" will be like.

- What is the "wrath" which is involved?
- What does the "man of lawlessness" do?
- What will happen to the earth during that time?
- Include what 2 Peter 3 has to say about it.
- From Matthew 24 decide whether Jesus' reference to the "Great Tribulation" corresponds to it by comparing what he says with what you have learned elsewhere.
- Finally, are there parallels with Revelation 6-18 so far as the description is concerned?

Paper 2

Qualifications of Church Leaders (2-5 pages)

With the study guide supplement and the commentary on the Pastoral letters to help you, explain in simple language what each qualification means as though you were writing a section in your church constitution. Use both 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. The format will be with outline headings for each qualification with an explanation in one or two paragraphs under each heading

Reading

You will be required to read through each epistle two times, each in a different version of the Bible. At least one of these times you should read the entire epistle in one sitting. It is also required that you read the textbooks as assigned in the Instructions of each lesson. You will be required to account for your reading according to the instructions found on the Reading Report Form in the Assignments area. You will be required to submit a Reading Report stating that you have completed reading of the epistles, textbooks, and the lesson supplements.

Threaded Discussions

The Threaded Discussion portion of this course will enable you to interact and dialogue in a collaborative setting with the instructor and your classmates. Each week your instructor will post a discussion topic or question. Usually these topics or questions will be taken directly from the Review or Study questions in the lesson. You will be required to post a response by the given deadline. Your responses will be evaluated based on the specifications your instructor posts with each new question. Some responses will be evaluated based on their length, others on the number of resources referred to and others on the quality of their content. Each response should be well thought out and contain no spelling or grammatical errors. You will also be required to read the responses of your "classmates" and respond.

Study Questions

At the end of each lesson, you will find Study Questions, which are designed to guide you in your understanding of the Supplement. You must select 10 of these questions (each from a different lesson), write a 2-3 paragraph response/answer and send them to your instructor via the Drop Box.