



The Pastoral Epistles

by John R. W. Stott. D.D.

Course Syllabus

An *Institute of Theological Studies* Course



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Course Description

Perhaps the greatest need in the Christian community today is biblical leadership. Throughout the world, churches struggle with numerous issues in part because they lack relevant and effective leadership. A good leader possesses godly character, sound doctrine, and biblical priorities. Yet today, there are differing views on several issues related to leadership, such as: What are the responsibilities and priorities of ministerial leaders and their work? Who is qualified for pastoral leadership? What should pastors expect in ministry?

This course identifies biblical answers to crucial leadership questions from three of Paul's letters: 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, which primarily address issues of pastoral leadership and ministry. In his lectures, Dr. John Stott walks his students through an exegetical analysis of Paul's words to Timothy and Titus. He shares valuable insight from historical background and from an investigation of the Greek New Testament. Dr. Stott covers such topics as qualifications for Christian leaders, the role of women in the ministry, the primary function of a minister's work, and how to deal with false teachers while remaining true to sound doctrine.

Academic Credit Option

Students interested in pursuing an academic credit track for their study of *The Pastoral Epistles* are encouraged to contact the academic institution of their choice before starting the course. This will ensure that the student has a complete understanding of all study requirements associated with this course.

The academic credit track will likely include other requirements as follows:

- The student must be enrolled in the academic institution.
- The academic institution must agree in advance to proctor the course and grant credit if all requirements are met.
- The academic institution will require additional study and/or activities prior to issuing academic credit. Those requirements might include such things as additional textbook and reading requirements, discussion groups, professor-student interaction, research papers, and examinations.
- The student must pay all tuition and fees required by the academic institution.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have the option of

printing a personalized Course Completion Certificate. This certificate may be presented to the academic institution as evidence of the completion of the study requirements in this syllabus.

Continuing Education Certification Option

The course, *The Pastoral Epistles*, is used to meet continuing education requirements and requirements for other professional development programs. Students interested in receiving continuing education credit for this course should contact their certifying association before starting the course. This will ensure that the student has a complete understanding of all study requirements associated with this course.

Any reading assignments not available directly by download in this course are considered optional for Continuing Education students, and no additional textbooks or ancillary reading are required. However, students are encouraged to pursue this additional reading for their own spiritual growth.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have the option of printing a personalized Course Completion Certificate. This certificate may be presented to the certifying association as evidence of the completion of the study requirements in this syllabus.

Personal Study Option

For students who are taking *The Pastoral Epistles* for their personal study and enrichment and not for continuing education or academic credit, the course content is provided in full in the online course. Any reading assignments not available directly by download in this course are considered optional, and no additional textbooks or ancillary reading are required. Upon the successful completion of the course, the student will have the option of printing a Course Completion Certificate.

For those who may prefer studying these materials in a small-group setting, suggestions concerning that option are given at the end of this syllabus.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to meet the following objectives:

- Understand the special introductory problems of the Pastoral Epistles, particularly Pauline authorship
- Enter sympathetically into the life and work of the author and his readers

- Demonstrate interpretive skills by wrestling with difficulties in the text
- Develop a biblical approach to identifying and ordaining church leaders
- Develop an informed approach to the issue of women in the ministry
- Hold realistic expectations of life as a minister regarding suffering and duty
- Understand the responsibility of and need for Christian churches and leaders to commit to sound doctrine
- Develop an approach for handling false teachers, their doctrines, and their methods

Course Lecturer

Dr. John R. W. Stott, D.D. (1921-), Rector Emeritus, All Souls Church, London, England

Biography

Rev. Dr. John R. W. Stott is one of the most influential evangelical leaders of modern times. Born in London to Sir Arnold and Emily Stott, Dr. Stott was raised in a religiously divided home. His father, a successful physician, was an agnostic, while his mother, a Lutheran, attended services at the Anglican Evangelical All Souls Church—the church Rev. Stott would one day rector. At eight years of age, Dr. Stott was sent to a British boarding school followed by education at the Rugby School. There, a spiritually restless Stott met the Rev. Eric Nash, a devout believer who would become Dr. Stott's mentor.

Stott's education progressed to the collegiate level where he studied French and Theology at Trinity College, Cambridge. This was followed by work at Ridley Hall Theological College, where he received training for ordination in the Anglican Church. His first position was as a curate at All Souls, Langham Place. In 1950, he was named the church's rector, a position he would hold for nearly 25 years.

During his career, Dr. Stott preached and taught across the globe traveling throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. In 1959, he was named the chaplain to the Queen of England. His impact was felt in the countless Christian organizations and councils he served, including the 1974 International Missions Congress where the Lausanne Covenant was penned.

Rev Stott's writings have also greatly influenced Christianity. In total, Dr. Stott has written over 40 books including his best-known work *Basic Christianity*, which has been translated into more than 50 languages. An expert on expository preaching, Dr. Stott possesses a humility that brings together the intellectual and practical.

Referred to as the Protestant Pope, Dr. Stott's legacy continues through Langham Partnership International, a ministry he founded in 1974 dedicated to training future church leaders.

In 2005, *Time Magazine* named him one of the most influential people in the world. Today, he resides in a retirement community for Anglican clergy having retired from public ministry in 2007.

Educational Credentials

B.A. Trinity College, Cambridge
M.A. Ridley Hall Theological College, Cambridge
D.D. Lambeth

ChristianCourses.com courses by this professor

The Sermon on the Mount
The Pastoral Epistles
Biblical Preaching: A Pastor's Look at Homiletics

Website Link: <http://www.langhampartnership.org>

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students, and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The primary course content will be delivered via audio lectures, including the full transcript of each lecture. A guided outline to assist in note taking is also made available in PDF format.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, ChristianCourses.com offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

ChristianCourses.com Online Interactivity Forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors. Students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

Reflection

Through journaling and the use of interactive exercises, ChristianCourses.com provides many opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and where they are challenged. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth and transformation.

Web Journal

Many of the assignments ask students to record their thoughts in a Course Journal. Students may use a paper notebook for this, or, as an alternative, they may use the Web Journal to record thoughts and reflections as they go through the course. Web Journal entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, but are not graded.

Lesson Objectives

At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

- Recount the historical background of the Pastoral Epistles
- Describe and defend the literary authenticity of the three Pastoral Epistles
- Articulate the purpose for each epistle

Lesson 2: The Law and the Gospel

- Recount Paul's instructions for dealing with false teachers in the church
- Distinguish between the right and wrong uses of the law
- Summarize the importance of grace in the life of the believer
- List several ways to prevent heresy
- Identify Paul's attitude toward absolute truth

Lesson 3: Christian Worship and Mission

- Appreciate the importance of worship and its priority in the church
- Explain clearly a proper biblical relationship between church and state
- Evaluate Christianity regarding its inclusiveness or exclusivity
- Discuss the concept of mediator and Jesus' mediatorial role for Christians
- Articulate the primary motivation behind missions and evangelism

Lesson 4: The Place of Women

- Value Scripture as the authoritative instruction for women in ministry
- Summarize Paul's teaching concerning women in the church
- Articulate an interpretation of 1 Timothy 2:15
- Appreciate the equal value of men and women in the body of Christ
- Develop an approach for Scripturally identifying cultural vs. timeless principles

Lesson 5: Qualifications for the Ministry/The Nature of the Church

- Explain the intention of each qualification given for ministers in the church
- Articulate the high standard Paul set for ministers
- Appreciate the need for local churches to implement the biblical standard for leadership
- Describe how the church should look as a possessor of truth under the direction of God
- Evaluate personal character in light of the biblical qualifications for ministry

Lesson 6: False and Faithful Teachers

- Describe the heresy that plagued the early church
- Critique modern Christianity in light of any tendency it might have to follow this or similar heresy
- Understand what causes false teaching and articulate ways to avoid it
- Discern the characteristics of a teacher of truth identifying what it takes to become a good teacher

Lesson 7: Advice to a Young Leader

- Know the appropriate methods of exercising authority in the church, especially for a young minister
- Understand how a young minister should interact with a congregation of mixed sexes and ages
- Apply appropriate methods for developing character in ministry
- Value the high standards to which ministers of the gospel have been called

Lesson 8: Advice Concerning Widows, Elders, and Slaves

- Understand the role of the church concerning her widows

- Follow the biblical mandates concerning the ruling and teaching elders within the church
- Appropriately care for those under one's own administration or leadership
- Apply the cautions given for ordaining ministers

Lesson 9: Concerning Poverty and Wealth

- Recognize who, in Paul's terms, are the financially rich
- Appreciate the current financial situation of the world and the responsibilities of the rich in response to it
- Understand the difference between the contented and discontented poor
- Acquire a biblical balance in attitude concerning poverty and wealth
- Value the importance of honoring God by carrying out the responsibilities of the rich

Lesson 10: A Charge to a Man of God

- Explain the contrast between true and false teaching
- Apply the biblical method for testing doctrine
- Appreciate the vital role the minister of the gospel plays in the contention for truth
- Understand the importance of developing accuracy and godliness in one's personal life

Lesson 11: The Letter to Titus: On Christian Ministry

- Identify the goal of Christian ministry
- Describe the qualifications given by Paul for church elders
- Describe the nature of false teachers with whom Titus dealt
- Understand the responsibility of the congregation in preserving true doctrine
- Develop a biblical process for dealing with false teachers within the church

Lesson 12: Christian Behavior

- Apply both doctrine and ethics to personal life and ministry
- Explain the ethical teaching of this text for people of all ages and both genders

- Appreciate how the character of God's people impacts the ministry of His Word
- Understand that the true Christian life is lived in light of the first and second appearances of Christ

Lesson 13: Christian Salvation

- Summarize the duties of believers to secular government
- Appreciate the unregenerate condition from which all believers have come
- Explain the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation
- Value the intellectual understanding of salvation as a major motivation for Christian living and good works

Lesson 14: Titus: Conclusion/2 Timothy: Introduction

- Summarize the content of Titus, giving attention to the need for doctrinal purity and biblical character
- Articulate a brief background to 2 Timothy
- Appreciate the various influences God has used in developing and maturing one's personal life in Christ
- Recognize the roles of divine sovereignty and of human responsibility in the development and practice of one's gifts

Lesson 15: Guarding the Gospel

- Understand the importance of boldness in the life of a believer and in the ministry of the gospel of Christ
- Explain the eternal nature of a person's salvation
- Appreciate what Christ did when He abolished death
- Summarize a basic definition of the gospel that includes more than forgiveness
- Demonstrate acceptance of personal responsibilities concerning the gospel

Lesson 16: Suffering for the Gospel, Part 1

- Articulate the meaning of *apostolic succession* with reference to the message of the gospel
- Count the true cost of discipleship in one's life as consideration is given for calling to ministry
- Value hard labor and suffering as assets in personal Christian life and ministry

- Appreciate the importance of balance between study and prayer
- Understand how suffering can have a positive impact on spiritual growth

Lesson 17: Suffering for the Gospel, Part 2

- Appreciate the solid foundation God has laid to preserve His truth
- Commit to accurate and clear teaching of the truth in order to be an approved workman
- Value the twofold obligation as a clean vessel to flee sin and pursue righteousness
- Understand the necessity of being a gentle servant in response to opposition
- Recognize the role of a minister in the battle between God and Satan

Lesson 18: Continuing in the Gospel, Part 1

- Define what is meant in Scripture by the term *the last days*
- Describe the immorality of the wicked men in the last days, both in conduct and teaching
- Respond properly to apostates based on Paul's instruction in this letter
- Take comfort in God's promise that the falsehood of every heresy will reveal itself in time

Lesson 19: Continuing in the Gospel, Part 2

- Appreciate the inevitability of suffering for anyone who is in Christ and interacts with the world
- Recognize the danger of novelty when preaching and teaching doctrine
- Strengthen personal commitment to remain faithful to the authentic truth of Christ
- Articulate the origin and purposes of Scripture

Lesson 20: Preaching the Gospel

- Value the importance of preaching in church ministry
- Understand the biblical, Christological foundation for preaching
- Recognize the manner in which ministers must carry out the charge to preach
- Internalize the incentives given for the preaching ministry

- Reflect thoughtfully on the Pastoral Epistles and their insight for a minister of Jesus Christ

Course Requirements

- **Bible reading/study:** The Bible passages and study assignments covered in this course should be read completely at least once and journal responses to questions are to be recorded in the students' journals. Each assignment should be read in the context of the lesson that covers that particular passage or topic.
- **Audio lectures:** Each of the lessons in this course contains an audio lecture of approximately 50 to 55 minutes in length. These instructional lectures are required and can be listened to as many times as needed. The content is also available in a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media.

Lectures in this course are titled as follows:

Lecture #1:	Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles
Lecture #2:	The Law and the Gospel
Lecture #3:	Christian Worship and Mission
Lecture #4:	The Place of Women
Lecture #5:	Qualifications for the Ministry/The Nature of the Church
Lecture #6:	False and Faithful Teachers
Lecture #7:	Advice to a Young Leader
Lecture #8:	Advice Concerning Widows, Elders, and Slaves
Lecture #9:	Concerning Poverty and Wealth
Lecture #10:	A Charge to a Man of God
Lecture #11:	The Letter to Titus: On Christian Ministry
Lecture #12:	Christian Behavior
Lecture #13:	Christian Salvation
Lecture #14:	Titus: Conclusion/2 Timothy: Introduction
Lecture #15:	Guarding the Gospel
Lecture #16:	Suffering for the Gospel, Part 1
Lecture #17:	Suffering for the Gospel, Part 2

- Lecture #18: Continuing in the Gospel, Part 1
 Lecture #19: Continuing in the Gospel, Part 2
 Lecture #20: Preaching the Gospel

- **Lecture outlines:** In order to facilitate note taking and learning, students are provided an outline for each lecture. It is suggested that the outline be printed or reviewed prior to listening to the lecture, as it will serve as a guide for the professor's direction of thought and for note taking.
- **Additional reading (academic credit students):** Students may be asked to read supplementary materials for many of the lessons. The following bibliography was provided by the professor and may be used in part or in whole by the institution offering academic credit.

Course Texts

Mounce, William D. *The Pastoral Epistles* (Word Biblical Commentary). Waco: Word, Inc., 2000.

Course Bibliography

Arichea, D. C., and H. A. Hatton. *Paul's Letters to Timothy and to Titus* (UBS Handbook Series). New York: United Bible Societies, 1995.

Banks, Robert. *Paul's Idea of Community*. Revised Edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Bassler, Jouette M. *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Beck, James R., and Craig L. Blomberg, eds. *Two Views on Women in Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Campbell, R. A. *The Elders: Seniority within Earliest Christianity*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.

_____. "Identifying the Faithful Sayings in the Pastoral Epistles." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* (1994), 73–86.

_____. "Leaders and Fathers: Church Government in Earliest Christianity." *Irish Biblical Studies* 17 (1995), 2–21.

- Clouse, Bonnidell, and Robert G. Clouse, eds. *Women in Ministry: Four Views*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1989.
- Davies, Margaret. *The Pastoral Epistles*. London: Epworth Press, 1996.
- Ellis, E. Earle. "Pastoral Letters," in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, eds. Gerald F. Hawthorne, Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993, 658–666.
- Fee, Gordon D. *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus* (New International Biblical Commentary). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.
- Gibson, R. J. "The Literary Coherence of 1 Timothy." *Reformed Theological Review* 55 (1996), 53–66.
- Goodwin, M. J. "The Pauline Background of the Living God as Interpretive Context for 1 Timothy 4:10." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 61 (1996), 65–85.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Letters to Paul's Delegates: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996.
- Knight, George W., III. *Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles* (New International Greek Testament Commentary). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Koestenberger, Andreas J., Thomas R. Schreiner, and H. Scott Baldwin, eds. *Women in the Church: A Fresh Analysis of 1 Timothy 2:9-15*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- Lau, Andrew Y. *Manifest in Flesh: The Epiphany Christology of the Pastoral Epistles*. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1996.
- Lea, Thomas D., and Hayne P. Griffin. *1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (New American Commentary). Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Marshall, I. Howard. "Recent Study of the Pastoral Epistles." *Themelios* 23 (1997), 3–29.
- _____. *The Pastoral Epistles* (International Critical Commentary). Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999.
- Mounce, William D. *The Pastoral Epistles* (Word Biblical Commentary). Waco: Word, Inc., 2000.

Quinn, Jerome D. *The Letter to Titus* (Anchor Bible). New York: Doubleday, 1990.

_____, and William C. Wacker. *The First and Second Letters to Timothy* (Eerdmans Critical Commentary). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Skarsaune, O. "Heresy and the Pastoral Epistles." *Themelios* 20 (1994), 9–14.

Saucy, Robert L., and Judith Tenelshof, eds. *Women and Men in Ministry*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2001.

Thatcher, Thomas. "The Relational Matrix of the Pastoral Epistles." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 38 (1995), 51-62.

Young, Frances. *The Theology of the Pastoral Letters* (New Testament Theology). Cambridge: University Press, 1994.

Course Vocabulary

Throughout the course, students will find terms necessary to the understanding of the subject matter presented. Students should become familiar with any unfamiliar words and their meanings as a requirement of this coursework.

Exams

A final exam is included with the course. Students must pass the course with a score of 70 percent or higher in order to meet the course requirements and be authorized to print the Course Completion Certificate.

Online Forum

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded discussion of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the forum, students should interact online based on discussion questions provided for each lecture. Then they should return to the forum from time to time during the course to see how others respond.

Students who take advantage of this opportunity will develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

Personal Reflection and Evaluation

To integrate academic studies with the walk of faith, students are asked to reflect on the content of the course and evaluate their lives in light of what has been learned. The following questions will guide that individual reflection process:

Step 1: Review

Think about the material you have studied in this course. Then ask these questions: What are one or two things you learned that you did not know before this study? What was there in the teaching that made you look at the Bible or something in the Bible in a new way?

Step 2: Assess

Think about your life, both past and present. Given the insights or understanding that you gained in this course, what changes do you need to make in the way you think or behave?

Step 3: Apply

What specific steps will you take in order to put these positive changes (from Step 2) into practice in your life?

Step 4: Record

Write your responses to the above reflections in your journal (web, notebook, or computer)

Course Grading and Requirements

After completing the Final Exam and obtaining a grade for the entire course of at least 70 percent, students become eligible to print a Course Completion Certificate. However, they must first validate that they have completed course requirements by submitting a request for validation of their study through the course facilitator.

Course Use in Church Settings and Small Groups

Many churches are finding a core group of lifelong learners who want to go further in their study of the Word of God. In that case, these lectures and related materials might be a means by which in-depth study can be provided and encouraged.

This course can easily be used in a small group or church setting for nonaccredited learning. In that case, the following suggestions might be helpful in order to gain maximum benefit from all of the resources available related to this study.

Step 1: Online access

You might choose to promote the program as Transform University, "Transform U" (see Romans 12:2) and point participants to their free registration at <http://tu.christiancourses.com>.

Step 2: Study method

Select the course or course series that the group will study together and suggest that participants study the lessons on their own during the week.

Step 3: Group meetings

Option 1: The course facilitator, after previous study of the course, reviews the lesson objectives with the group (see lesson objectives) and then opens the discussion based on the Online Forum questions and the Personal Reflection and Evaluation questions offered for each course.

Option 2: The course facilitator, using an Internet-connected computer, plays select portions of the course and then opens the discussion around the Online Forum questions for each lesson. Subject to time availability, the facilitator may also use the Personal Reflection and Evaluation questions in group discussion. If live Internet connection is not convenient, some courses are also available for download or on disc.

Step 4: For Further Study

Teachers have the option of combining courses into learning units by using multiple courses together. Complete course options are provided by going to www.christiancourses.com

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.



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