

- The relationship of the church to its culture (2 Tim. 3:1-9)

### ***An Apostolic Standard for Doctrine***

- ⊕ Defining the terms
  - Apostolic
    - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus (Tit. 1:1)
    - “. . . built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the corner *stone*” (Eph. 2:20)
  - Doctrine
    - “teaching” (*didaskalia*)
      - ◆ This term can mean a specific theological heading, e.g., Soteriology.
      - ◆ The term *doctrine* can refer to “what the whole Bible teaches us today about some particular topic” (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 25).
    - *Authoritative teaching that transmits biblical truth*
      - ◆ *Authoritative* – the church accepts its authority. It is *commonly confessed, normative, and identifying*.
      - ◆ *teaching* – functions actively
      - ◆ *transmits biblical truth* – correlates and translates the teaching of the Bible (often in response to questions)
  - Standard
    - Inspired measuring stick – the Pastoral Epistles
    - Paul’s *first principle* – the gospel
      - ◆ 1 Cor. 15:3-5 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*
- ⊕ The Gospel in the Pastoral Epistles
  - Governing passages
    - **1 Tim.** 1:12-17; **2:1-7**; 3:16; 4:10
    - **2 Tim.** **1:8-12**; 2:8-13; 3:14-17
    - **Tit.** **1:1-3**; 2:11-14; 3:3-7
  - Facets of the *Christocentric* gospel in Titus
    - Biblical – a plan has been performed (1:2)
    - Historical – an event has been recorded (2:11a, 14; 3:4)
    - Theological – salvation has been accomplished (2:11b, 14; 3:3, 5-7)
    - Apostolic – a message has been proclaimed (1:3, 9; 2:5; 3:8)
    - Personal – the truth must be believed (1:1; 3:8b)

## **AN APOSTOLIC STANDARD FOR DOCTRINE**

Evaluating Contemporary Doctrinal Trends According to Timeless Biblical Revelation in the Pastoral Epistles

### ***Introduction***

- ⊕ Theme verses: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; 4:16
- ⊕ Focus of this month – *Delights and Duties of Discipleship: Biblical Solutions for Life*
- ⊕ Fittingness of this topic
  - What we believe governs how we live
    - “Doctrine does not destroy life: it defines it” (Barrett, *Complete in Him*, 1).
- ⊕ Background of this study
  - Contemporary theological developments
  - Fundamental theological convictions
- ⊕ Goals
  - Recognizing prominent emphases in contemporary theology
  - Investigating key themes in Paul’s letters to Timothy & Titus
  - Discerning appropriate ways of application for ourselves

### ***Overview***

- ⊕ Week 1
  - Reintroduction to the Pastoral Epistles
  - Explanation of the title
- ⊕ Week 2
  - Contemporary trend – the Bible is a story
  - Pastoral theme – faithful words & sound doctrine
- ⊕ Week 3
  - Contemporary trend – doing trumps believing
  - Pastoral theme – faith leads to godliness
- ⊕ Week 4
  - Contemporary trend – doctrine needlessly divides
  - Pastoral theme – truth necessarily distinguishes

### ***The Pastoral Epistles***

- ⊕ Historical background
  - Author
    - Historical setting
      - Paul probably wrote these letters in between his first and second Roman imprisonments in the mid-60s.
      - 2 Timothy certainly is Paul’s last canonical letter.

- Literary style
  - No one expressed doubt about Pauline authorship until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Critical linguistic studies prove very little. *Many differences between these letters and Paul's earlier writings are due to their diverse occasions.*
  - The early church did not accept pseudepigraphy.
  - Luke perhaps served as Paul's amanuensis.
- Theological emphases
  - Critics wrongly contend that the Pastoral Epistles express different theology than Paul's earlier letters.
    - ◆ Lack themes such as *the Holy Spirit* and *mystery*
    - ◆ Use theological terms differently, e.g., *faith*
    - ◆ Exhibit a more complex ecclesiastical structure
    - ◆ Petrify dynamic theology into rigid doctrine
    - ◆ Display less theological depth
- Recipients: primary
  - Primary – apostolic delegates
    - Paul addresses Timothy and Titus almost exclusively.
    - They were not pastors *per se* but Paul's missionary delegates commissioned with temporary oversight.
    - Paul litters 2 Timothy with personal details that show his close ministerial relationship with Timothy.
  - Secondary – local congregations
    - Paul intended for local congregations to hear these instructions too, especially 1 Timothy and Titus.
      - ◆ These letters contain many instructions to be passed down (including sixteen third-person imperatives).
      - ◆ 1 Timothy and Titus resemble ancient *royal mandates*, which were read publicly to reinforce a delegate's authority and render him accountable.
      - ◆ Each letter ends with a plural pronoun in its benediction (1 Tim. 6:21; 2 Tim. 4:22; Tit. 3:15).
    - The congregations who would have heard these letters read included the false teachers who are subverting the apostolic gospel.
- Significance
  - These letters are apostolic directives to post-apostolic leaders and congregations—ministers and members—to teach, defend, and bear witness to NT truth.

- ⊕ Themes
  - 1 Timothy
    - Defending the truth against useless heterodoxy (1:3-7; 1:19-20; 4:1-5; 6:3-5, 9-10, 20-21)
    - Teaching the truth that orders a church's conduct
      - *The faith* (1:19; 3:9; 4:1, 6; 5:8, 12; 6:10, 12, 21; see also 1:2; 3:13)
      - Truth (2:4; 3:15; 4:3; 6:5)
      - Teaching (content—1:10; 4:6, 16; 6:1, 3; activity—2:7, [12]; 4:11, 13; 5:17; 6:2)
    - Living according to the truth as a ministerial example
      - Godliness (2:10; 3:16; 4:7-8; 5:4; 6:3, 5-6, 11)
      - Conscience (1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2)
      - Personal example (4:12-5:2; 5:20-22; 6:11-12)
    - Displaying the truth (1:4; 3:15)
      - Christ the divine-human Mediator (1:15; 2:5-6; 3:16)
      - God the Savior of all people (1:15-16; 2:1-6; 4:10; 6:13)
      - The one true God (1:17; 2:5; 6:15-16)
  - 2 Timothy
    - Guarding the entrusted gospel (1:12, 14; 2:2, 15)
    - Suffering for and in the pattern of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8, 12; 2:3, 8-10; 3:11; 4:6-8, 16-18)
    - Continuing in the gospel despite cultural opposition
      - Examples (faithful—1:5, 13, 16-18; faithless—1:15; 2:17; 3:8; 4:10)
  - Titus
    - Rebuking and silencing false teachers (1:10-16; 3:9-11)
    - Instructing the elect in knowledge that leads to godliness
      - Instruction (1:9, 11; 2:1, 3, 7, 10; 3:1, 14)
      - Exhortation (1:9; 2:6, 15; 3:8, 10)
      - Knowledge of the truth (1:1, 13-14; 2:1, 5, 11-14; 3:3-7)
    - Adorning the truth with sound living (2:10)
      - Godliness (1:1)
      - Self-control (1:8), sensibility (1:8; 2:2, 5, 6, 12), and soundness (1:9, 13; 2:1-2)
    - Fulfilling God's purposes through devotion to good works (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, [5], 8, 14)
- ⊕ Doctrinal importance
  - The qualifications for pastoral ministry (1 Tim. 3; Tit. 1)
  - The authority of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
  - The roles of men and women in the church (1 Tim. 2:8-15)