

1 Timothy

Course Description:

The epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus, commonly referred to as pastoral epistles, were written by an older apostle to two younger and relatively newer believers who were his spiritual children and whom he had raised up in the Christian faith. His epistle to Philemon, who was probably also Paul's spiritual son, but an older brother and elder of a church, is sometimes referred to as a "prison letter" (written in a Roman prison). These epistles reveal heartfelt outpourings, revelation of the truth, how to discern healthy teaching, how to have a proper and godly living before the Lord, proper companionship, growth in ministry and love and care for fellow believers without discrimination, instructions and admonitions for any believer, young or old, who desires to love, follow, grow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and become pillars in the church life. This course is geared for newer believers, though all are undoubtedly welcome. It is a one year (three semester) pastoral journey, covering 1 Timothy (Fall Semester 2022), 2 Timothy (Winter Semester 2023) and Titus and Philemon (Spring Semester 2023). By the end of the Fall Semester 2022, our expectation is that every student would desire to be a Timothy, seeking to live a pure and prayerful life before the Lord, not afraid to exercise the gift the Lord has given to each one, hungry to know and enjoy the word of God, and eager to share the word with others for their salvation. More than that, the example of Paul and Timothy can inspire us not merely to focus on our own spiritual growth, but to help and raise up others in the Christian faith to become pillars who in turn can raise up or lead a church.

Instructor: Antipas Desai

Time: Saturdays 12:00 (Noon) – 1:00 PM ET

Class Size: No limit

Syllabus (week by week)

Following the chapters in the book of 1 Timothy

1. Chapter 1:1-11: What is healthy teaching? Every believer needs to be able to discern, understand and live out such a teaching.
2. Chapter 1:12-20: The pattern of Paul, as a faithful minister, to live out such a teaching for our sake.
3. Chapter 2: A living before God of prayer and sobriety.
4. Chapter 3:1-7: Encouragement to aspire to lead as an overseer, and the necessary qualifications.
5. Chapter 3-8-16: The qualifications of deacons (those who serve), and the need to know how to conduct oneself in the house of God.
6. Chapter 4: How to be a good minister of Christ Jesus, first for one's own salvation, and then for others.
7. Chapter 5: How to interact in the church life with brothers and sisters, with different age groups, with those who are following the Lord and those who are living in sin.
8. Chapter 6:1-10: The snare of supposing that godliness is a means of financial gain; not being usurped by money, but taking the grace to offer to God what God has given us, and belongs to Him.

9. Chapter 6:11-21: Flee, pursue, fight and keep: four words that characterize a man of God as the conclusion to 1 Timothy.