



What are they?

1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus and Philemon are four epistles (letters) of the New Testament.

Who – The first verses of each letter state that Paul wrote the letters and early church fathers also attributed these letters to Paul. Except for Philemon, some recent scholars question that Paul is the author as the wording varies from the other letters. It is however noted that authors frequently pen letters differently to different recipients.

What – In contrast to the other letters which were addressed to churches, those to Timothy and Titus are called “The Pastoral Letters”. They are encouraging fatherly letters (Paul referred to both as his “sons”) intended to answer questions that Timothy and Titus had and also to provide continued pastoral guidance.

The letter to Philemon is a letter about brotherly (by faith) love.

When – In the last chapter of Acts it’s written that after 2 years Paul was released. This was between 60-62 A.D. A fourth missionary trip may have taken place, but outside of a desire to do so there is no clear Biblical record of such a trip. These letters were written between 60 A.D. and when Paul was imprisoned in Rome a second time prior to his death in 68 A.D. 2nd Timothy, is believed to be Paul’s last letter.

Where – Paul wrote these letters to Timothy who was in Ephesus, Titus who was at churches either in Crete or Dalamia, and Philemon was located in Colasse (some say Rome).

Why – Paul wanted to see Timothy and Titus to continue guiding them in ministry. However, being incarcerated in Rome, he was unable to do so and writing these letters was his only option. (He may have visited Timothy between the two letters.) Topics to Timothy include the qualifications of church workers, false teachers, Christian living, order in worship and ministry.

Titus is of similar nature to 1st Timothy but it also deals being zealous for good works which are in response to being justified by His grace.

Philemon is one of the shortest books in the Bible and in this case, Paul writes to Philemon that he should welcome Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a fellow forgiven believer in Christ.

All of these topics continue to be pertinent to us today.

Reading Advice

To read the letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon in the coming week, you will need to read 2 chapters a day (about 20 minutes). Whether you have read these books before or not, you will discover familiar verses in each book as many are frequently spoken in our worship services.

Read Through the **WHOLE** Bible!

Adult Bible Class 2023



In court they expect witnesses to "tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." We are witnesses for Christ every day, but do you know His truth, His whole truth, and nothing but His truth? His Truth is found in God's Word. Join Phil, Maire, and Fritz for Sunday morning Bible study as we work through the entire Bible this coming year. They will encourage you, and the rest of the congregation, to read the entire Bible in 2023 and in class, will lead discussions on each book of the Bible, showing how Christ is the center of both the Old and New Testament. 15 to 20 minutes a day in your Bible, and this Bible study on Sundays is all that you need to learn His Truth and be a good witness for Jesus. Classes will meet in the Gym beginning January 8th and will continue until the end of the year. A preliminary schedule is shown below.

8-Jan	The Bible Explained	9-Jul	Isaiah 40-66
15-Jan	Genesis	16-Jul	Jeremiah
22-Jan	Exodus	23-Jul	Lamentations
29-Jan	Leviticus	30-Jul	Ezekiel
5-Feb	Numbers	6-Aug	Daniel
12-Feb	Deuteronomy	13-Aug	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah
19-Feb	Joshua	20-Aug	Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk
26-Feb	Judges, Ruth	27-Aug	LCMS Conv. Presentation
5-Mar	1 Samuel	3-Sep	Labor Day Weekend
12-Mar	2 Samuel	10-Sep	Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
19-Mar	Cong. Mtg	17-Sep	Pastor from Italy
26-Mar	1 Kings	24-Sep	Matthew, Mark, Luke
2-Apr	2 Kings	1-Oct	John
9-Apr	Easter	8-Oct	Acts
16-Apr	1 Chronicles	15-Oct	Romans
23-Apr	2 Chronicles	22-Oct	1 & 2 Corinthians
30-Apr	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	29-Oct	Reformation Sunday
7-May	Job	5-Nov	Galatians, Ephesians
14-May	Psalms	12-Nov	Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
21-May	Psalms	19-Nov	1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
28-May	Memorial Weekend	26-Nov	Hebrews
4-Jun	Psalms	3-Dec	James, 1 & 2 Peter
11-Jun	COS Teacher B-fast	10-Dec	1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude
18-Jun	Proverbs	17-Dec	Revelation
25-Jun	Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	24-Dec	
2-Jul	Isaiah 1-39	31-Dec	