



SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

NEW TESTAMENT 2

2.6 The Shorter Pauline Epistles II: Ephesians, I & II Timothy & Titus David Moseley, Ph.D.

Last week we read through the first batch of Shorter Pauline Epistles – those considered genuine and authentic, and those whose authorship is disputed. This week we turn to the the last four texts in the Pauline corpus that almost all Biblical scholars agree to be pseudonymous - later attempts by Pauline Christians to imitate the Apostle in resolving church issues after his death. Ephesians closely imitates Colossians in style and content, drawing out the theme of unity of the cosmos and Christ for the purposes of the church and ongoing spiritual warfare against supernatural evil (reflected famously in the extended metaphor of putting on a Roman soldier's armor in chapter 6). Its form is more like a circular sermon than a letter. The so-called "Pastoral Epistles" may have been written by a single author to address second- and third-generation issues of leadership and organization in the church of the late First and early Second Century C.E., and are addressed to two of Paul's emissaries and co-workers, Timothy and Titus. I Timothy and Titus both reflect concerns about a more regulated and hierarchical church than the Apostolic era – churches with specific orders of leadership: bishops (overseers), deacons (assistants), and elders (experienced congregants). Rather than transforming society, the ecclesiology of these letters seems to be more about conforming to the pre-existing norms and structures of the Greco-Roman household and wider world. II Timothy is written in the style of a "last testament" of the Apostle, and mixes admonitions about false teaching with poignant reflections about impending martyrdom, and is generally more successful in imitating Paul.

Assignment #9 for Class on Saturday 23rd March 2019

Reading

Please read through Paul's Letters to the Ephesians, I & II Timothy, and Titus. I suggest reading the Introductions to the Letters in your Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible beforehand; and then reading through the Letters one by one. Each letter is very short and can be read at one sitting. Go back and re-read the Letters again at a subsequent time, using the annotations in your NRSV to help with clarification and interpretation.

Thinking & Responding

For this week's Response Paper, I'd like you to "deconstruct" and "reverse engineer" any one of these four letters. *What is going on in the church(es) being addressed, and how does the author seek to resolve these issues? Is it possible to clearly distinguish whether these are genuine or pseud-epigraphical texts from their style and content? Does it matter whether they are "Pauline" or not in terms of their authority when they were written?* Please write your Response of approximately 500 words in total (12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margin, with your name at the top of the paper). **Please e-mail me your papers as MS Word Attachments** so that I can grade them remotely, and send you Feedback and Comments in Track-Change. And come to class ready to discuss these Topics.