

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church**  
**Bible Sharing Program 2019-20**  
**Session #1: Overview of The Pastorals; Upholding the Truth**

<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><u>Overview of the Pastorals</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Author: “Pastoral Letters” is the title for 1-2 Tim and Titus because of their concern for the establishment of ecclesiastical, even hierarchical discipline. Since the early 19thC, many exegetes have argued that these letters could not have been written by Paul; their arguments include: Paul’s journey depicted here varies from the Acts and other Pauline letters; differences in writing style; differences in the depiction of the sacred hierarchical structure of the Church; emphasis on the law, etc. Despite these doubts, reasonable explanations, found in many references and the Church’s traditions, support Paul as the author of the Pastorals.</li> <li>• Time of Composition: Paul’s latter works; the order is 1 Tim (65), Titus (65), 2 Tim (66-67).</li> <li>• Main Themes: One God, one mediator (1 Tim 2:5-6); importance of worshipping God (1Tim 2:1-3); the Church is the “pillar and bulwark of the truth” (1Tim 3:15); Christ is the mystery “revealed in flesh” (1Tim 3:16, Tt 2:11-14); “all scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16); the sacred hierarchical structure of the Church and the transition of the Apostles (1Tim 3:4, Tt 1:6-9); God calls us to “live lives that are ... upright and godly” (Tt 2:11-12); the imprisoned Paul has poured out himself as a “liberation”; he has “fought the good fight” (2Tim 4).</li> </ul>	<p>NJBC 45:15          CCSS 16-23          CSB 358</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>CCSS 25</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b><u>Main Themes of 1Tim; Outline</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipients: Timothy, sent by Paul to take care of business in the Church of Ephesus. Written in the form of mandata principis that was popular in Roman times, a form that is used in writings from a superior to someone in the lower rank. Not only does it confirm the authority of those in the lower rank, but also offers instructions or messages to the public. Therefore, the recipient is not only Timothy but also the others. The final greetings have included other people (1Tim 6:21, 2Tim 4:22).</li> <li>• Key Teachings: the importance of teaching true doctrine (1:3); honouring God and rituals (2:1-3); one God one mediator (2:5-6); the Church’s sacred hierarchical structure and transition of the Apostles (3-4); the second coming of Jesus Christ or keeping the commandment before “manifestation” (6:11-16).</li> </ul>	<p>CCSS 28</p> <p>CCSS 28</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview: Greetings; asked Timothy to remain in Ephesus so that he may “instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine”; myths and endless genealogies; do not deviate from the “divine training that is known by faith” and love; avoid “meaningless talk”. The law is good; however it’s established for “the godless and sinful”.</li> </ul>	1:1-11
<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>Address and Greeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An Apostle of Christ Jesus” – in the Pauline letters, Paul often called himself as an apostle. Can he be considered an apostle? He points out the position of the apostles so as to confirm Timothy’s authority (see B1).</li> <li>“... of Christ Jesus our hope” – Christ is the hope for the salvation and eternal life of all humanity; the hope for resurrection and judgment.</li> <li>“To Timothy my loyal child in faith” – Paul and Timothy are intimate partners in serving God.</li> </ul>	<p>1:1-2</p> <p>1:1, SN2</p> <p>CCSS, Tt 1:2, 1Tim 6:14, Rev 22:20</p> <p>SN3</p>
<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>To Instruct Certain People in Ephesus Against False Teachings</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The false teachers in the Ephesian Church are related to “myths and “endless genealogies”, perhaps the gospel was a combination of Jewish and Greek traditions.</li> <li>False teachings bring division and result in “meaningless talk”; while God’s truth and light bring love. The aim of instruction is love. Love “comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith”.</li> <li>The law is fundamentally good that allows one to know right from wrong and leads one to Christ. The righteous, led by the Spirit, have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”, therefore, are no longer subjected to the law.</li> <li>The sins listed by Paul are similar to those appeared in the other letters, following the order of the Ten Commandments. “Sodomites” = homosexuality; deemed as a serious sin in both OT and NT.</li> <li>“... the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God” – reaffirm what Jesus commands in Damascus; Paul’s</li> </ul>	<p>1:3-11</p> <p>1:3-4, CSB, CCSS</p> <p>1:5-7, CCSS, 1Cor 8:1</p> <p>1:8-10, CCSS, CSB Rm 7:7, Gal 3:23-25, 5:16-25</p> <p>CCSS, CSB, 1Cor 5:11, 6:9-10, Gal 5:19-21, Gen 19:5, Lv 18:24-30, 20:23, Rm 1:26-27, 1Cor 6:9</p> <p>1:11 CCSS</p>

mission and authority as an apostle. His mission is to glorify God as God's glory is revealed in His self-manifestation and self-sacrifice out of love; all these are revealed in creation and His salvific work, beginning with the law and fulfilled in the sacrifice, death, resurrection, ascension of the Son of God.	
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## SPECIAL NOTES

### 1. Types and Order of Paul's Letters:

#### Early Letters

- 1 Timothy (51)
- 2 Timothy (51)

#### Great Letters

- Galatians (54-57)
- Philippians (56-57, also Captivity Letter)
- 1 Corinthians (57)
- 2 Corinthians (57)
- Romans (58)

#### Captivity Letters

- Philemon (56-57 or 61-63)
- Colossians (61-63)
- Ephesians (61-63)

#### Pastoral Letters

- Titus (65)
- 1 Timothy (65)
- 2 Timothy (66-67)

*(Source: NJBC 66:56)*

### 2. Can Paul be considered an Apostle?

- In the Pauline letters, the term "apostles" does not mean the twelve apostles. He regards himself as an apostle for 3 reasons: a. has met the Lord, is called by "the command of God" and not self-appointed (1Cor 9:1, Gal 1:15-16); b. is sent to spread the messages (CCC 858, Jn 20:21 Rm 10:15); proclaims the gospel and establishes the foundation of the Church through evangelization (1Cor 9:1, 2Cor 3:3).
- Paul clearly distinguishes between "the apostles" and the 12 Apostles (1Cor 15:5-9).
- 12 Apostles + 12 Tribes => the Church, God's people, the bride of the Lamb, "the holy Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God", God's Kingdom (CCC 865, Rev 21:9-12).

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- “The sole Church of Christ ... is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him” – the authority of the Twelve Apostles rests in the office of the bishop (CCC 870).

*(Ref: BXM, General Audience, Sept 10, 2008; J. Ratzinger, Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith, 189-191)*

3. Paul and Timothy

- Timothy is Paul’s most intimate partner in the work of evangelization and service of the Church.
- Paul took Timothy under his wings during his second mission in Lystra, “the son of a Jewish woman but his father was a Greek (Acts 16:1-3).
- Delivered six letters for Paul: 1,2 Timothy, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians.
- Appointed by Paul to become bishop (1Tim 4:14)
- Kept in close contact with Paul during Paul’s imprisonment; it is not clear whether the two had been imprisoned together.
- In Paul’s greetings to the Romans, the first partner he mentioned was Timothy (Rm 16:21).
- Sent by Paul at least twice: Thessalonica (1Th 3:2), Corinth (1Cor 4:17).
- Paul’s trust in Timothy can be seen in his writings: “I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare ... how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel” (Ph 2:20,22).

*(Sources: CCSS 27, CSB 1:2)*