

Session VII: The Pastoral Epistles of Paul

Introduction

1. Read text pages 149-151; also pages 164-167.
2. How does Franzmann go about estimating the history and dates of these letters?
3. Why are these epistles called “Pastoral Epistles”?
4. Can they be applied to the entire Church? Explain.
5. Explain what Franzmann means by “Missionaries have always found these letters to be indispensable and have often understood them better than the armchair interpreters back home...”
6. What do these letters hold before the Church?
7. What are the five disputed points about the authenticity of these letters?
8. How does Franzmann respond?

A. The First Letter of Paul to Timothy

1. Read First Timothy. Also text page 152-159.
2. What heresy surfaces plaguing the Christian Church?
3. What is the dualistic conception of reality of this heresy?
4. What are the 5 points about this heresy that Franzmann lists?
5. What are the theological ramifications of this heresy?
6. How does Franzmann describe Pastor Timothy's task?
7. Where is Timothy at this time?
8. What is the significance of the phrase, "Manifested in the flesh"?
9. How, as a deacon of the church, can you prevent Gnosticism from taking hold in your congregation?
10. What is the advantage that Timothy has being both a Jew and a Greek?
11. Many Lutherans hold the unscriptural view that the ministry is an outgrowth of the priesthood of all believers. What does 1 Timothy 4:14-16 say to this error?
12. What were some of Timothy's handicaps?
13. What does this say about the humanness of any pastor?
14. What are the three sections of this letter?
15. Where was this letter written?
16. When was it written?

B. The Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

1. Read Second Timothy, also text pages 161-164.
2. Why is there a certain sense of urgency connected with this letter?
3. What are the 4 things Paul bids Timothy do?
4. What is the date Franzmann suggests for this letter?
5. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:11-13.
6. Explain in your own words what verse 5 means.
7. What is the Doctrine of Inspiration? What Scripture is Paul speaking of in 3:16?
8. What is the relationship between Church History, the Fathers and Sacred Tradition to Scripture?
9. What joy do you get from 4:6-8
10. What do we know about Demus?

C. The Letter of Paul to Titus

1. Read the Letter to Titus, also text pages 159-161.
2. Where was Pastor Titus?
3. What is the difference between the work of Titus and Timothy?
4. Is the work of Church planting easy? Explain.
5. What do we know about Crete? What does it mean to be a “Cretan”
6. Where is this letter written?
7. When is it written?
8. What 4 things does Paul call Titus to do?
9. Read 3:4-5. Who is doing the action in Baptism?
10. Read Titus 3:9-11. How do we deal with antagonists in the Church?

THE CATHOLIC EPISTLES

Introduction

1. Many Christians outside of Rome are offended by the use of the word “catholic.” Some have watered down this word to mean “universal”, sort of “taking the bite out of it.” Usually when this word comes up, someone is quick to say something like “that’s catholic with a ‘small’ c”. However, the proper meaning of the word is given by St. Vincent of Lerens who defines the word as “That which is believed always, everywhere and by all.” The opposite of the word “Catholic” is not “Protestant”, it is “Heretic.”
2. What would you say to a person who comes to you to object to the use of the word “catholic’ in the Creeds of the Church.?
3. Why do you think the remaining Epistles are called “catholic”? To Whom are they written?

D. The First Letter of Peter

1. Read First Peter, also text pages 219-226/
2. Why does Franzmann say that Peter is best fitted as “strengthened” of his brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. Which Christians is this directed to?
4. Is there a particular church that Peter writes to?
5. What is the significant about the phrase “pilgrims of the Dispersion”?
6. Why does Franzmann suggest the writing date as 64AD?
7. What hope do the first twelve verses give?
8. How would you explain verse 3:7 at a women’s Bible study?
9. What hope does Peter hold out to the Christians in the midst of their persecution?
10. Verse 3:19 is the verse that the doctrine of the descent into hell is taken from. What are some common understandings of this doctrine? What, as Lutherans, do we believe concerning this doctrine?
11. Who are the spirits spoken of in this verse?
12. What do you think v. 4:6 means? Is this related to 3:19?
13. How does the NIV mistranslate v. 21?
14. Who are the elders of 5:1?
15. How is submission viewed by Peter?
16. How does v. 5:8 inform our view of Satan?

E. The Second Letter of Peter

1. Read Second Peter, also text pages 226-232.
2. Why does Franzmann say “Second Peter is wrapped in Mystery”?
3. What is the difference between the knowledge imparted by this Epistle and Gnosticism?
4. Of what event in the life of Jesus does 2 Peter 1:17-18 speak?
5. What does 1 Peter 1:19-21 say about the interpretation of prophecy?
6. What stern warning does 2:21 give?
7. What is the purpose of God delaying the Second Coming?
8. How do we “hasten” the coming day of God?
9. What does 3:9 say to those who believe in Double Predestination (that God has elected some to be damned)?
10. What is the purpose of Peter bringing up the End Times?

SESSION VIII THE CATHOLIC EPISTLES, CONTINUED

A. The Epistle of Jude

1. Read Jude and text pages 232-236
2. Who are two of Jude's brothers?
3. What does John 7:5 say of Jude's earlier days?
4. How does this speak to the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary?
5. What is the difference between freedom in the Gospel and license?
6. Does Jude speak of false teachers outside the Church or within the Church?
7. Why is this so dangerous?
8. What does this say to the Church today?
9. Why is this Epistle considered *antilegomenon*?

B. The Epistle to the Hebrews

1. Read the Epistle to the Hebrews and text pages 237-246.
2. Who are the most likely recipients of this letter?
3. Who is the author of this letter?
4. What was causing the audience to lose their faith?
5. What were some of the symptoms of loss of faith?
6. What is the writer of this Epistle keeping watch over?
7. What is the significance of 1:1-2?
8. Who is Melchizedek?
9. What are the differences between Jesus and a High Priest?
10. What is the point of 5:11-14?
11. What is the difference between the Priesthood of Levi and the Priesthood of Melchizedek?
12. How does 10:5-12 speak to the premillennial view that God will once again accept animal sacrifices in a newly built temple in Jerusalem?
13. To what does 10:22 refer?
14. What does 10:25 say of worship?
15. Explain 10:26-31
16. What is the definition of faith given in 11:1?
17. What is the main point of Chapter 11?
18. Memorize Hebrews 12:1-2
19. What are the three points of this letter? (Franzmann p. 244-246).

C. The Epistle of James

1. Read the Epistle of James and text pages 20-44.
2. What does the Letter of James show us more clearly than the book of Acts?
3. Who is James addressed to?
4. Which James probably wrote this letter?
5. What position did James hold?
6. What does James' letter call the Church to do?
7. What are the six units that James' Epistle breaks into?
8. What are some of the arguments used to disprove James' authorship?
9. How does Franzmann respond?
10. Do James and Paul contradict each other (c.f. James 2:20 and Ephesians 2:8-10). Explain.
11. What is the difference between "belief" and true faith?
12. Chart out the road from temptation to death (1:14-15)
13. What does 5:13ff say to us about anointing the sick?

D. The First Epistle of John

1. Read First John and text pages 260-267.
2. What was the influence of the Gnostics on the Church John writes to?
3. What does this text say about people who are zealous, but with false doctrine?
4. What is the significance of John saying “Jesus came by water and blood...”?
5. John speaks of Antichrist. What does this word mean?
6. Why do you supposed John uses the term of endearment, “little children” ?
7. Is there a contradiction between 1:8-9 and 3:9? Explain.
8. How is the spirit of Antichrist easily identified?
9. What does John say “love for God” is?
10. What are some of the antitheses mentioned by John and highlighted by Franzmann?

E. The Second Epistle of John

1. Read 2 John as well as text pages 267-268.
2. Who is the “elect lady”?
3. What is meant by the word “sister” (v.13)
4. What does John reinforce about the concept of love?
5. How important is true doctrine to John?
6. What does Franzmann say that the term “Elder” implies in this setting?

F. The Third Epistle of John

1. Read 3 John and text pages 268-269.
2. What was the problem with Diotrephes?
3. When was this letter written in relation to the other Epistles of John?