

The Pastoral Epistles (“Pastorals”)

Church Structure

- Elders (*presbyteroi*, “old”) - Need to be 60 (1 Tim 5:9)
- Bishop (*episkopos*, “overseer”) - Married (1 Tim 3:1ff)
- Deacons (1 Tim 3:8-13)
- Pastor (vs. “spirit-led”)

Order? 2 Timothy: Paul dies; Titus: less developed church structure; 1 Tim: more developed structure

	Author	Order	When
1	Paul wrote all three	Titus, 1-2 Tim	“Second Career” (c. 65-67), ending in 2 nd Roman imprisonment
2	Paul wrote only 2 Tim	2 Tim, Titus, 1 Tim	(c. 64) at the end of one, long Roman imprisonment, ending in death.
3	All three pseudonymous	2 Tim, Titus, 1 Tim	2 Tim written soon after Paul’s death (farewell testament by someone who knew Paul’s last days). The biographical details in 2 Tim could be basically historical, even if somewhat dramatized. Titus and 1 Tim written towards the end of the 1 st century, imitating 2 Tim (a “second career” was created).
4	All Three Pseudonymous	Titus, 1-2 Tim	“Second career” (and 2 nd imprisonment) created to speak final words about issues now trouble areas Paul once evangelized.

- Ehrman: there were pseudonymous writings that were not included in the canon; question is whether the pastoral are among them.
- Majority of scholars: variant 4 (all from same pen)
- Brown: variant 3

A Pastoral Letter: *1 Timothy*

- **Previous Co-sender, now recipient** (2 Cor, Phil, Col, 1-2 Thess, Phil)
- **Ephesus** (1:3)
- **Women** (2:8ff)
- **Anti-gnostic?** (1:4)

Another Pastoral Letter: *2 Timothy*

- **Genealogy**—3rd generation Christian (1:5)
- **Inspired Scripture** (3:15-16)

Pastoral Letter, take 3: *Titus*

- **Introduction** (1:1-4) – long and formal
- **Changing the message?** (1 Tim 3:10 vis-à-vis Mt 18:21)

Hebrews - 1:1-3; best Greek, anonymous (2:3), dating (10:1-2), high Christology (1:8-9)

1 Peter - 1:1-2; Babylon (5:13), “Descended into Hell” (3:18-20; 4:6)

James - 1:1; Luther: “right strawy epistle”; almost no Christology (1:1; 2:1)

Jude - Origen: “sound words of heavenly grace”; many textual variants; Lectionary: 17, 20-25

2 Peter - Last chronologically, high likelihood of pseudonymity. **Date...after...**

- The apostolic generation was dead (2 Pet 3:4) — thus after 80 CE
- 1 Peter (2 Peter 3:1) — thus, after 80 CE
- Jude — thus after 90...copies
- Pauline letters collected (2 Pet 3:15-16) — not much before 100 CE

Revelation - 65% of verses have OT allusions; worst Greek

- Apocalyptic Literature: *apokalypsis* (“unveiling”) — symbolic language, dualistic, end is near
- Seven Churches (Rev 4:4, elders)
- 666 (Rev 13:18) - gematria, Nero Caesar, 616.
- Canonicity: Luther: Secondary; Zwingli: denied; Calvin: no commentary
- Rev 22:19 — not NT
- *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in The Book of Revelation* by Barbara R. Rossing
- *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger