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<https://DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/NTS602>

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PASTORAL EPISTLES & THEOLOGICAL & EPISTEMOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

NTS 602 – An Orientation to Systematic Study of Timothy & Titus

SEVEN PEDAGOGICAL & EPISTEMOLOGICAL RULES FOR NTS 602

- I. Your faith is based on beliefs that are wrong. Likewise for me, and correspondingly, I have learned the more I know, the less I know.
- II. The professor is not correct, always. Neither are you.
- III. We are here to learn more about what we do not know than what we do know. Hubris abounds when what we know begins to supplant humility in learning more about Him.
- IV. If you fail to correct me, then you are not meeting your obligations as a *graduate* student—the days of “listen, shut up, and tell him/her what she/he wants to hear” are over. This is neither the fifth grade nor catechism.
- V. If the professor fails to correct you, he/she fails. This is neither the fifth grade nor catechism; thick skin¹ was one of our first gifts from the LORD God after spiritual sentience (Genesis 3:21); and, later He noted we all need new skins.²
- VI. Perfect doctrine is not a requisite for soteriological security. Doctrine based on trust, not on our knowledge but His grace, is the doctrine that leads to soteriological sentience.
- VII. Questions are the icing of learning; declarative statements, while important, are mere flour. Question, question, question—the key to learning. Remember how the greatest teacher taught? The Christ responded to declarative statements, even those framed as “questions?”
 - 1) “But who do you say I am?”
 - 2) “What does the Scripture say?”
 - 3) “Where are you?”
 - 4) “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world but forfeit his soul?”
 - 5) “Why are you bothering this woman?” (one of my favorites)

See <https://redletterchallenge.com/the-305-questions-jesus-asked-with-one-shocking-discovery/> for more examples.

¹Moses records ...

“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” –Genesis 3:21

²Jesus the Christ said at Matthew’s dinner party:

“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’ ” –Luke 5:37-39.

SYLLABUS: PASTORAL EPISTLES

This 3 credit hour course builds upon NTS 301 and develops a more thorough understanding of the requirements on ministry within family, church, community, and personal life. It will also continue to focus on the content of I and II Timothy and Titus, but empathizes the principles of leadership and their application to church planting and development.

Hughes, R. Kent, and Chapell, Bryan (Editors). *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus: To Guard the Deposit*, Crossway, Wheaton, Illinois, 2012. [See Amazon](#).

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Faithful: It's Always Too Soon to Quit! (1 & 2 Timothy – Philemon)*, David Cook Publishers, Colorado Springs, 1981. [See Amazon](#).

Course Requirements

- A. Read all textbooks and supplemental reading to meet the minimum 675-page reading requirement.
- B. Complete a high quality research paper reflecting your understanding of the content material of the textbooks with an emphasis either on personal responsibilities in ministry and leadership or within the elements that can be applied to church planting and development. The paper is due one (1) week after the last class session (grade deduction for lateness). **Papers which do not follow the [Specification Sheet for FTS](#),³ will be returned for appropriate adjustment.**
1. Paper must be a minimum length of ten (10) content pages, not including the title page and bibliography.
 2. Grammar, spelling, composition, neatness of presentation and depth of research are considered points of importance.
 3. Paper must be one-sided, double-spaced and no larger than 12pt. Times New Roman font on a computer.
 4. Suggested topics or questions to be considered are:

✓ What if the Family is not in Order?	✓ Developing a Team for Church Planting
✓ Accountability in the Ministry – Does It Still Exist?	✓ Building the Kingdom, One Person at a Time
✓ How Can Ministry Survive a Fall?	✓ How Accountable Should We Be?
✓ Cultural and Community Impact – Is It Attainable?	✓ Open for Inspection – Will the Church Pass?
✓ A Comparison of Pastors and the Other Offices of Ephesians 4:11	✓ Do We Truly Reflect the Character of Christ?

³<https://dthomasporter.com/BibleStudies/NTS602/ResearchPaper-Example.pdf>

- C. Attendance in all sessions is required, particularly during the last session of the course when the final exam is given unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Here are some examples...
1. Arrange to attend the residential class on the night of the exam being administered on the main campus.
 2. Schedule to come to the college office during office hours to take the exam.
 3. Discuss with the college office to have a proctor approved to administer the exam at another location.
- D. The critique of "*An Ethic for Elders: A Review for Action*"⁴ is limited to one page, double-spaced. At least 1 well developed problem with this article must be articulated. This critique is due next to the last day of class (May 21).

Because this is graduate study, the student is expected to demonstrate high levels of insight and creativity in their work. Professionalism and original thought are required. Vague and generic research will not be accepted. Expectations for the graduate student are greater than those of the undergraduate student.

Course Requirements for **Doctoral** Students

- A. Read all textbooks and supplemental reading to meet a minimum 1075-page reading requirement. Please consult your professor for advice regarding readings for this course which would be useful for *doctoral* level research.
- B. The high quality research paper must be a minimum length of twenty (20) content pages, not including the title page and bibliography. All other specs are identical to those listed above for master's candidates, except that doctoral research must either be *original* in scope and/or *preparation* for original research.
- Doctoral level research sources need to be predominantly primary rather than secondary. For example, if analyzing the effect of theology's concerns with Trinity, "founding father" writings and Scripture are primary sources; textbooks and articles written about same are "secondary." If one's emphasis, however, is upon the history of thought, for example, about Trinity, then textbooks and articles would be "primary." Other scholars' writings on said history of Trinity would be "secondary."
- C. The critique of "*An Ethic for Elders: A Review for Action*"⁴ is limited to three pages, double-spaced. At least three (3) well developed problems with this article must be articulated. This critique is due next to the last day of class (May 21).

⁴See DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/NTS602/AnEthicforElders.pdf