

# CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Educating and training ministerial leadership*



## **BIB222 Pastoral Epistles**

### **Mission Statement**

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

### **Professor**

### **Course Description**

Paul's Letters to Pastors is a basic study of the Epistles of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus that describe God's strategy for a healthy church. The student will learn about the personal life and duties of a pastor in finding and preparing leaders for service in the church. The student will study the various subgroups within a congregation and how to recognize and deal with error. Finally, the student will consider what is the essential nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Resources**

You will use Paul's Letters to Pastors, an Independent-Study Textbook by John R. Burgan as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Holy Bible is also required. Bible quotations in the independent-study textbook are from the New International Version (NIV), 1978 Edition, unless otherwise noted. Most assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site or other academic resources. Instructions for accessing the Library Web site are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet.

### **Objectives**

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

### **Course Procedures**

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

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## Course Introduction

The role of being partners with God in the great task of building His church today offers us a tremendous and varied challenge. Countless books have been written on the subject, and theories and opinions on how to succeed as a minister abound. Even the most superficial survey of the day-to-day activities of pastors shows that there is a wide range of convictions as to what ministers ought to do. Faced with this mass of information, some of it confusing and contradictory, how thankful we can be that God has given us a sure and reliable guide of what He expects! We have His infallible Word, the Bible. In His providence, He inspired the apostle Paul to put into writing his instructions to Timothy and Titus, and these practical, useful directions are available to us. In them we see a fascinating and informative picture of what it is like to serve the Lord.

While both Timothy and Titus had been called by God to act as leaders in the church, they by no means had all the answers! Like us, they had to deal with people. It is no coincidence that the Bible compares the vocation of being a pastor to the job of being a shepherd (1 Peter 5:1–4). In the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, we have vivid examples of the duties that are required of those who are responsible for God’s flock. They must provide direction and help for believers at different levels of maturity and guard them from enemies both from within and without. They must also make sure that everyone understands what salvation is and the effect it should have on his or her life. Skill and wisdom are required for all these tasks, and Paul had a great deal to say about how Timothy and Titus should perform them.

But the pastoral letters are filled with much more than the “how to” of church leadership. In them Paul also speaks to the wills and hearts of his younger associates, ringing out the divine call for them to walk the high road of personal holiness and unwavering faithfulness to their sacred trust. Skill alone is not enough, we learn as we read his glowing, passionate words. For the pressures, challenges, and demands of the ministry, we must have hearts set on fire by the Holy Spirit and wills fully dedicated to obeying God’s commands. My prayer is that your study of this course will take you beyond the facts and methods of pastoral work—important as they are—and kindle in you a lifelong desire to have such a heart and such a dedication.