



## NEW TESTAMENT III

*Spring 2017 Course Syllabus - 3 Credits*

Instructor: **Fr. Daniel Azer**  
 Telephone: (559) 909-2970  
 Email: rowis6@aol.com

Teacher Assistant: **Dr. Hany Mikhaeel**  
 Telephone: (414) 704-3918  
 Email: [hanymikhaeel@yahoo.com](mailto:hanymikhaeel@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Girgis Girgis**  
 Telephone: (480) 335-2530  
 Email: [girgis1000@yahoo.com](mailto:girgis1000@yahoo.com)

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an Introduction to Pastoral Epistles, Catholic Epistles, and Book of Revelation. It discusses topics such as the authenticity of the Epistles and Book of Revelation, their authorship, the readers to whom they are addressed, the design or intention of the writings, the peculiarities which belong to them, and the time when and the place from which they were written. We will study the following aspects of the authorship and date, canonicity of the book, internal and external evidence, place of writing, purpose of the book, historical background, outline of the book, doctrine of Christ in the book, practical Christianity in each book.

### II. COURSE RATIONALE

St. Paul three pastoral epistles are: two to Timothy and one to Titus, St. Paul Epistles to Philemon and Hebrews.. The books of Pastoral Epistles themes are about Church Organization, characteristics of a faithful minister, how to overcome obstacles in the ministry, to spread the gospel, Christian love through the grace of Christ. Hebrews Epistle proves Christ superiority in His person and work. The Seven Catholic Epistles are: James, two Epistles for Peter, three Epistles to John, and one to Jude, and Book of Revelation. Catholic Epistles shows different perspectives on the richness of Christian truth and life, condemnation of heretical teachers in the church, stand firm, contend to the truth, grow in faith, two warring powers of God and Satan, and God's ultimate victory. Catholic Epistles focus on orthodox faith and morals, the Fathers of the Church drew on them as a means of defense against the rising challenge of heretics. This factor gave these letters a freshness and relevance to conditions in the fourth and fifth centuries that might otherwise seem surprising. Many of the Fathers of the Church unabashedly saw in them anticipatory attacks on Marcion and strong defenses against the Arians. They did so quite naturally because in their view the truth was eternal and deviations from it had existed from the beginning. Above all, the Fathers of the Church found in the Catholic Epistles a manual for spiritual warfare, counsel for the faithful in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. In them was sound instruction in the ways of self-sacrifice, generosity and humility, through which the cosmic forces could be defeated. Book of Revelation gives prophecies about the end of the days. The Lord who controls history is the Master of it. He is a mighty Father, planning for our victory, working with us and for us, so as to carry us to the kingdom of joy and light instead of the kingdom of darkness.

### III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to understand:

1. Qualification for Ministry: Our walk with God rather than from achievements or vocational success demonstrates true leadership in the Church. Endure faithfully and carry on enduring, successful, reproducing, successful, studying, and holy ministry. Godly relationship within the Church
2. Jesus Christ is our High Priest.
3. God gives us instructions for applied Christianity. God comforts and encourages suffering Christians.
4. God warns us from false teachers and doctrine of Christology.
5. Prophecy of the final days and God's ultimate triumph.

### IV. COURSE CONTENT

**Unit 1: First and Second Timothy: Pastoral Care-** Behavior of the minister- Overcoming hardships in ministry- No shame in witnessing for God

**Unit 2: Titus: Overseeing the church-** Principles of church ministers

**Unit 3: Philemon:** Our brotherhood in Christ- Speaking the truth in love

**Unit 4: Hebrews: Epistle of Priesthood-** Christ's superiority to all other beings - Jesus as eternal High Priest is our mediator with God- Believers now to adhere to high standard of conduct

**Unit 5: James: Epistle of Practice- Christian holy life-** Trials and temptations- Respect for the poor- Faith lives only through good works-Controlling the tongue - Warnings against exploitation of poor

**Unit 6: First and Second Peter: Epistles of Hope and Second Coming of Christ-** The privileges and values of a Christian calling -The obligations and responsibilities of Christian life -The ethical meaning of suffering as a Christian- Reason for the delay of the Parousia

**Unit 7: First, Second, and Third John:** Opponents: Proto-Gnostics who denied real humanity of Jesus- Author writes to affirm that Jesus Christ had real fleshly existence- Advocates ability to distinguish "spirit of truth" from "spirit of error."

**Unit 8: Jude: Contending for Faith-** A tract denouncing unnamed heretics- Advocates defense of doctrinal orthodoxy.

**Unit 9: Revelation: A prophecy of events that will take place till the Second Coming-** God intervenes to save and protect His people.

## V. STUDENT EVALUATION

Your course grade will be determined by the following:

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| A. Participation in the four Webinars with the Teaching Assistant | (10%) |
| B. Research Paper   | (20%) |
| C. Final Exam   | (70%) |

## V. RESEARCH PAPER:

The maximum attainable grade of the research paper is 200. The papers are evaluated as follows:

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| 1) Definition of basic concepts                                | 10 Points  |
| 2) Support of claims, organization, reasoning, and evidence    | 130 Points |
| 3) Consideration of various perspectives                       | 35 Points  |
| 4) English usage, coherent, well organized, logical transition | 15 Points  |
| 5) References  | 10 Points  |

**Write 5 pages paper- Single Spaced- 0.5" margins- in one of the following themes:**

- 1) How are some key Old Testament characters (Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.) used in the Catholic Epistles and the Epistle to Hebrews?
- 2) What happened in the years 50, 70, 90 A.D.? Why & how are these dates & events important for Pastoral and Catholic and Book of Revelation ?
- 3) Compare & contrast what St. James & St. Paul say about "faith vs. works." Why do their teachings apparently but not actually contradict each other?
- 4) How do 1 Timothy & Titus describe the leadership structure of local Christian communities? How is it different from local church leadership structures today?
- 5) According to 1 Peter, how are Christians supposed to respond to persecutions? What is the role of suffering for Christians?
- 6) According to the letters of St. John and St. Jude, what were some major causes of division within or between early Christian churches?
- 7) Name & describe some early Christian writings that were *not* included in the New Testament. How is this literature still important today?

8) St. John the Beloved is called the Theologian. His Gospel is spiritual and his first Epistle is regarded as a commentary to his Gospel. Explain the Johannine Theology.

## VI. REFERENCES

- ❖ Ancient Christian Commentary on Scriptures Series [27 Volumes]
- ❖ The Fathers of the Church Series [125 Volumes]
- ❖ Ante-Nicene, Nicene, Post-Nicene Fathers [38 Volumes]
- ❖ Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church: Karlfried Froehlich (Translator)
- ❖ Early Biblical Interpretation: James L. Kugel & Rowan A. Greer
- ❖ Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers: Christopher A. Hall
- ❖ Preaching the Word (Message of the Fathers of the Church # 11): Thomas K. Carroll
- ❖ Additional References:
  - ✚ Commentaries
  - ✚ Maps
  - ✚ Charts
  - ✚ Bible Encyclopedia
  - ✚ Notes of the Instructor