

**1. We begin by reviewing last week's Lesson One, "Getting to Know Titus" with highlights about the location where Titus served and his role in Paul's ministry.**

- A. The Island of **Crete** is 100 miles south of the **Greek** mainland. It is 160 miles long and is between 7 to 35 miles wide. The capital city was **Gortyn** and it had a population of 300,000. This city also was the center of an early **Christian** community. Crete also had a sizable **Jewish** population. Titus was also the **bishop** of the church in Gortyn according to church history.
- B. Titus was Paul's partner in his ministry in these ways: (1) Titus was Paul's **gentile** representative to the Meeting at Jerusalem, (2) Paul sent Titus to handle the serious problems in the church at **Corinth**, (3) Titus took up a collection for the needy saints in **Jerusalem** from the churches, and (4) Paul trusted Titus to establish **order** and ordain elders in the churches on Crete. Titus also had a genuine love for the saints in Corinth, who both respected him and obeyed his instructions.
- C. Titus was Paul's spiritual **son** in the faith and his partner in his ministry. Paul also considered Titus a source of great **comfort**.

**In this week's Lesson Two, "Paul Describes His Authority" we studied Titus 1:1-2:**

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness" (Titus 1:1).

Ladies, this week we will look at these doctrines from Titus 1:1: Paul's authority, according to the faith, God's elect, and godliness.

First, the word of the week is: **authority**. We will break down the first verse of Titus chapter One. Let's get started!

**2. In Titus 1:1 Paul introduced himself to Titus as a servant of God, AND an apostle of Jesus Christ.**

- A. In both letters to **Timothy** he **ONLY** introduced himself as an **apostle** of Jesus Christ.
- B. However, in his letter to **Titus**, Paul described himself as a servant of God AND an apostle of Jesus Christ. It is as though Paul thought it was important to remind Titus, who had a strong personality, that he too is a servant of God.

**3. Paul's Authority can best be understood by examining his conversion, his ministry and gospel, and his servanthood.**

- A. Paul's Conversion (when Saul became Paul)  
At God's **timing** and by His grace He saved Saul for him to reveal His Son in him, and to preach Christ among the **heathen**. Saul was saved by Jesus who appeared to him on the road to Damascus as he was on his way to persecute the disciples of God. (Gal 1:13-16; Acts 9:1-20) Prior to his conversion he had persecuted the church of God and he had made money and had great status in the Jew's **religion**.
- B. Paul's Ministry & Gospel
  - a. Jesus Christ personally appeared to Paul (Saul's name is changed to Paul) and gave him the gospel of **grace**. No man was involved in any way in giving Paul his gospel. His gospel was something new and was different from the Kingdom gospel, which Peter and the Jewish apostles preached. (Gal 1:11-12, 2:1-9; Ro 11:13, 16:25)

- b. Salvation in this **Dispensation of Grace** requires believing by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as being completely sufficient for salvation from the penalty of our sin. There are **no** works involved. This is Paul's gospel of **Grace**, given to him by the risen Jesus and is for both Jew and Gentile. Both are one in the Body of Christ and Paul is our apostle. (1Cor 15:1-4; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:8-9; Ro 11:13)
- c. Peter and the Jewish apostles preached the **Kingdom** gospel in the **Dispensation of Law** and it is a different gospel from Paul's gospel of Grace. In the Dispensation of Law, salvation required believing in Christ as Messiah, water baptism, circumcision, and keeping the Law. Peter preached the Kingdom gospel to the circumcision, who are the Jews. (Acts 2:38; Gal 2:7)
- C. Paul's Servanthood. Paul endured great physical, emotional, and mental persecution. He literally put Christ ahead of his own comfort.
- a. This is shown by the number of **beatings**, being once stoned, three times shipwrecked and in the waters, perils literally everywhere he went, he suffered **weariness** and pain. He was often **hungry** and cold and naked. In addition to all this which came upon him daily, Paul had the **care** of all the churches! The details of Paul's sufferings are found in 2Cor 11:23-28.
- b. Paul's earnest expectation and his hope was that Christ be magnified in his body whether it be in his life or in his death.

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Philippians 1:20-21).

#### We examined "according to the faith"

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness" (Titus 1:1).

#### 4. What does "according to the faith" mean?

- A. It was, and is, the faith held by **all** the believers in the **Body** of Christ. This faith is in Christ and His **finished** work upon His cross (DBR). This faith does not include any works; it is by faith alone. In Titus 1:1 Paul is stating that his faith was the same as all believers. The expression "the faith" is also shown in Romans 1:5 "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for the obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name."

These two scriptures declare what that faith is based upon:

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...By which also ye are saved...For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1Corinthians 15:1-4).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

**We examined "God's elect"**

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness" (Titus 1:1).

**5. Who are God's elect?** God's elect are in two groups: **Israel** and the **Body** of Christ. God has an overall purpose with these **two** groups.

**A. Israel, God's elect.** God's elect in **prophecy** is Israel. God will redeem back from Satan's control the **earth** through His nation Israel.

"For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me" (Isaiah 45:4-5).

**B. The Body of Christ, God's elect.** God's elect in **Mystery** (revealed to Paul) is the Church, the Body of Christ. God will redeem the (2<sup>nd</sup>) **heaven** from Satan's control through the Body of Christ. When we believe Paul's gospel during the Dispensation of Grace we are spiritually placed into Christ, and at that **moment** we become God's elect.

"Behold, my servant, whom I uphold: mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth: I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:1). "My servant", refers to Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 42:2-4, 11:1-2 also supports "my servant" is Jesus Christ).

**6. God's elect is not about God selecting who will or will not be saved.**

**A. God's elect is about fulfilling His purpose** to redeem back the earth and heaven under the headship of His Son Christ Jesus. God is using His nation Israel to redeem back the earth, and the Body of Christ to redeem back the heavens; bringing all things under Christ's headship.

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself, That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth: even in him" (Ephesians 1:10).

**B. Christ is Head over all things in heaven and earth:**

"Which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:20-23).

**C. Glory given to Jesus Christ brings glory to the Father:**

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-10).

- D. What exactly are the "all things" of Ephesians 1:22? ("...and hath put all things under his feet")
- "All things" are the positions of governmental authority: principality, power, might, dominion, and thrones. Colossians 1:16 adds: "thrones" and informs us that these governmental authorities are both visible and invisible. Visible is in the earth, invisible is in the second heaven.

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

E. Daniel provides an example of the positions of authority in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heaven

- We see an example of the heavenly positions of authority in Daniel. Daniel is praying and God has heard his prayer. God dispatched a holy angel to give Daniel a message. An encounter is described in Daniel 10:4-21 and gives us an idea of the structure of the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven.
- This holy angel encountered trouble from one of Satan's angels, the Prince of Persia, and was held captive for 21 days. This angel was released when Michael, one of God's chief princes, came to help him, setting him free to deliver God's message to Daniel.
- We see just from this encounter described in Daniel that the angels have different positions of authority and power. This sheds light on what we read in Ephesians and Colossians about the "all things": principality, power, might, dominion, and thrones.
- We know that God had a purpose in allowing the angel with His message to be delayed by Satan's angel for 21 days.

**Remember, God is in the third heaven where Satan cannot go.**

F. False Teaching Alert!

While Christ Jesus is Lord over all creation, the "all things" in Colossians 1:16 is **not** referring to people or creation.

- In Colossians 1:20 we read: "And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." The false teaching of universalism claims "all things" means all people, which those who teach this say that in the end everyone is saved, even the devil! This false teaching denies the truth of the Bible.

The last doctrine we examined in Titus 1:1 was godliness

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness" (Titus 1:1).

7. **Mystery of Iniquity. To understand godliness we began by looking at the mystery of iniquity (lawlessness).** Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (2Thessalonians 2:7).

**A. When Paul wrote about the mystery of iniquity he was referring to the apostasy which will increase** until it is complete in the "great tribulation". It is a spirit of **rebellion** against authority, especially God's **authority**, which was already at work during Paul's day. Today it is much worse. Today we see a growing lack of regard for authority for our teachers, police, President, and others. People are losing respect for our laws. This will only grow until it reaches its peak during the 7 year tribulation.

**B. The devil and his angels in the heavenlies are behind the mystery of iniquity, or lawlessness:**

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the ruler of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

The unsaved are pawns of the devil and his angels:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

**C. It is against the "mystery of iniquity", or lawlessness, that the "mystery of godliness" is working effectively.** Against such rising lawlessness shines the glorious light of God's elect **displaying** godliness in their lives. **Christ** is THE example of godliness. God had revealed something new to Paul about godliness. In 1Timothy we learn six important things about godliness by the six steps that Jesus Christ walked.

1Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory".

**8. Mystery of Godliness. In 1Timothy 3:16 there are six important points about godliness. They can be referred to as the six steps that Christ walked.** For each of these six steps there is a truth shown in Christ. We can also make an application for those who are in the Body of Christ.

(1) **God was manifest in the flesh.** "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

**The application is:** God has been manifest in believer's bodies. Now it is Christ lived out in our lives.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1Cor. 3:16).

(2) **Justified in the Spirit.** "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

**The application is:** Jesus Christ was **approved** and **declared** to be who he claimed to be; he was justified in Spirit. We know that Jesus did NOT need to be justified from sin. We however, had sinned and needed to be justified of our sin: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).



- (3) **Seen of angels.** The angels were watching Jesus. We read many accounts where angels were **observing** Jesus from the moment he became a baby to Mary and Joseph, to his prayers in Gethsemane, to the open grave following his resurrection.

**The application is:** This is true of us too. Angels are **w**atching us to **l**earn about God's manifold wisdom.

"I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (1Timothy 5:21).

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:9-10).

- (4) **Preached unto the Gentiles.** The Apostle **Paul** preached to the Gentiles and this continues **today**. But this was not the case during Christ's earthly ministry which was mainly confined to **Israel**.

"But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt 15:24).

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision (Jew) for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers" (Ro 15:8).

**The application is:** The **risen** Christ gave Paul his gospel of grace for both Jew and Gentile. Paul is the apostle of the Gentiles. In this way Christ was **preached** to the Gentiles.

"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office (Romans 11:13).

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" Galatians 1:11-12).

- (5) **Believed on in the world.** Except for a few, we know that the world did not believe on Him during his earthly ministry. Even his own people **rejected** and crucified Him.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11)

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God had made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

**The application is:** Through Paul and through believers today, there are believers in Christ **everywhere** in the world. The Body of Christ **exists** in every nation of the world. Our duty today:

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (2Cor 5:20).

- (6) **Received up into glory.** This was true of Christ Jesus. After his **resurrection** he taught about the Kingdom to his disciples (Acts 1:9-11), then he ascended up to heaven where he is seated on his Father's right hand (Acts 2:32-33).

**The application is:** God sees us as already seated in heaven because we are in Christ. When we are saved we are **spiritually placed** into the Body of Christ!

**Our Position now:** "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:6).

And one day, when we die or are raptured up, we will be in heaven completely!

**When we die:** "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2Cor 5:8).

**At the rapture:** "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1Thessalonians 4:16-17).

**Godliness is personified in the Lord Jesus Christ** just as lawlessness will one day be personified in the Antichrist. Ladies, Cornelius Stam summarizes the importance of true **godliness**:

"True godliness exerts enormous spiritual power. It causes men to toil and sacrifice, yea to suffer and die for Christ and for others. It exerts a profound influence upon those with whom it comes into contact". No Other Doctrine, by Cornelius Stam

#### A. How do we show godliness in our behavior?

We need to learn the truth of God's Word because it is God's truth which produces godliness in our lives. Paul's **burden** was to get believers to learn and understand the Pauline **mystery** truths. Once believers grasp these truths it will bring changes in them and these changes will bring godliness in their behavior. Godliness is **Christ** living out through **you**.

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1Thessalonians 2:13).

This week in Titus 1:2 we studied these doctrines: our hope, God cannot lie, and the council of the Godhead before the world began.

"In the hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus1:2).

- 9. We can believe God's Word, we can place our trust in it, because God cannot lie.** There is no unrighteousness in God and God does **not** change. It is impossible for God to **lie**. What blessed assurance we have!

"God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

"To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him" (Psalm 92:15).

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6).

"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:18).

- 10. In the Bible the word "hope" is much different from man's "hope".** In our daily lives we hope certain things will happen, but we can't be **certain** they will. However, in the Bible the word "hope" **is** certain, it **will** come to pass just as God said it will because our God **cannot** lie.

- A. We covered four of the "hopes" we have in God's Word and there are more.
1. We have **hope in the Lord Jesus Christ** because **He** is the one who has provided our salvation. He gives us hope to continue during **difficult** times.
  2. We have **hope of the resurrection**. This hope takes away our fear of death because we know we have life beyond the **grave**.
  3. We have the **hope of eternal life**. When we are saved we get the life of Christ, and we are placed spiritually **into** His body. We now have his righteousness placed to our account.
  4. We have the **hope that we are going to live with the Lord someday in Heaven**. In Col 1:5 Paul writes "For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven..."

**11. God made a promise to Himself before the world began.**

- A. Before the creation, the Godhead; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, agreed amongst themselves to the **purpose** and plan of God. The Body of Christ would be known and fulfilled in **those** who would believe in Christ with His promise of eternal **life**. (Ephesians 1:7-11).
- B. Before the world began God choose that those **in Christ would be** holy and without blame before Him in love.
1. God determined that everyone **who is in** the Body of Christ would be holy and He would not see their sin, instead He would only see His love for them. This happens because **Christ's** righteousness becomes **our** righteousness. When He sees a believer He sees the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2Corinthians 5:21).

2. God decided to save us not based upon our works but upon **His** own **purpose** and grace. His purpose and grace is found **in** Christ Jesus who agreed to carry out the Father's plan to die for our sins paying the penalty the Father's **justice** demanded. As we've already seen, God had a plan to redeem the earth through His nation Israel and to redeem the heaven through the Body of Christ and to bring both under the **headship** of His son Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:10-11; 2:8-9)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11).