

Sunday, June 20, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 1:2-3: In Hope of Eternal Life

Introduction

- Last week we began our study of Titus by looking at Titus 1:1 by looking at Paul’s Unique Apostleship.
- In doing so we saw that Paul was not the 13th apostle continually the ministry of the 12 Jesus chose during his earthly ministry but an entirely new apostle.
 - Galatians 1:1, 11-12
 - Romans 11:13
- If you have any hope of understanding your Bible you have to recognize that Jesus Christ has spoken again from heaven’s glory to the Apostle Paul. Christ had more to say that what is recorded in Matthew-John.
- This morning we are going to see that in verses 2-3, Paul gives further details to Titus about his commission and Apostleship.
- Just in case you were not convinced last Sunday that when Paul mentions “the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness,” in verse one that he is referring to the body of truth for the current Dispensation of Grace, verses 2-3 remove all doubt.

Titus 1:2

- ***“In hope of eternal life”***
- The Greek word translated hope carries the following meanings according to *Strong’s Concordance*: 1) expectation of good, 2) joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
- *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* offers the following definitions:
 - A desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable. Hope differs from wish and desire in this, that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it. Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain and anxiety.
 - Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises; a scriptural sense.
- Romans 5:2-5

- Galatians 5:5
- Ephesians 1:18, 4:4
- Colossians 1:5, 27
- II Thessalonians 2:17
- Titus 2:13, 3:7
- The joyful and confident expectation that this hope deals with is “eternal life” according to Titus 1:2.
- ***“which God, that cannot lie, promised”***
- This hope of eternal life was promised by a God that cannot lie. The reason why eternal life can be confidently expected and anticipated is because the promise of eternal life was given by a God who is not capable of lying.
- Titus 1:12-13—this cannot be said for Cretians.
- Number 23:19
- Hebrews 6:17-18—it is against God’s very character and nature to lie. Therefore, it God promises to do something we can have “hope” confident expectation that He will do exactly as he promised.
- ***“before the world began”***
- God made this promise regarding the “hope of eternal life” before the world began.
- If the promise was made before the world began who is God making the promise to? Himself. Before Genesis 1:1 the members of the Godhead had an eternal life conference where in their foreknowledge they made plans and provisions for how eternal life could be accomplished.
- Before God spoke one thing into existence the trinity had already charted the course of human salvation and they made a promise to themselves to accomplish it.
 - II Timothy 1:1
 - Ephesians 3:11—Paul is giving us a glimpse of what God was thinking and doing before the world began.

- We need to understand the difference between “before the world began” and “since the world began” if we are going to have any hope of understanding our Bibles.
- “Before the world began”
 - I Timothy 1:9—we had something given to us in Christ before the world began.
 - Ephesians 1:4—remember from last week that Jesus Christ was God’s elect chosen to a position of service. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8—God chose to hold back some of the information from that eternal life conference in eternity past so that he could accomplish his own purpose through Jesus Christ.
- “Since the world began”
 - Luke 1:70—God’s prophets had been speaking about a horn of salvation being raise in the house of David since the world began.
 - Matthew 25:34—the establishment of a kingdom on earth has been since the world began.
 - Acts 3:21—God’s prophetic plan regarding the establishment of the His kingdom on earth had been the subject of prophecy since the world began.
 - Romans 16:25-26—Paul is speaking about a message regarding Christ that was kept secret since the world began. This is the wisdom of God in a mystery for I Corinthians 2:7-8.
 - Ephesians 3:9-11—this information had been hid in God. So that God’s eternal purpose could be accomplished through Jesus Christ in verse 11.

Titus 2:3

- ***“But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me”***
- When the time was right (due time) God revealed that which he promised to himself before the world began through the teaching, preaching, and apostleship of Paul.
 - Romans 5:6
 - I Corinthians 15:8

- I Timothy 2:6—Paul is the “due time” testifier of the secret purpose of God that he promised to himself before the world began.
- Ephesians 3:1-5—the proclamation of this message was committed by the ascended and glorified Christ to Paul. It was committed to his trust.
- ***“according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”***
- Colossians 1:25-26—Paul is faithfully fulfilling his commission to be the due time testifier of that which God promised to himself before the world began.
- The formation of the Body of Christ and Paul’s apostleship to the Gentiles was not an after thought in the mind of God. We are part of what God promised and determined to do before he even spoke the creation into existence.
- ***The mystery is the due time revelation of what God determined to do before the world began in forming the Church the Body of Christ but did not tell anyone about until he revealed it the Apostle Paul.***