

1Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, 3but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, 4To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. Titus 1:1-4

We are looking this morning at the apostle Paul's introduction in this letter to Titus, who Paul says was his *true child in a common faith*. As we noted last time, Titus was Greek and a Gentile, while Paul was Jewish. Titus traveled with Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem for a council with the elders of the Jerusalem church (this included the original apostles). They went there to discuss if circumcision should be mandatory requirement for Gentile believers. The council decided it wasn't and here, in this letter to Titus, this uncircumcised Gentile is pastoring the church on Crete.

1Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures. Roman 1:1,2

Here in Titus, Paul calls himself a *bond-servant of God* (*Theos-the supreme Divinity, God*) rather than a *bond-servant of Christ Jesus*, as he did in Romans. This Greek word for God is where we get Theology (the study of God). Christ is God but Paul here might have been making certain the Judaizers couldn't claim Gentile Christians had left the true God of Israel. Paul didn't believe Christianity was a totally new religion but a fulfilment of the faith of Abraham and Moses, *which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*.

A bond-servant of God — Some think he (used this) because the Judaizing teachers in Crete affirmed that he had apostatized from God, by receiving into his church the uncircumcised Gentiles, and thereby freeing them from obedience to the law of Moses, as a term of salvation. Benson Commentary

the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, 3but at the proper time manifested. Titus 1:1-3

The Jews were God's original chosen people. Moses wrote, *For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. Duet 14:2* God worked through the Jewish nation though they went after false God's. Still Jesus, the Messiah, came from the Jewish race as prophesied in the OT. Jesus was the one *promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested*. This was always God's plan, to send His only Son, to die for the sin of man. Paul in Romans 5 wrote *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Rom 5:6* The Jews remain God's chosen people but since Christ the church has become the people of God, a chosen people.

9But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Pet 2:9,10

The book of Hebrews talks about this great plan of God. *1God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He*

made the world. Heb 1:1,2 9 Paul declares in Ephesians One that God made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. Eph 1:9,10

What Paul was declaring in this introduction was that the Gospel gives those who believe in Jesus *the hope of eternal life*, they are grafted into the true vine . He who has the Son has life and he who doesn't, doesn't. Salvation is based not on being born a Jew but on being born again, newness of life. *The hope of eternal life* This is a momentous statement (*of great importance or significance, especially in its bearing on the future. Oxford Languages*) But this is not just the belief of Paul. The apostle John wrote, *11And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5;11,12* Paul in Romans 6 states, *the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Roman 6:23*

*Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

Paul declared he was a servant, a slave of God, but also a sent one of Jesus Christ. *Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness. Titus 1:1* Paul saw himself as sent of God to proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. *1 Pet 2:9* Paul's mission was to proclaim the truth of the gospel, the good news, *the free gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*. So the believer is to come to a knowledge of what is true, the truth of God *the knowledge of the truth*, and this so important because this is not a fable or fairy tale. The Christian faith's *author and finisher* is God, the creator of everything has declared this is how mortals can, come into right relationship with God, become right with God, and inherit eternal life. This is God's plan. God *who cannot lie* devised this plan for mankind *which is according to godliness Titus 1:1* This plan demands our commitment.

let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb 12:1-3

This results in us having a clean conscience, it is a plan *which is according to godliness Titus 1:1* We are the righteousness of God, once we know Christ we become heirs to godliness. To the Corinthians Paul wrote, *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor 5:12* Our life in Christ is lived *according to godliness*. As Christians we begin to see the value of godliness, virtue and purity. Paul wrote Timothy that, *godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim 6:6* And God doesn't change he has always valued godliness, holiness. In Proverbs it states, *Better to have little, with godliness, than to be rich and dishonest. Prov 16:8*

Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:3

You must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 1 Pet 1:15

As believers we are called to be holy as God is holy. This completes Paul's introduction of Titus.