

**“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul — Part 2”**

Review:

Right Division of the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul:

- ***We Must Begin with the True Doctrines of Grace, not Law***
- ***Enduring the Enemy’s Opposition Means Suffering as Paul Did***
- ***Bearing Fruit as God Enables is Our Glorious Opportunity***

Introduction:

1 Tim. 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. *[this is a key verse I think. A “pattern” or “hyper-type”!] This is a good starting place for our study today...*

- **We Must Begin Our Education in the Ways of Almighty God with the True Doctrines of Grace, not Law**
 - ***There are many exhortations to do just this - and some are all about following or imitating Paul as he follows Christ! And, no where does Paul exhort to follow Christ. He also does not ever quote Christ as he is represented in the gospels (with one possible exception). Why? Because Christ taught Paul from heaven and gave to the apostle Paul a ministry entirely different than that of the twelve apostles! The teaching was indeed heavenly therefore and constituted a new revelation since the Kingdom revelation of the prophets and apostles did not contain the Sacred Secret given only to Paul. So there is a clear division here. The prophetic message was not Paul’s and Paul’s was not the prophetic. The prophets, Christ and the Twelve taught and preached the coming Millennial Kingdom and the Law (first Mosaic, the Millennial) - Paul taught and preached the Dispensation of the Grace of God.***

There are many of Paul's practical exhortations are to live like he lived and suffer as he suffered. But in some cases much more is involved — his teaching, his doctrine. And this is so important, for teaching, doctrine, must precede our response,

our practice. We see that clearly given in our next reading today:

2 Tim. 3:10-12

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [them] all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

1 Cor. 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. *[again, a practical exhortation but with profound doctrinal meaning. See, for example, also 1 Tim. 3:9 with its context, which is very practical indeed]*

Here the “mystery” revelation given to Paul is on center stage. It is indeed “fundamental”. No “building” can properly take place apart from it. Note that there is no evidence at all that Paul was referring back to many hours of teaching the Corinthian believers about Christ’s earthly ministry as detailed in the gospel accounts. No, the foundational teaching was regarding the Sacred Secret finally revealed through Paul. And that was all about the finished work of Christ and his glorious redemption fully accomplished.

1 Cor. 4:14-17 [imitating him in his suffering for Christ and the church, AND receiving his Doctrine]

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn [you].

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet [have ye] not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

There was a constant reminder in his teaching that he was “imitating” Christ as he had come to know him — in the heavens! As we read in 2 Corinthians Chapter 5:

- **Enduring the Enemy's Opposition Means Suffering as Paul Did:**

Phil. 1:18-21

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 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.

21 For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

We have seen how in many places in Paul's letters he does not use the specific word for copy or mimic but simply sets up himself as their example and his suffering is to be their example! What an encouragement this must have been as they also entered into suffering with Christ as Paul had. Let's look now into 2 Corinthians chapter 4, perhaps the greatest teaching on this subject to be found in Paul's letters. As he writes here his suffering was "in Christ" and therefore worthy of our emulation:

2 Cor. 4:3-4

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Paul's ministry was never hidden and always transparently clear and therefore powerful for sharing the grace of Christ. Those that could not see it were still blinded by "the god of this world".

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

This analogy is so meaningful. Possessing the light of the truth of grace in an earthen vessel or clay pot that must be broken for the light to shine forth is so memorable.

2 Cor. 4:11-12

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake,
that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.
12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

2 Cor. 4:15-18

15 For all things [are] for your sakes, that the abundant grace might
through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish,
yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day.
17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a
far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory;
18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things
which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but
the things which are not seen [are] eternal.

Today: Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul - Part 2

Our Outline:

- ***Following Christ Independently of Paul Exalts Law and not Grace***
- ***The Work of God in the Gospel Accounts (and For a Time Afterwards) Was to Authenticate Israel's Messiah and Preview the Coming Kingdom***
- ***The Work of God under the Dispensation of Grace Exalts God's Glorious Grace Instead of Kingdom Glories***
- ***Following Christ Independently of Paul Disrespects Both Paul and the Lord of Glory***

I. Following Christ Independently of Paul Exalts Law and not Grace:

- ***One promotes Law (Mosaic or Kingdom reinterpreted) and the required Kingdom works, the other grace through faith alone***
 - ***Comment on faith: It always has its "object". It is in reference to the revelation of God concerning himself and his works. It is not independent of that and therefore the Word of God Rightly Divided always provides the context of one's faith. This is not "believing in God" [alone] but "believing God" as I have often taught here. Taking God at his word is the essence of faith. It is not something impossible to define or describe as so many are saying.***

Now for some examples of what the Law required of the faithful. What was their proper experience as the Word

indicates. We will see how different being “under the Law” or “under grace” really are.

- ***[READ] Matt. 23:1-7 [can you imagine Paul, the author of Romans, Galatians, or Colossians, agreeing with what Christ had taught here?]***
 - 1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
 - 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:**
 - 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, [that] observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**
 - 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay [them] on men's shoulders; but they [themselves] will not move them with one of their fingers.
 - 5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
 - 6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
 - 7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- ***So the issue here identified has to do with the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of Israel. Of course it was a greater issue than just that but that is what the apostle identifies here. For they were also clearly unbelievers and had rejected their own Messiah and were plotting his death! This verse is late in the letter, chapter 23. So this is about such more than their hypocrisy!***
- ***One scripture we have not quoted that makes this difference so clear is this one in Galatians — Law demands Obedience:***

Gal. 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.
- ***So, we must conclude, following Christ apart from Paul's direction and example is totally different! But how different? In each Dispensation including both Law and Grace FAITH is CENTRAL. There is no denying that. But the issue always comes down to the object of one's faith, that is, the WORD believed that one is taking to heart by faith.***
- ***The issue dispensationally is always this: “what is God doing”. If we do not lean this by Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth we will not have the truth but a lie, and, we will seek to do what we cannot do [except perhaps with satanic power, witness the Pentecostal***

movements, etc.] ... quickly leading one the spiritual slavery of false religions. So following Christ without following Paul with the enabling grace of God today brings spiritual failure.

II. The Work of God in the Gospel Accounts (and For a Time Afterwards) Was to Authenticate Israel's Messiah and Preview the Coming Kingdom:

- *The issue is simply this: What was God doing as recorded in the gospels? Authenticating the Messianic prophecies for the nation of Israel and Jesus as the Son of God and Israel's Messiah. The signs and wonders were for that purpose and were appropriate then — but not at all now. At that Time the ministry was exclusive — for the Jews only as we shall see. That principle did not change until years after Pentecost. Remember Peter! He had to be shown otherwise by both the Lord and also later by Paul.*
- *There are many examples of signs and wonders accompanying the preaching of the Twelve (and the 70) in the gospel accounts. The preaching of the Kingdom (the coming Millennial, that is) was always to be authenticated with signs and wonders. Some of those scriptures need to be read to understand what that divine enabling was really like. The contrasts with our current Dispensation of Grace and its divine enabling is very concrete:*

[READ] Matt. 10:5-8 [the preaching was with miraculous powers]
5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:
freely ye have received, freely give.

[READ] Luke 9:1-2

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

[READ] Luke 10:8-9 [the seventy are sent forth to work miracles]

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly [is] great, but the labourers [are] few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace [be] to this house.

6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

- ***But the last chapter in Mark is probably the most revealing of them all:***

[READ] Mark 16:15-20 [so when Law was being preached there was an enabling given]

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

So the Lord worked and his disciples worked as well. And clearly this was not by satan's power but by God's through the Holy Spirit. When the Kingdom was preached the signs and wonders signifying that God was working according to the Kingdom were seen by many as the disciples worked the work of God. Their preaching of the Kingdom was accompanied by signs just as the Lord's own preaching and teaching was similarly accredited.

III. The Work of God under the Dispensation of Grace Exalts God's Glorious Grace Instead of Kingdom Glories:

- ***Signs and wonders were common in Paul's pre-prison ministry as recorded in the book of Acts. But there is no indication that God continued to work in this way through his people. In fact there are both doctrinal teachings to that effect and other evidences. Some compelling examples are these:***
 - ***2 Cor. 12 - Paul himself: Willing to receive the full benefits of grace leaving behind the glories of Kingdom power that he had known so well.***

[READ] 2 Cor. 12:7-9

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- ***Timothy's infirmities: Paul could not even bering healing to himself!***

1 Tim. 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

- ***Epaphraditus: Even for the sake of the ministry Paul could not heal his co-worker.***

2 Tim. 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

- ***1 Cor. 12-14: New principles are in place now for this Dispensation and these chapters reveal that teaching fully. They teach that the "charismatic" gifts and all "sign" gifts, and apostolic gifts including prophecy were merely temporary! They have entirely passed away as Paul said they would.***

IV. Following Christ Independently of Paul Disrespects Both Paul and the Lord of Glory:

- **Why?**
 - ***For Christ Jesus: Well, he died for our sins and in so doing paid the full penalty for our our sins, past, present and future! How then can any law (which requires works in all cases) govern our lives if grace is dominant? Legal works cut off the tree of grace at its roots. But his good news of abundant grace is at the center of our faith — and walk. That good news is about the grace of God freely given apart from any works, and all due to Christ's FINISHED WORK on Calvary's cross. His shed blood secured it all. Then, in addition, Christ called our Paul and sent him forth to the Gentiles. Following Christ independently of Paul therefore disrespects Christ himself profoundly.***
 - ***For the Apostle Paul: Paul received from Christ his marching orders and set forth to fulfill them at great risk and eventual martyrdom. He demonstrated "first" what it means to bear in one's body the "marks" of the Lord Jesus. He showed the grace of God in Christ Jesus as he was delivered unto death for Jesus sake and then displayed his resurrection glory.***
- ***So in conclusion, we have lost the miraculous signs of the Kingdom that was "at hand" today. It is no longer since now the Prophetic Calendar has been stopped for a while as grace is poured out on sinners far and wide. We have lost those miraculous signs and the gifts of the spirit even the early Body Church experienced in some places (as in Corinth). But what have we gained? We have gained much as we have seen recently in our studies.***

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:8-13

8 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] **tongues**, they shall cease; whether [there be] **knowledge**, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we **prophecy** in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.

- ***Following Christ Independently of Paul Ensures a Life and Ministry Without the Enabling Power of God. If we as many today demand of God what he is not willing to provide, we greatly disrespect both Paul and our Lord. Be satisfied. His grace is always sufficient!***

Amen.

Conclusions / Application:

- ***Following Christ apart from Paul's direction and example is totally different! How different is immediately seen as we read the gospel accounts of Christ's earthly ministry.***

1 Cor. 11:1-2

1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ.

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered [them] to you.