

***“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —  
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul  
Part 3, An Exercise in Contrasts”***

**Theme Verses:**

**2 Cor. 4:17-18**

**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.**

**Review:**

- ***Following Christ Apart from Paul Promotes 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 and object of one’s faith. This is not “believing in God” [alone] but “believing God” as I have so 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 is.***

***Matt. 23:1-7***

***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.

- ***Can you imagine Paul, the author of Romans, Galatians, or Colossians, agreeing with what Christ had taught here? God does not contradict himself so there are dispensational changes involved here.***
  - ***So the issue here identified has to do with the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of Israel. Yes, it was a greater issue than just that. They were not only hypocrites. They were also clearly unbelievers for they had rejected their own Messiah and were even now plotting his death! This verse is found late in this gospel account, in chapter 23. So this is about much more than their hypocrisy!***
- ***But our reason for looking at this scripture was to see what the Lord had said about the scribes and Pharisees in relation to Moses. They sat, he said, in Moses' seat and the disciples were told to do as they said, that is, to obey Moses and the Law. I cannot imagine Paul writing such a thing as this, can you? There are dispensational issues to be taken note of here.***

***One scripture that makes this difference so clear is this one in Galatians 3 — Law demands or requires 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 this: "what is God doing". If we do not learn 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 with their legal requirements. So following Christ without following Paul's example and doctrine today brings spiritual failure for the one so living is not living with the power of God's grace in one's life.*

- ***The Work of God in the Gospel Accounts (and For a Time Afterwards) Was to Authenticate Israel's Messiah and Preview the Coming Kingdom***
  - ***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, for the authentication of the message of the coming Kingdom. In addition, at that time the ministry was exclusive — for the Jews only. That principle did not change until years after Pentecost. Remember Peter! He had to be shown otherwise by both the Lord and also again 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. As we read these scriptures we come to see what that divine enabling was really like. Note that the contrasts with our current Dispensation of Grace and its divine enabling are very concrete:***

***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.***

***See also Luke 9:1-2 (sending out of the Twelve) and Luke 10:8-9 (the Seventy are sent forth preaching and working miracles.***

- ***But the last chapter in Mark is probably the most revealing of them all. We see there how the Kingdom preaching was accomplished along with and by the power of Almighty God so that when Kingdom Law was preached there was an enablement given that included the authentication with signs and wonders:***

**Mark 16:15-20**

**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.**

**But that was BEFORE the Dispensation of the Grace of God took center stage and the work of the Lord in offering the Kingdom had finished and grace began to fully reign in the lives of believers.**

**Today: Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul - Part 3, An Exercise in Contrasts**

- **The Work of God under Grace Exalts God's Grace and Not the Law**
- **Some Things Dear to Believers Must Pass Away For Grace To Be Manifested**
- **Following Christ Apart from Paul Disrespects Both Paul and the Lord:**
- **Following Christ Apart from Paul Is to Live a Life Without the Enabling Power of God:**

**I. The Work of God under Grace Exalts God's Grace and Not the Law:**

- **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 but most importantly, Paul's own testimony. Some compelling examples are these:*

- *First of all we will look at Paul's own testimony in 2 Cor. 12. Here we see that in order to receive the full benefits of grace Paul needed to leave behind Kingdom power with its many glorious signs and wonders.*

*But he was instructed by Christ himself that he must do so:*

**[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.

- *This is an amazing statement and a great place to start our study today. Consider Timothy's physical infirmities. Paul could not even gain healing for Timothy, his son and co-minister in the faith!*

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

- *Epaphroditus: Even for the sake of the ministry Paul could not heal his co-worker though in time God had had mercy:*

**Phil. 2:25-30**

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

- *Trophimus: Finally, at the very end of his life and ministry, Paul, greatly dependent on his co-workers since he had been arrested by the Romans and cast into prison. But Trophimus, a trusted co-worker on his final missionary journey became ill and had to be left behind as Paul and others went on from Miletus.*

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

- *So we see historically in these records of the apostle that new principles of God's working among his people were put into place for this Dispensation and these letters reveal that teaching fully. They teach that the "charismatic" gifts and all "sign" gifts, including the apostolic gifts including prophecy were merely temporary! They quickly passed away as Paul said they would. The doctrinal teaching on this is found in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapters 12 - 14. Next time we meet, Lord willing, we will examine that teaching carefully. What Paul reveals there is that the sign gifts and apostolic gifts were only temporary and would soon be passing away entirely.*

## **II. Some Things Dear to Believers Must Pass Away For Grace To Be Manifested:**

*It has so often been said that "it is always darkest before the dawn". Of, similarly, before a big storm sets in there is often a strange and deep sense of peace and quiet. That is so often true in the world around us. But spiritually it is true too and that is far more important for we who live in this world of sin and death. But, as the apostle wrote and so powerfully shared with us the essence of his message of hope so long ago:*

**[READ ] Rom. 5:15-21**

15 But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [which is] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as [it was] by one that sinned, [so is] the gift: for the judgment [was] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [is] of many offences unto justification.

**17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**

18 Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

**20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

**21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**[READ ] Gal. 4:4-5**

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

- ***But those times were hard indeed. And now, the light has come into the world. A little later, Paul writes in this way:***

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 10:11-12**

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

- ***But those times were hard indeed. And now, the light has come into the world, and that world is dark indeed! Do you agree? Then, in the same letter, the apostle wrote these words:***

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 13:4-7**

**4 Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**

**5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

**6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;**

**7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

- *Here, Paul, after explaining in detail what the life of a believer living under the fullness of God's abundant grace should be like, he digresses a little and explains THE GREAT CONTRAST that he and others were already experiencing in his day:*

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 13:8-10**

**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 prophesy in part.**

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

- *So, he wrote, THERE IS LIGHT AT THE END OF THE LONG DARK TUNNEL AFTER ALL, HOWEVER IT MAY SEEM NOW IN OUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.*

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 13:11-13**

**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.**

- *If it is always darkest before the dawn, then we have much to be thankful for, don't we?*

### **III. Following Christ Apart from Paul Disrespects Both Paul and the Lord:**

- *This is a strong statement indeed and might surprise some therefore. Why can't we mix Kingdom Law and God's abundant grace? Why can't we follow the Christ of the gospels and also know and live in the realm of grace through faith alone? Isn't our faith enough? What more is needed?*

*The answer is simple. The issue is as I mentioned at the beginning of our study today, our hope is at the heart of our faith and that must always be rooted in the word of truth which we have received. Faith always has an object. And that object must be contained within the word given to us for our faith and our obedience.*



- *For Christ Jesus: Well, he died for our sins and in so doing paid the full penalty for 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. This is not at all what imitating Christ as the gospels portray him.*
- *So in conclusion, we have lost the miraculous signs of the Kingdom that was "at hand" once in history. 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.*

**IV. Following Christ Apart from Paul Is to Live a Life Without the Enabling Power of God:**

- *This our final conclusion today and the practical side of our teaching. Not only did the signs for the Jews pass away as Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 13, the signs of an apostle also passed as Paul learned as his ministry and life were nearing their end. The apostle learned to rejoice in that "so that the power of Christ might rest upon him":*

**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.**

- ***Yes, this is about Paul himself, the apostle of the Gentiles. The following verses are about the signs of an apostle which he had demonstrated to these believers so clearly. False teachers were denying Paul's apostleship but they knew him well from his 18 months or more in their midst. But the implications for us as well living under this Dispensation of the Grace of God should be clear too. We are not apostles even.***

***What is our testimony? Is it of fading Kingdom glories with that power of apostolic times, or is it a testimony of his abundant and always sufficient grace?***

#### **Conclusions / Application:**

- ***Today Grace Rules! Let's Enjoy the Lord of Glory and Grace, Always!***
- ***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.***
- ***Following Christ apart from of Paul and his example 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!***

**2 Cor. 4:17-18**

**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.**

**2 Tim. 1:7-10**

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

***Enjoy all for the Lord is not finished with us yet! Enjoying him and the wealth of his grace, now and forever.***