

***“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —  
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth Demands That We Follow Paul — Part 8:  
The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace, Its Completion”***

***Our Outline: The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace: The Transition from Pentecost to the Fullness of Grace — Its Completion***

- ***The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace: Mid - Late Acts - Paul Saved and Sent Forth (Primarily to the Gentiles, But to the Jews First)***
- ***The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace: After Acts 28:28 - Paul’s “Prison” Ministry***
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***I. The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace: Mid - Late Acts - Paul Saved and Sent Forth Primarily to the Gentiles, But to the Jews First:***

***In Acts 9, at Paul’s (Saul’s) Salvation, just after Stephen’s stoning, the Lord God initiated the Great Transition Period. At the beginning of that transition even the Jewish leaders knew God was changing his working with sinful men. In fact, Peter himself was taught by a vision that God is now going to turn to the Gentiles which he is not willing to do — until the vision is given. Then Peter gives his seal of approval to Paul — and this was his last formal work! He appears only one more time in the book of the Acts, in chapter 15 at the great council, where he proclaims that God is now working among the Gentiles and that grace is the theme - verse 12 — the signs and wonders convinced Peter and the Jews that God was working through Paul and his associates!!] ==> the signs are for the Jews!***

***Acts 11:13-20***

***13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;  
14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.***

***15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.***

***16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.***

***17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as [he did] unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?***

***18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.***

**19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.**

**20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians Jews, preaching the Lord Jesus.**

***See 11:15 and 10:34-44 The gift of the spirit with foreign languages was poured out on these Gentiles, Cornelius and others — convincing Peter that this was the work of Almighty God***

***The next verses are of Peter being imprisoned and released due to an angel of God sent to his prison cell.***

***To the Jews first: grace through faith in a risen savior and not an earthly kingdom preached was what Paul preached. Spiritual gifts given to some, especially in Corinth, “for the sake of the Jews” primarily, but the purpose in giving “Israel’s promised blessings” to the Gentiles was “to make the Jews jealous”. This continued until Acts 28:28. The revelation of grace continued through Paul until its completion by the prison letters. This preaching was not of the resurrected Christ coming in judgment of the Jews due to their rebellion, as Peter had preached, but rather judgment on the Gentiles and the whole world (even Jews).***

- ***The “salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear” -- (See on Act 13:44-48). "This departure to the Gentiles" he had intimated to the perverse Jews at Antioch (Act 13:46), and at Corinth (Act 18:6); now at Rome: thus in Asia, Greece, and Italy" [BENGEL].***
- ***This final word was spoken in Rome to the Jewish leaders assembled there. But this characterized his ministry during his three missionary journeys.***
- ***The event in Rome sealed that part of Paul’s commission in formally setting aside the chosen nation and its people for a time while grace reigned among the Gentiles.***

## **II. The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace: After Acts 28:28 - Paul’s “Prison” Ministry:**

### ***Acts 28:23-31***

**23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into [his] lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading**

them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and [out of] the prophets, from morning till evening.

24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

26 Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and [that] they will hear it.

29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

***After Acts ends (for it contains the record of the transition period from Law to Grace including the Pentecostal Period with its continuation of miraculous gifts with additional missionary journeys (to Spain, etc.) – Spiritual gifts cease or are terminated and grace abounds (2 Cor. 12, etc.) - Israel cut off at this point and full revelation of grace completed with Paul's final letter. Therefore, signs, wonders, and miracles and even apostleship end with all spiritual gifts of that sort, whether for signs or revelatory. After that as Eph. 4 indicates only those with assigned roles (pastor, teacher, evangelist, along with apostles and prophets continue until Paul's last words were written.***

- **Before Acts 28**

- ***But, there was a transition period between the “Pentecostal” dispensation and the fullness of Grace***
- ***That is recorded in Acts 9-28 key expressions: to the Jew first / “for the sake of the Jews” “all things for all men that I may save some” “no offense ...”***

- **After Acts 28**

- ***But, after Acts 28, entirely different - “let no man beguile you of your reward ...”***

- ***Colossians 2 make it so clear that the entire focus of Paul's ministry had now changed SO MUCH:***

**Col. 2:8-23**

**8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

**9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

**10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**

**11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

**12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

**13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

**14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;**

**15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

**16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:**

**17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.**

**18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**

**19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.**

**20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,**

**21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;**

**22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?**

**23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.**

- ***Such great changes are to betaken note of here. As we Rightly Divide the Word of Truth we see such transforming truths, don't we?***

**III. The Glorious Sweep of God's Abundant Grace: The Transition from Pentecost to the Fullness of Grace — Its Completion:**

***What was left behind? What was gained? The ministry of Paul to the Jews was so prominent — until Acts 28. Before Paul was raised up the ministry was to the Jews ONLY, under Peter, for example (Acts 11:19-20). Then, during the Acts transition period it was to the Jews FIRST. Then, after Acts 28:28 it was to the Gentiles, with neither Jew nor Greek counting in the message and outreach. Praise God for his grace and its abundance!***

- ***The signs, wonders, and miracles that made so much sense before because of the Jews and the incomplete revelation through Paul concerning grace, have passed away, have ceased or have been terminated. along with the “spiritual” gifts to members of Christ's heavenly Body. Praise God for his grace and its abundance!***
- ***The gift of apostleship has ended too. There is today no more need for that. The dispensational reason has passed and the revelation of grace has been completed in Paul's last letter, 2 Timothy. Consequently, the full revelation of grace and its work is being manifested. Paul experienced that and is our example in it as he suffered “for Christ” “fulfilling” Christ's sufferings that continue today. He has shown us the way as he learned that the grace of Christ is always sufficient, whatever our circumstances (2 Cor. 12).***
- ***Our conclusion: The blessings of Full Grace are abundantly available. Receive them and rejoice, reigning in life, Redeeming the Time.***
- ***This leads so naturally to our final point here today which we should make our major focus from now until our eternal glory is manifest: Their shame and condemnation in contrast to our blessing and glorification! Paul ends his life and ministry with these compelling and powerful words at the end of his second letter to Timothy, exhorting Timothy strongly to lead as he had himself so long:***

***[READ ] 2 Tim. 4:1-5***

***1 I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;***

***2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

- ***Verse 1: “the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Is this two or only one judgment? The following verses make it clear that there are two:***
  - ***“His appearing”:*** Literally, “his epiphany or light display”, a reference it seems the Rapture of the Church. “His kingdom”: The establishing of his Millennial Kingdom is referred to here.
  - ***One aspect of the false teacher’s doctrine troubling the apostle so much is revealed here and this may be the heart of the matter. It seems to me that these false teachers, in rejecting Right Division, had taken scripture figuratively and thereby had begun to reject fundamental teachings such as that of the Pre-tribulational Rapture among others and even the very essence of the Gospel of the Grace of God itself. See Gal. 2:5 and Col. 1:23 for more scripture.***
  - ***If the objective and literal teaching is rejected, then one ends up with a teaching that reduces itself to “story telling” or “fables”, to use the word he uses here. They were filling the teaching time not with spiritual food and strong doctrine, but with stories. That is so true so often today, is it not? In due time, the true and sound and healthy doctrine is no longer known.***
- ***Verses 2 - 5: Sound teaching and preaching is essential for Timothy as it was for Paul. The enemies of the faith abound and their lies (presented as “fables” == “myths” or “stories”) “scratch” the “itching ears” of many who reject the Truth of the Word of God Rightly Divided. What are they then left with? Legal religion with its lies and compromises and increasingly an abounding worldliness.***

***[READ ] 2 Tim. 4:6-8***

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

- *Paul sets for his testimony now as it is to be Timothy's example always as he takes, as it were, Paul's ministerial "mantle" upon himself having exchanged it for a heavenly crown of righteousness.*

*Paul would be removed from this life soon, it seems. But Timothy would go on, with trusted bond-slaves in his train. Amen!*

- *We can share in the same crown. But will we?*

#### **IV. Paul's Final (Recorded) Words:**

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 4:9-15**

9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring *with thee*, and the books, *but* especially the parchments.

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

- *The Request: He desires his faithful co-minister Timothy to come as soon as possible. It is not known if he did comply with this request. But church history indicates that Timothy continued for some time as pastor in Ephesus so it seems that he did not come quickly. For if he had he might have been also executed together with Paul as some historical references indicate that others mentioned here were, such as Pudens, Aristarchus, and Trophimus.*
- *Some Reasons for the Request: Many had forsook Paul and he was alone except for Luke (and the Lord, of course, verse 17).*

- *A Warning: Yes, the Lord IS with us always. Nevertheless, exercise much caution since so many enemies seek opportunities against us. Wisdom is always a benefit. Be wise!*

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 4:16-18**

**16** At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

**17** Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

**18** And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- *There were apparently two interrogations of the apostle. He comments here on the first of them that could have resulted in his martyrdom - but it did not. He was delivered from that one. He would not be delivered from the second.*

*Grace and mercy and forgiveness is Paul's choice even in this situation. Grace operates fully and it is ALWAYS SUFFICIENT!*

**[READ ] 2 Tim. 4:19-22**

**19** Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

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

**21** Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

**22** The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with thy spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

- *The Final Salutation and Request: These are most important persons and the very ones who in addition to Timothy would be carrying on the ministry of grace after Paul was gone. Consider this well. Who will carry the torch after our departure from this earth?*

### **Application:**

- *Paul is our example in teaching and living under grace. For him every spiritual blessing was in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus and they are ours already as well [Eph. 1]!*
- *We have lost much from the Pentecostal days and the Great Transition (signs, wonders, and miracles, for example, and other*

***early blessings of the coming Kingdom on earth) but have gained so very much more [1 Cor. 12-13]!***

- ***We have this treasure now but in earthly vessels, as it were — but will we enjoy it fully? To enjoy this treasure we must embrace it by faith, we must love the Lord and his workings under grace as Paul did.***
- ***But true and authentic love is never cheap - it costs greatly in every case, whether here in a worldly sense or in reference to life and witness for Christ in a godless world.***
- ***We can turn aside. But by the grace and power of Almighty God and thorough an abundance of faith, we shall not!***

***Tit. 2:13*** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;