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PAUL THE APOSTLE

A STUDY OF I TIMOTHY
NUMBER 1
I TIMOTHY 1:1

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I Timothy 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope."

In Dr. A. T. Robertson's "Students Chronological New Testament," we read these words: "First Timothy is just the kind of letter that Paul the aged would have written to a young preacher as beloved as Timothy." It was probably written from Macedonia about 67 A.D. just a year before Paul was cruelly killed by Nero. This is quite an unusual epistle. Timothy had a hard time making it in the ministry, but Paul did his best to instruct him and get his feet in the right road.

Verse 1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." We assume that you know something about dispensations, The Church Age, and God's divine plan for the human race. The author of the divine plan is God The Father. His essence is involved in the plan. God The Son is the one executing the plan and The Holy Spirit is the revealer of the plan. God has given a full outline of the plan in what we call the divine decrees.

Three Phases In God's Plan

There are three main phases in God's divine plan:

1. Salvation - The whole plan of God is based on the new birth. "You must be born again" is for every person in God's plan.
2. The believer in time - After salvation God has designed that all believers grow in doctrinal knowledge. This is the only way to reach spiritual maturity.
3. The believer in eternity - God has planned a perfect heaven as the final abode of all believers.

The Outline Of Chapter One

1. Prologue - Verses 1 and 2.
2. The purpose of the pastor - Verses 3-7.
3. The purpose of the Mosaic law - Verses 8-11.
4. The purpose of grace - Verses 12-17.
5. Combat orders for Timothy - Verses 18-20.

Therefore, we see from this outline that this chapter brings us face to face with God's great purpose in the church age.

The Human Author

His name was Paulos or Paul. His pre-salvation name was Saul of Tarsus. He took the occasion of his salvation to adopt a Roman name, "Paul." Saul is a Hebrew name. He was of the tribe of Benjamin and many people in that tribe were given the name of Saul. Once Saul became a believer, he changed his name to Paul. Paul is a grace name.

I Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

I Timothy 1:13-14 "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

Paul was a Jew by nationality and a Roman citizen by birth. Here is the most famous man alive in the world of his time and yet he insisted on calling himself "Paul." This is the name by which he is known in history. I Timothy was written by inspiration from The Holy Spirit either just before or during his last imprisonment, about six months before his death. This book was written under the principle given in one of the great verses of the third chapter.

I Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." The word for "inspiration" is Theo pneustos meaning "God breathed." Please notice that breathing includes both inhale and exhale. The inhale comes from The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit communicated to Paul the complete content of this book and he inhaled. Then he sat down and exhaled it and this is the result. Without waving aside his human ability, his intelligence, his vocabulary, his personal feelings or any similar factor, God's complete message to the believer was recorded here perfectly, under the guardianship of The Holy Spirit. This message is perfectly accurate in the Koine Greek in which it was written.

Paul, An Apostle

This is one of those times when Paul pulled his rank. He is saying in substance, "I am a five-star general and am qualified to write this message which the Holy Spirit has breathed into me. "Please notice not "Paul, your dear friend" or "Paul, your father in the ministry" but rather "Paul, The Apostle." This is rank, not friendship. Timothy was a student without portfolio and Paul is going to instruct him as such. It is time for Timothy to grow up and get ready to take charge of things for within about six months from the time this message was written, Paul will be dead. Timothy was a poor student and had to take the class over and over again before he caught on. Timothy was basically a "wimpy" kind of a character, weak, and easily influenced. His mother named him "Timothy." I suppose so she could call him "Timmy." Paul will tear him apart and in doing so, give us some very great doctrine.

The Word "Apostle"

This word comes from apo stole and it means "to send from." The last apostle died in 96 A.D. and his name was John. There have been no apostles since, at least no authentic apostle. There are no apostles today. If there were, I would be one. It means rank; it means authority; it literally means dictatorship. This is exactly what Paul was. He was not just an apostle. He was the highest ranking apostle. Even Simon Peter knuckled under to him in II Peter when Peter admitted that Paul was far greater in doctrine than he was. No one in the church age ever had as much authority as Paul. No one in the Old Testament had as much authority as David. Paul and David were very different in many ways, but each had as much authority as God was able to give to a human being. Both of them came to be what God wanted them to be.

(This doesn't discount the evil that came from the adultery and murder of David.) Paul was a spiritual warrior the way David was a professional warrior. Paul was the greatest warrior the church ever had. And when Paul started out calling himself an "Apostle" as he did here, you better look out. He is going to come out with some sharp doctrine. It means "clear the decks, for the Admiral has come." It was derived from the time when the Athenian Navy ruled the sea. The meaning is "one sent to command."

The Wrong Choice

You recall after Judas left this earth by taking his own life, the disciples and the church proceeded to select a replacement for Judas, but they chose the wrong one. Peter suggested the two who might be a replacement for Judas and the church voted and they selected Matthias. But they chose the wrong one because The Lord has already chosen Paul as the one to replace him. Saul of Tarsus had been the worst sinner that ever lived, but by the grace of God he became the greatest believer and grace man that ever lived. He was so bad before his conversion that it took the church a whole generation to be willing to accept him as a true believer. We look back and see him in his greatness but his contemporaries never saw him this way. Very few living in his day recognized his greatness. Since then, he has become recognized as probably the greatest Christian of all time.

The Gift Of Apostleship

This word apostle is taken and turned into the highest rank that God ever gave in the church age. There were just a few apostles and they served from 30 to 96 A.D. There never has been an apostle since 96 A.D. They performed in the era prior to the time when the Canon of Scripture was not yet complete. Before the Bible was completed, someone had to call the shots with complete authority, and this is exactly what the apostle did. Someone had to run the show and that is exactly what the apostles did. Someone had to write the New Testament and that is what the apostles did. The apostle had absolute authority. Take this illustration: Paul twice turned people over to Satan for discipline. Now that's absolute dictatorship. We will see this at the end of this chapter in verse 20 when Paul turned Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan and in I Corinthians 5 when he turned the evil man over to Satan. An enlightened born-again man filled with doctrine is the meaning of this word "apostle." Paul also had the gift of pastor/teacher and he shared this gift with many churches. He had the authority to establish churches and appoint pastors to regulate doctrine, to judge churches, and to train pastors. This was his authority until the Canon of Scripture was completed. He also had the authority to write scripture. Apostleship was a temporary gift and it carried tremendous weight.

THE DOCTRINE OF APOSTLESHIP

I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD APOSTLE

The word means "admiral of the fleet." It is used in the New Testament as the title for the highest spiritual gift God ever gave. After 96 A.D., no one has ever had this gift. The last apostle was John the author of the Gospel of John; I, II, and III John; and Revelation. Some have claimed to have this spiritual gift but they were just misinformed about it. The Roman Catholic

Church claims this for her Pope but there is no scriptural authority for this claim. There is no perpetuation of apostolic authority from Scripture.

I Corinthians 12:11 "But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

I Corinthians 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Ephesians 4:11-12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

II. THE FUNCTION OF APOSTLESHIP

Since the gift of apostleship carried with it absolute authority, it was designed so the church would have someone to carry it along until the Canon of Scripture was completed. The date when apostles functioned is 30 to 96 A.D. Apostles or someone closely associated with the apostles were the ones who wrote the Scriptures. Apostles established the early churches, communicated doctrine to them, trained the pastors, appointed the pastors to the various churches, and set forth the policies on which the church was run. Once the New Testament was finished and the doctrine of the mystery was recorded, it was not necessary to have apostles any longer.

III. THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT

Apostles were not appointed until after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the completion of his great victory over the cross and the grave.

Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

Ephesians 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

There were no female apostles. Jesus Christ did all the appointing and there was no voting to elect them. The apostles were first apostles to Israel, but after the resurrection, they were appointed apostles to the church. The eleven were reappointed and then Christ chose Paul to take the place of Judas. Jesus Christ did the appointing and it was never left to people to do this. All of the apostles had to have seen the risen Christ.

IV. THE EXTENT OF THE GIFT OF APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the greatest gift God ever gave in the church age or ever will give. The apostle had authority over all the local churches. Apostleship was a temporary gift and was over once the Canon of Scripture was completed. Today, all local churches are autonomous, or should be. Once the Canon of Scripture was completed, all authority is invested in the Scripture under the teaching of the right pastor/teacher.

V. MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN APOSTLES TO ISRAEL AND TO THE CHURCH

In Matthew 10, we have the list of the apostles Christ appointed to Israel and this was to last for his earthly ministry. But once Christ arose from the grave and ascended, he appointed them anew, except Judas, but with an entirely different function and an entirely different ministry. Paul was appointed to replace Judas.

I Corinthians 15:7-10 "After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one

born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

People have been called "a Judas" but no one ever names a son Judas. Today all spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit but the Lord Jesus Christ gave the gift of apostleship.

VI. THE QUALIFICATION OF AN APOSTLE

They were qualified by receiving their appointment from Christ. Ephesians 4:11. After these initial appointments and Christ had ascended, all other appointments were to be made by the Holy Spirit. All apostles had to be eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ. Paul received this qualification on the Damascus road.

Acts 1:22 "Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection."

I Corinthians 9:1 "Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?"

I Corinthians 15:8-9 "And last of all, he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Paul said that he didn't deserve to be an apostle, but he was one.

VII. THE IDENTIFICATION OF APOSTLES

They didn't have an I.D. card saying: "I AM AN APOSTLE" but they had certain gifts which only apostles had. They had the gift of tongues, the gift of healing and miracles. They used these gifts to call attention to Jesus Christ and the importance of the gospel. But once the completed Bible came, these gifts were no longer needed.

Acts 5:15 "Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them."

Acts 16:16-18 "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying; the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

Once the apostles had been established as authority, these gifts were removed for they didn't need them anymore. Once Paul was established as an apostle the gift of healing was removed and he couldn't heal Epaphroditus or Trophimus.

VIII. THE ROSTER OF THE APOSTLES

The eleven minus Judas. Matthias was never a true apostle. Paul was chosen by Christ to replace Judas.

IX. THE DELEGATION OF APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

Some men were designated apostles and had the title but didn't have the gift.

Acts 14:14 "Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out." Here we see Barnabas had the delegated authority of an apostle. John Mark was not an apostle but he was under the authority of

Church claims this for her Pope but there is no scriptural authority for this claim. There is no perpetuation of apostolic authority from Scripture.

I Corinthians 12:11 "But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

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I Corinthians 15:7-10 "After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one

Simon Peter as he wrote his gospel. James the Lord's half brother, was delegated by the Lord to write the Book of James. Likewise, was Jude.

Apollos had the delegated authority of an apostle, given to him by Paul. Sylvanus and Timothy also had this authority in the same way.

So this verse says "An apostle of Christ Jesus." Christos means the anointed one. It meant that the Davidic Covenant was fulfilled in this one. Jesus is the name used to refer to the humanity of Christ. "By the commandment" is from kata and epitage and it means "according to the strong commandment." "From God our Saviour" and this word soter refers to the humanity of Christ. Then we have "even Jesus Christ" and he is called elpis and it means confidence or security.

So this great verse says this: "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, according to the command from God our Saviour, even Christ Jesus our confidence and security."