

Titus
Lesson #4, Chapter 1:1-2

1. God enlisted Paul for what purpose (vs. 1)?
2. Acts 20:24 and 2 Tim. 1:8-11; 2:10 give more light to Paul's statement that he is a bond servant and apostle *for the faith of those chosen of God*. What does he mean?
3. Faith is a person's response to the gospel message as stated in Rom. 10:17, "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*" Paul's role as messenger was to share God's message of salvation. We know that we too, are to tell others about the hope to be found in Christ (1 Thess. 1:8-10). Using the following verses which contain the essentials of the Gospel as a starting point, write a brief gospel presentation: Matt. 4:17; Acts 4:8-12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:4-10.
4. Paul says he preaches for the faith of those *chosen of God*. What do you learn about being chosen of God? See Jn. 6:44; Acts 13:48; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:1-2.
5. How does the truth of being chosen by God encourage and strengthen you?
6. Paul's work as servant and apostle is to share the good news of the gospel so that the people would come to salvation. What is another facet of his ministry (vs. 1)?

7. What clues do we have in the book of Titus that reveal how important it is that the church in Crete have *the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness*?

8. Look up 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:25-26 and 3:1-7. What observations can you make about *the knowledge of the truth* from those verses?

9. What relationship is there between the Word, Truth, and Godliness? See Ps. 119:2-3, 9, 127-128; Jn. 17:17; 2 Cor. 4:2; Phil. 1:9-11; 2 Pet. 1:2-3.

10. Godliness is born out of a knowledge of the truth about God. “No matter how sincere our intentions might be, we cannot obey God’s will if we do not know what it is. We cannot be godly if we do not know what God is like and what He expects of those who belong to Him (John MacArthur, Titus Commentary).” So, if you want to be godly where should you start?

11. The New American Commentary states, “The sequence of these three significant terms Paul used in this first verse—faith, knowledge, godliness—suggests a pattern of true Christian growth. Saving faith that opens one’s eyes to the knowledge of the truth should result in a transformed life characterized by godliness.” Can you see a pattern of growth in godliness since you became a Christian? What about now? What are some areas that you feel God is working on in your life now?

12. If you aren’t seeing growth in godliness that can tell you one of three things: 1) you are not saved and therefore cannot understand the things of God and cannot grow in godliness; 2) you have unrepentant, unconfessed sin in your life that is holding you back from growing in godliness; or 3) you have not cultivated a knowledge of God and His ways and so you remain a stunted

infant in Christ with no pattern of godliness in your life. If you find yourself in one of the conditions described above, what are you going to do about it?

The end of all learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love and imitate Him. ~John Milton

13. Now we read "*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, in the hope of eternal life (vs. 2).*" Who is to have eternal life? See Jn. 6:36-40; Eph. 1:13, 14.

14. Believers are to have a hope in eternal life. What will it be like and how will it give hope to us now? See Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; Titus 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:3-9.

15. In what other ways does our hope of eternal life affect our lives now? See 1 Cor. 3:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:4-9; Phil. 3:8, 10-14; 1 Jn. 3:2-3.

16. Does the hope of your inheritance motivate you to walk in holiness, to love and serve others, to know God better, to live with your eyes on Heaven? If not, why not? Does your view of heaven and this world need to be adjusted so that you will hope in eternal life?

Nothing is more contrary to a heavenly hope than an earthly heart. ~William Gurnall

17. From vs. 2, what two things do you learn that assures you of your hope in eternal life?

18. What do the Scriptures say about God, who cannot lie? See Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Heb. 6:17-18.

19. How does understanding that God will not lie; that He cannot lie because it is not even His nature, help you to believe the promises He makes in His word? See Ps. 146:5-6; Rom. 3:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:24; 2 Tim. 2:13.

20. The phrase *promised long ages ago* literally means “before times eternal”. What was promised before time began in vs. 1 and 2?

21. The phrase *promised long ages ago* brings us back to where we started this lesson as *chosen of God*. This truth blasts away at the view of salvation that has God “choosing” people for eternal life by looking ahead into time and once He sees who chooses Him, then He predestines them. The truth is, God, *before time began*, before man was even created, promised to the Son “a redeemed humanity who would serve and glorify Him forever (John MacArthur, Titus Commentary).” Do you realize the mantle of privilege you wear? You have been chosen to be God’s representative on earth of His love, mercy, forgiveness and holiness. Yet every privilege carries with it responsibility. How have the privileges and responsibilities of this “chosen” life changed you? Or are you enjoying the privileges and blessings that come from being a daughter of the King, but not taking on the responsibilities that come with that position? What are some changes you need to make in your life to reflect the privilege and responsibility of being chosen by God?

A man’s greatest care should be for that place where he lives longest; therefore, eternity should be his scope. ~Thomas Manton