

Lesson 18

Nov 30, 2023

Tit 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope (guarantee) and the appearing of the glory (the rapture of the church) of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

We are waiting with keen anticipation for our Lord's return, which is guaranteed.

Doctrine of the Rapture

- The intake of Bible doctrine gives one confidence regarding death, the Rapture, and the Second Advent.
- The Rapture makes it possible for Jesus Christ to keep His promise. (John 14:1-3)
John 14:1-3 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3) "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
- The Rapture takes the sting out of death.
- The Rapture gives stability to phase 2 (sanctification).

- Rapture removes hysteria and the hopelessness of bereavement.

1 Thes. 4:17-18 - Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- The Rapture is a rendezvous for both the living and the dead of the Church age.
- Confidence of the Rapture is based on the Resurrection of Christ. He ascended to Heaven once His mission was completed.

The word **Hope** is a technical reference to the Rapture in at least 3 passages:

1 Pet 1:3-4 - (**The Living Hope**) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

We were born spiritually dead. Because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection, we can live eternally with Him when we put our trust in Him by faith for our

salvation. This is the **Living Hope**. It is not based on what we do, but on what He (Jesus Christ) has already done for us.

Jesus gives the free gift of salvation to Anyone who will put their trust in Him. It's not based on our morality; it's not based on our works!

[Titus 2:13](#) - (**The Blessed Hope**) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ's appearance is known as an epiphany.

[Titus 2:11](#) - the grace of God has been revealed.

In saying that the grace of God "**has been revealed**" (or "has appeared"), Paul was using special terminology that we see elsewhere in the letters to Titus and Timothy.

Epiphany - An appearance or manifestation, especially of a divine being.

In this passage Paul used the Greek word for "epiphany" in two basic ways. First, we should note that the language of this passage ("grace" in the sense of being a gift, "epiphany," "savior," "great God," the use of the verb *paideuō*, "instruct," and the specific virtues mentioned) shows that Paul was employing stock terms from the surrounding Hellenistic

(Greco-Roman) world. These words and the word "epiphany" effectively communicate the meaning of the Christian faith, both by way of comparison and contrast with the wider use of those ideas in relation to pagan rulers and gods. Plainly put: Paul knew how to get his point across in Greek to someone in the Roman Empire.

Second, we should note that Paul was speaking of two epiphanies: one in the past (2:11) **(has appeared)** and one in the future (2:13) **(and the appearing of)**. These epiphanies of Christ frame the present age as the time of salvation, a salvation that awaits completion and eagerly anticipates it.

The two epiphanies—powerful, saving interventions of God in the world—are bookends for the present age. Between the "epiphanies" of Christ, the grace of God makes possible and summons forth a particular in the present, on which response hangs the salvation of the believer and the completion of God's plan (2 Tim 4:1, 8). This dynamic had somehow been cheated by the false teaching with its claim "that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred" **(2 Tim 2:18 - men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some)**.

This had a serious effect on the ethics of the church and resulted in a hampering of the church's mission. Paul's teaching here redresses this eschatological imbalance and grounds the ethical teaching of the Good News itself.

Since we live in a unique age of history unlike all that went before, we must understand our times. This includes understanding that being a Christian means being caught up in something bigger than ourselves, something that has a design and intent to it, something that is going somewhere. It was powerfully begun in Christ's first epiphany (His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven), but it is not yet completed. We share in its movement toward completion. It is vital for both parts of that to sink in: **powerfully begun and not yet completed**. Receiving God's grace means more than just getting a ticket out of hell. It means "getting on board" with what God is doing in the world. The language of the past and future "saving appearances" of Christ is exciting stuff, and we are called to participate in it—to be a part of the game, not merely to applaud it; to join the struggle, not merely to watch it.

Jon C. Laansma, "Commentary on 2 Timothy," in Cornerstone Biblical Commentary

The **blessed Hope** is our participation in the plan of God and knowing we are part of (the Incarnation) that was started in the past and will be completed in the future. The Rapture completes this Church age.

1 John 3:3 - (**The Purifying Hope**) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Our reservation in Heaven is guaranteed.

1 Pet 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

Eph 2:6 - and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Mark 13:32 - "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

When we put our trust on Jesus Christ, He gives us His righteousness. We are unable to purify ourselves to God's satisfaction. We need to be perfect in our righteousness.

How can we be perfect in our righteousness?

Phase One...We receive God's gift of righteousness at the point of faith. Phase Two...For believers when we acknowledge our sins to God, we are filled with the H.S. and cleansed from all unrighteousness. **(1 John 1:9)**

The **Purifying Hope** is based on the object of Jesus Christ, not on our moral purity which is like filthy rags to God.

Isa. 64:6 - For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Our time here on earth is short. We live in a very unique time. While you may think about those people who lived during Christ's first coming, We are living in the times that complete the church age and are already seeing many signs that point to the beginning of birth pangs. **(Matt 24:8)**

Matt 24:8 - "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

As a pregnant woman's birth pains indicate that her child will soon be born, so these universal conflicts and catastrophes will mean the end of this Church age is near.

So, how did we get to this point?

The Angelic Conflict

The Angelic conflict originated before man existed on the earth. This great warfare started when Lucifer, the anointed Cherub, the highest of all angelic creatures, challenged divine authority and revolted against God.

Isa. 14:13-14 - "But you (Lucifer) said in your heart,

'I will ascend to heaven; I will braise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Eze. 28:12-15 - "Son of man (a reference to Lucifer), take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13) "You were in Eden, the garden of God;

Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you.

On the day that you were created, they were prepared.

14) "You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15) "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

By Divine judgement, Lucifer was removed from his exalted position and sentenced to eternal condemnation, with the sentence to be executed in the future. (Matt. 25:41)

All of the angelic beings must have been shocked at the fall of Lucifer for his rejection of God's grace! He actually managed to convince 1/3 of the angels to follow him.

The arrogance of the once great angel had made himself and the following angels an adversary of the Holy God that created them. This is called the Angelic Conflict.

Angelic Information

1. Angels were created by God in eternity past out of nothing. Psa. 148:5 In Hebrew - "Barah"
2. They were all created simultaneously. Col. 1: 16
3. They were all created with eternal life. Psa. 148 : 6
4. They were all created superior to mankind. II Peter 2: 11
5. They were created even before the universe. Job 38:7
6. Their number is innumerable. Deut. 33:2, Matt. 26:53, Rev. 5:11, 9: 16, Heb. 1:6, 12: 22
7. They are spirit beings. Psa. 104: 4, Heb. 1:7 & 14
8. Job figuratively refers to them as stars (light transmitting bodies) Job 38:7, Dan. 9:21-23, II Pet.2:4
9. They can move at tremendous speeds. Dan. 9:21
10. They once were able to cohabit with women. Genesis 6
11. They have tremendous power and strength II Thes. 1: 7
12. They have beautiful bodies and voices. Ezek. 28:13,
II Sam. 14:17
13. Some have wings, but most do not. Seraph - 6 wings,
Cherubs - 4 wings, Servants - no wings

14, Seraph angels are the highest rank. There were no Seraphs prior to the Luciferian fall.

15. We are not Angels and never will be! We don't gain our wings when we die. We are a new species, different from Angels.

16. Angels are created beings like us. They are NOT equal to God and do NOT contain the abilities that God has.

What's our purpose?

The Angels that had rebelled were part of a heavenly trial.

God immediately threw them out of heaven to the earth.

Lucifer, now labeled as Satan - "the Adversary" complained that God had unfairly judged them. God postponed the sentence on the angels. God, a righteous and just God created mankind. (a creature that was inferior to the Angels) God made the conditions to duplicate the conditions of that prehistoric revolt. Like the angels, God gave us free will, just as He had the angels. That free will would be tested in humans just as He had with the angels. Man would be tested whether he would choose for or against God.

Therefore, man came under close scrutiny of both the elect and fallen angels. Luke 15:7, 10

Luke 15:10 - "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Human history is both the extension and resolution of this heavenly conflict.

Satan himself instigated the events that led to man's fall. Adam, the first man, followed the same pattern of arrogance which initiated the Angelic conflict, but Satan had not counted on the grace of God, providing salvation, long before the need arose. (1 Pet. 1:18-23)

God did not abandon man after he fell in the garden of Eden. After the fall, God would test man's volition again, in the full state of sinfulness. God offered salvation through faith in the coming savior, Jesus Christ. Satan was present when God Did these things. (Gen. 3:15) Although God would reveal information progressively to Satan, concerning the work on the cross Jesus would do, Satan instantly understood the implications that would prove God was just and righteous to all of His creation. As a result, Satan would go on full attack throughout mankind's history, trying to thwart the plan of God.

.Although God's plan involves mankind, mankind must choose to exercise God's plan. Human history is divided into dispensations; each dispensation containing its own rules that man must abide by. When the man obeys God's rules, the objections by Satan in eternity past are answered in God's favor.

Since man was created to settle the Angelic conflict, the righteousness of God the Father demands that man choose obedience to His laws, that is, His divinely revealed principles, promises doctrines, techniques, and rules for living respective to the dispensation in which man lives.

Without a divine perspective on how man should live, man tries to develop his own rationales and justify them. Since he is also a fallen creature, man cannot possibly live up to God's plan on his own. It is this set of truths by which man lives that guarantees that human history won't destroy itself before the conclusion of the Angelic conflict.

Some signs of the coming end times:

False Teachers Matt 24:5

Wars and rumors of wars (Nuclear) Matt 24:6

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom

Famines and Earthquakes Matt 24:7

Israel becomes a nation (1948)

Moral Degeneration (Rampant now)

Pestilence -The meaning is a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

There will be an increase in Covid like diseases.

Preparation for the 3rd Temple rebuild

One World Government and Religion

200-Million-man army (possibly China) Rev 9:16 - The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

- Waiting for Christ's return (Condition of men)

2 Tim 3:1-5 - But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,

ungrateful, unholy, 3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

2 Tim 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, 4) and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

1 Tim 4:1 - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.

2 Pet 3:3-6 - Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." 5) For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6) through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

Jude 18-19 - that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."

19) These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

We have a guarantee that Jesus will return in the clouds (Rapture), receiving the believers to Himself.

For the Church age believer, we look forward to the Rapture.

Tit 2:14 - who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

The Doctrine of Redemption

gave Himself - Christ went to the cross to pay the penalty for the world's sin.

to redeem us - To release or set free by paying a ransom or debt.

1. The principle of Redemption is found in John 8:31-36.

John 8:31-36 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly

disciples of Mine; 32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33) They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free?'" 34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35) "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36) "So, if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

- (1) Free from the penalty of sin.
- (2) Free from bondage of sin
- (3) Free from carrying your own problems
 - a. The problem with many people is that they will not admit that they are in bondage. They are like the Jews in Verse 33.
 - b. All unbelievers and some believers are in bondage because they try to handle their troubles by themselves. They are DO IT YOURSELF problem solvers!
 - c. People who try to solve their problems by their abilities instead of the Lord's ability are in bondage to sin! Why? People become slaves to sin when they stop trusting the Lord!
 - d. MAS (Mental Attitude Sins) automatically develop when we rely on ourselves instead of our God to solve our problems.

Psa. 55:22 - Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

1 Pet. 5:7 - casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Isa. 30:18 - Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore, He waits on high to have compassion for you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

2. Christ **paid the ransom for sin** on the cross.

Gal. 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"

1 Pet. 1:18-19 - knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Psa. 34:22 - The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

3. Redemption is a doctrine **we can apply in times of pressure or catastrophe.**

4. Redemption results in the **adoption of believers.**

We are adopted as "Houis" adult sons at salvation.

Gal. 4:4-6 - But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5) so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6) Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

The "Son" was not only Deity; He was also humanity as the expression born of a woman indicates. The exclusive reference to His mother harmonizes with the doctrine of the virgin birth as taught in the Gospels. Further, Christ was born under Law as a Jew. He kept the Law perfectly, fulfilled it, and finally paid its curse.

4:5. The reasons "God sent His Son" are twofold (again both reasons are introduced by "hina," (in order that)). First, He came to redeem those under Law. This is not a redemption from the curse of the Law (as in Gal 3:13), but from slavery to the entire Mosaic system. The emphasis is not on the penalty of the Law (as in Gal 3:13), but on its bondage. Since Christ redeemed and set free those who were under the Law, why should Gentile converts now wish to be placed under it? Second, Christ's Incarnation and death secured for believers the full rights of sons ("the adoption of sons,"). All the enjoyments and privileges of a

mature son in a family belong to those who have entered into the benefits of Christ's redemptive work.

God the Father not only "sent His Son;" He also sent the Spirit. Therefore, the full Trinity is involved in the work of salvation. The Holy Spirit is a gift of God to every believer because of sonship. Sons nor daughters lack the Spirit. He is present within each believer's heart to give evidence of that one's position in God's family. The Spirit moves the believer to pray to God, addressing Him as Abba, Father (Rom. 8:15 - For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!")

The word "Abba" is the Aramaic word for "Father." It is in the form used by small children in addressing their fathers. It is appropriate to see its similarity to the English word "Daddy."

Donald K. Campbell, "Galatians," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

5. Redemption is linked to our [eternal inheritance](#).

Heb. 9:15 - For this reason, He (J.C.) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place (Christ's atonement) for the redemption of the transgressions (sins) that were committed under the first covenant (the mosaic law), those who have been called

(believers) may receive the promise of the **eternal inheritance**.

6. What was the purchase price of the redemption?

"The blood of Christ." A term used to depict the Spiritual death of Christ on the cross.

Eph. 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

1 John 1:7 - but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

7. Redemption **provides the basis for justification**.

Rom. 3:24 - being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

We are redeemed from every single one of our lawless deeds!

Purify - Here the word means to cleanse/to heal.

This word refers to Phase 1 Cleansing - Salvation and Phase 2 cleansing - Rebound - Linked to the cleansing of our sins on the cross. (Restoring relational fellowship with the Lord).

a people who are His own possession - A special or unique private possession. (Royal family of God)

zealous for good deeds - Are we excited about pleasing God?

We should want to please the Lord, because we love Him and want to be obedient to Him. We don't do good works to gain God's

favor, thinking that we become acceptable to Him because of the things we do, or because we think He will bless us more because we do them.

+Volition → Intake of Word → Motivation → Good works ← Result
God blesses our motivation

Spiritual gifts come into play from Divine good works

Tit 2:15 - These things (these doctrines) speaks and exhorts and reproves with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Speak - To communicate , Conversation.

Do not be bashful about it.

Exhort - To comfort and admonish (mild)

reprove with all authority - Strong, chew out, scold, reprove, back them against the wall

1. Listen
2. Stay objective
3. Is it justified?
4. Learn, don't pout.

All authority - God has vested authority in the local church in the P-T.

1. The spiritual gift of P-T has the responsibility of shepherding or overseeing the flock and teaching them Bible doctrine.
2. When God gives someone responsibility. He also gives them the authority to carry out that responsibility!
 - (a) The authority principle is so important. You cannot learn from someone unless you accept their authority.
 - (b) Many believers never accept the authority of any P-T, so they stay confused and spiritually stagnant.
 - (c) There are probably a dozen or more opposing viewpoints taught by different denominations and teachers on every doctrine in the Bible. Since you are not sure which one is right, are you not to submit to any P-T? No.

Heb. 13:7 - Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Heb. 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

- (d) God does not hold you responsible for any inaccuracies taught by your P-T. Your responsibility is to submit to his leadership. God will take care of a

P-T that is teaching falsely!

(e) P-T should back up his views with scripture.

He should depend on original languages for accuracy.

The Holy Spirit will give you discernment.