

A Favorite 4 Point Outline

One of my favorite verses in understanding dispensational truth is found in 1 Timothy 1:16.

1 Timothy 1:12-16 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; **13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. **14** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. **15** This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. **16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

- A. in ME FIRST
- B. shew forth ALL LONGSUFFERING
- C. for a PATTERN to THEM
- D. which should HEREAFTER believe on him

Paul's conversion in Acts 9 is sandwiched between two historical events in Israel's timeline; Acts 7 & Acts 10.

John the Baptist's & the disciples' pre & post cross ministries were dedicated to Israel in preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins in anticipation of fulfilled covenant promises. The kingdom of heaven, at the return of Messiah, would once again fall in Israel's hands contingent upon her response to this kingdom gospel... "Repent YE therefore, and be converted, that YOUR sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto YOU:" **Acts 3:19-20**

Acts 7 records a 3rd strike against Israel: (1) Israel rejected the ministry of John the Baptist (Lk 7:30-33), (2) is accused of crucifying Christ (Acts 4:10) and now, (3) blaspheming the Holy Ghost at the stoning of Stephen... "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye." **Acts 7:51**. Acts 7 is now a step leading Israel into 'blindness in part' till the fullness of the Gentiles come in (**Rom 11:25**).

Acts 10 records the conversion of a Gentile at the hands of Peter. Not only was this Gentile identified as being devout & one who feared God with all his household, but also acknowledged by Peter was that... "...Of a truth I perceive that God is NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS: But in EVERY NATION HE THAT FEARETH HIM, and WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS, is accepted with him." **Acts 10:34-35** Up till this time, it was the mindset of the Apostles that Gentiles wouldn't be reached till AFTER the return of Messiah!

Here, it cannot be over stressed that the kingdom gospel, that called Israel to repentance, was then extended to Gentiles that were already WORKING RIGHTEOUSNESS! The result of Peter's surprise house call caught everyone off guard as they witnessed a Gentile receiving the sign of the gift of the Holy Ghost BEFORE being baptized w/water, which was contradictory to Acts 2:38, for a Jew. With no notation of repentance or a sinner's prayer, we read... "And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" **Acts 10:45-47** This Gentile household became part of the conversation in Acts 15 when the elders

& Apostles, at Jerusalem, were confronted with the ministry of Paul, the actual designated apostle to Gentiles... "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:" **Romans 11:13**

Backtracking to Acts 9 & Paul's conversion, we're now going to consider what is said about Paul being 'FIRST' of the 'LONGSUFFERING' of Christ as a 'PATTERN' to 'THEM' that should 'HEREAFTER' believe on him to life everlasting.

Keeping in mind that the Jew was being called to repentance and that a Gentile was found living the life that was expected of the Jew, now notice a sharp contrast... "And Saul, yet BREATHING OUT THREATENINGS and SLAUGHTER against the DISCIPLES OF THE LORD, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, HE MIGHT BRING THEM BOUND UNTO JERUSALEM. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" **Acts 9:1-4**

Before taking a closer look at Paul's testimony, it needs to be mentioned that Peter, in giving explanation as to why Christ hadn't returned as promise, brought into focus the longsuffering of God with mention of Paul... "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is LONGSUFFERING to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." **2 Peter 3:9-10**. "And account *that* the LONGSUFFERING of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother PAUL ALSO ACCORDING TO THE WISDOM GIVEN UNTO HIM HATH WRITTEN UNTO YOU;" **2 Peter 3:15**

Now, for Paul's testimony... "Who was before a BLASPHEMER, and a PERSECUTOR, and INJURIOUS: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief". **1Tim 1:13**.

Unlike the Jew up until now, Saul wasn't called to repentance, but unto obedience and this obedience was initiated by the grace of God... "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." **1Tim 1:14-15**.

Not only did Paul claim to be the chief of sinners, but was the FIRST in demonstrating the LONGSUFFERING of God where one would now find their righteousness in Christ... "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" **Philippians 3:9**

Entrusted to Paul was the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret since the foundation of the world, that was now being made known to all nations (Jew & Gentle), for the obedience 'OF FAITH' (**Rom 16:25-26**).

In this dispensation of the grace of God, a believer falls exactly into the category described by Paul, written to converted non-covenanted Gentiles, who became a focus of his ministry... "And YOU *hath he quickened*, WHO were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past YE walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also WE all had OUR conversation in times past in the lusts of

OUR flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved US, Even when WE were dead in sins, hath quickened US together with Christ, (by grace YE are saved;) And hath raised US up together, and made US sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward US through Christ Jesus. For BY GRACE are YE saved THROUGH FAITH; and that not of YOURSELVES: *it is* the GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast. For WE are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that WE should walk in them." **Ephesians 2:1-10**

The gospel of Christ was first presented to the Jew (Rom 1:16) and Paul spoke of an election of Israelites being saved at that time by grace WITHOUT works... "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the ELECTION OF GRACE. And IF BY GRACE, then *is it* NO MORE OF WORKS: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." **Romans 11:5-6**

The 'PATTERN' to 'THEM', which should 'HEREAFTER' believe on him to life everlasting, isn't that a believer is physically blinded, such as Paul's experience, but is directive given to the recipients of both Paul's pre & post prison writings. One must recognize that OUR WAYS which be IN CHRIST aren't necessarily the ways 'IN CHRIST' that preceded Paul... "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of MY WAYS WHICH BE IN CHRIST, as I TEACH EVERY WHERE IN EVERY CHURCH." **1 Corinthians 4:17**

With Israel now set aside, till the kingdom reign of Christ, God saves Paul FIRST in his LONGSUFFERING as a PATTERN of grace... "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (BY GRACE YE ARE SAVED;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of HIS GRACE in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:" **Ephesians 2:5-8**

1Timothy chapters 1&2 are key in understanding dispensational truth. 1Timothy 1:16 is vital in understanding it from Paul's perspective... "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in ME FIRST Jesus Christ might shew forth ALL LONGSUFFERING, for A PATTERN to THEM which should HEREAFTER believe on HIM TO LIFE EVERLASTING."

If one has the notion that all Bible versions teach same doctrine, then I challenge the reader to consider this passage from something other than a King James Bible. Rightly dividing the word of truth (**2Tim 2:15**) is key to understanding the scriptures and unless done so through the eyes of a KJB, right division is virtually impossible.