

The Promise of Eternal Life Titus 1:1-3

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul wrote this little book to his son in the faith, Titus. Titus was a Gentile who had been saved by the grace of God. He had been an instrumental part of Paul's ministry. He was the one who accompanied Paul to Jerusalem to defend Paul's gospel of grace to the Gentile nations.
2. As Paul opens this letter to Titus, Paul makes an incredible statement in verse 2. God made a promise.
 - What was the promise? Eternal life.
 - When did He make the promise? Before the world began.
 - Whom did He make the promise to? Himself. There was nobody else there.
3. The triune Godhead had a meeting in eternity past and made a promise to one another. It's a promise God made to Himself and purposed to do in Himself. **Ephesians 3:11**
4. God has promised eternal life. The question is, how do we lay hold on that promise and make it good in our life? We are mortal creatures who will one day die, but not just a physical death. Your soul and spirit have a death to die, too. **Revelation 21:8**
 - In light of this, that promise of eternal life looks good, doesn't it?
5. Thankfully, God has made known His word (verse 3). **Ephesians 1:9** says that God has **made known** the mystery of His will... This promise has been made public. **Titus 2:11**

If we want to lay hold on the promise of eternal life:

First, we must listen to God's spokesman.

1. God is offering life, His very own life, eternal life to every person in the world today. This offer is based solely on one thing (not on your goodness) but on the finished work of Jesus Christ. **Romans 6:23**
2. In times past, God had a chosen nation, Israel. God desired to work through His people and through them bring light to the Gentile nations.
 - Christ came to Israel to redeem them and make them that light for the Gentiles.
 - Israel rejected Christ. Where did this leave the Gentile nations? **Ephesians 2:12**
 - Israel and the Gentiles were sinners, alienated from God by wicked works.
3. When the world deserved wrath, God unveiled a **mystery**, a secret He had kept from before the world began. Remember that promise He made in eternity past.
4. Based on the atoning work of His Son on the cross, God would offer peace, grace, and forgiveness, and eternal life to every person in the world (not just Israel.)
 - This was an eternal plan that God had purposed in eternity past, but didn't reveal it until **"due times."** verse 3
5. How did God reveal this offer of grace to the Gentile nations? verse 1
6. He revealed it through Paul, a servant of God. But not just that, he was also an apostle of Jesus Christ. This means he actually saw the resurrected Christ.
 - Let's turn to **Acts 26:12-18** and see Paul's testimony of what happened.
 - God had a specific purpose in mind for Paul. God would make known to Paul this mystery that God had kept secret since the world began. God's commission to Paul was

- to take this offer of grace and eternal life to the nations. **1 Timothy 2:6-7** (Paul was God's spokesman, revealing that Christ was not just a ransom for Israel, but every man.)
7. This is what Paul means in **Titus 1:1** when he says he is an apostle according to the faith of God's elect.
 - "God's elect" simply refers to those who had believed and were members of the body of Christ. Paul uses this term five times and four times uses it in reference to believers (once to angels.)
 8. When he refers to "the faith" he isn't talking about an individual's faith in Christ. "The faith" refers to the body of truth concerning Christ that God commissioned Paul to take to the nations. **Romans 1:5; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 2:7**
 - So Paul's mandate and apostleship involved teaching and preaching this body of truth that Christ had revealed to him (**Galatians 1:11-12**). Paul stayed true to his calling. **2 Timothy 4:7**
 9. But not only this, his apostleship also involved getting people to come to a full recognition and discernment of that truth. Notice in verse 1, *"and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness."*
 - Nobody is saved and gains eternal life until they acknowledge the truth of God revealed through Paul. **2 Timothy 2:25-26**
 - Once you see it, recognize it and believe it, that truth begins to actively work in and through you, bringing godliness. It changes your life. cf. **2:11-12; Colossians 1:5-6**

Second, we must follow God's pattern.

1. God promised eternal life, but who is our pattern to teach us how to get eternal life? The same one that told us about it shows us how to get it.
 - Turn to **1 Timothy 1:16**. Paul was the enemy of God, but was saved by grace by simply believing on Jesus Christ.
 - Paul said he was the pattern for everyone who would believe on Jesus Christ after Him.
 - Christ **is** our life, but Paul is our pattern in how to get that life.
2. This is what Paul is talking about in **Titus 1:3**. When God decided it was time to unveil His secret promise of eternal life to the world, He saved Paul and committed this message of grace to him (notice he said, *"committed unto me"*, not "us".)
3. Paul's mission was to preach (proclaim) this glorious message. **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**
 - Of course, Paul has now handed this blessed trust to us. Our job and mission is to proclaim this same message. Be faithful stewards of this gospel.

In Conclusion:

1. Aren't you glad God promised eternal life? And God revealed the details of this promise to a man named Paul in due time. Paul is God's spokesman and our pattern.
2. According to what Paul said in **Romans 6:23**:
 - Eternal life is a gift that we don't deserve.
 - But God is offering it through Jesus Christ our Lord.
3. On judgment day, there are only two options:
 - Your name is either in the book of life **Philippians 4:3; Revelation 20:15a**
 - Or you suffer eternal death **Revelation 20:15b**
4. Will you turn to Jesus Christ today and believe on Him and receive God's gift of eternal life?