

Our Hope: God Never Lies

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; ⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”

Titus 1:1-4

Paul's Position

- **Servant of God**
 - Carry out the will of God
 - Obediently walk with God
 - God chose to use in a specific way for a specific purpose
 - Directly connects his authority to OT leaders

The Patriarchs	“Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants , to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.” Exodus 32:13
Moses	“Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. ” Exodus 14:31
Joshua	“After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord , died, being 110 years old.” Joshua 24:29
David	“You have said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ” Psalm 89:3
The Prophets	“until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. ” 2 Kings 17:23

- **Apostle of Jesus Christ**
 - Sent by Christ
 - Power from Christ to perform miracles
 - Specifically called by Christ and had seen the risen Lord
 - Established and governed the whole church under Jesus Christ
 - Had authority to speak and write the words of God
- “...the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...” Ephesians 2:20
- “which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” Ephesians 3:5

Paul's Purpose

- Faith – Knowledge of Truth – Godliness of God's elect
 - Faith: belief and trust in the gospel of Christ
 - Knowledge: understanding of God's Word
 - Godliness: the fruitful evidence of true saving faith and knowledge of truth

- Rooted in the hope of eternal life
 - Hope: the confident expectation of obtaining what God has promised
 - Hebrew *tikvah*: an expectation, to wait
 - Greek *elpis*: an expectation of what is guaranteed
 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
 - "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:28
 - "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26
 - "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:22-23

- God never lies
 - "so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to **hold fast to the hope** set before us." Hebrews 6:18
 - "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and **will he not fulfill it?**" Numbers 23:19

"The word 'lie' here includes beyond its ordinary meaning the thought of change, so that when we read that God cannot lie we understand by it not only that He cannot say what is untrue, but that having said something that is true *He never changes* from it and does not by any possibility alter His purpose or retract His word. This is very consolatory to the Christian—that whatever God has said in the divine purpose is never changed. The decrees of God were not written upon sand but upon the eternal brass of His unchangeable nature." Charles Spurgeon

- God promised before the ages began
 - "...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which **he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...**" 2 Timothy 1:9
 - "...even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him." Ephesians 1:4

- God manifested it at the proper time through His Word
 - “But when **the fullness of time** had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5
 - “For while we were still weak, **at the right time** Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6
 - “Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given **at the proper time.**” 1 Timothy 2:6
 - “...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as **a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” Ephesians 1:9-10

Our Position

- Servants of God
 - Carry out the will of God
 - “For this is the will of God, your sanctification.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - Obediently walk with God
 - “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16
 - God chose to use in a specific way for a specific purpose
 - “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20
- United to Christ: The Suffering Servant and Sent One
 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:38-40
 - The Servant Songs
 - Isaiah 42:1-9
 - Isaiah 49:1-7
 - Isaiah 50:4-9
 - Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 - “...by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.” Isaiah 53:11

Our Purpose

- Faith – Knowledge of Truth – Godliness of God’s elect
 - Our lives are for:
 - The sake of the faith of God’s elect
 - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17
 - “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:7-9
 - The knowledge of the truth of God’s elect
 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.” Proverbs 1:7
 - “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32
 - Godliness
 - “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
 - “...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Colossians 1:10
 - ADORN THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Our Hope of Eternal Life is in Christ

“Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that **God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:10-13

How Can We Pray?

For Our Church

- That the members of our body would be humble servants of the Lord
- That the members of our body would live by faith
- That the members of our body would seek to teach knowledge of the truth
- That the members of our body would live lives of godliness

For Dan Doriani

- That many would be strengthened in faith and knowledge of truth through his preaching
- That he would be faithful to the preaching he has been entrusted
- That his preaching would be rooted in God's character and the hope of eternal life
- That he would live a life of godliness

For Sandy Willson

- That he would be a faithful servant of the Lord
- That he would lead our congregation in the fear of the Lord
- That he would be a vessel of the Lord to increase our faith and knowledge of the truth
- That he would live a life of godliness

For Randy Pope

- That he would be a faithful servant of the Lord
- That he would lead our congregation in the fear of the Lord
- That he would be a vessel of the Lord to increase our faith and knowledge of the truth
- That he would live a life of godliness

Further Discussion

1. What are you doing for the sake of the faith and knowledge of the truth of those around you?
2. How have you seen true saving faith and knowledge lead to godliness in your own life?
3. How does God's character (that He never lies) increase the hope and confidence you have of eternal life with Christ?