

DUE TIME

1 **Tim 2:3-7** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in **due time**.
7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

This passage has several very important issues for us to see and understand.

First, in it is written the express will of God.

Have you ever heard someone say,

that they want to be in the very center of God's will?

- Well, just where would that spot be?
- How could you know if you ever hit on it?
- Would you feel it sense it?
- What would be wrong with staying close to the edge?
- Would you chance of falling out of God's will, if you strayed too far from the middle?

begin at the end of verse 3: God our Saviour;

verse 4: Who will have all men to be saved,
and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

There you find the plain, simple will of God.

God wants everyone to be saved.

Do you participate in laboring with God to accomplish His purpose?

Do you give out the gospel of the grace of God

of Christ's D,B,R (Death, Burial, and Resurrection)

for salvation to someone every day? every week? every month? every year?

begin at the end of verse 3 again: God our Saviour;
verse 4: Who will have all men to be saved,
and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Connected to salvation is more of God's will revealed in very basic words.

God wants everyone to understand the truth.

The only way for the whole Bible to make sense is to divide it the right way:

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

If you don't rightly divide it God won't approve your study

AND you will be embarrassed that your efforts were wasted.

It is only when we acknowledge the unique ministry of the Apostle Paul

that we will be able to understand the Bible:

2 Tim 2:7 Consider what I (Paul) say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Recognizing Paul's mystery revelation from God

is what gives us the confidence **to know that we know** what we're talking about:

Col 2:2,3 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love,
•and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,
•to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;
3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

When Bible teachers put people under the law they lack understanding:

1 Tim 1:5-7 Now the end of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned (sincere, not fake or phony):
6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling (useless, irritating noise twisting and mangling scriptures);
7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

It is through Paul's ministry -- that we have the knowledge that we're not under the law:

Gal 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ (that was the law's purpose to judge us guilty of sin and drive us to Christ --- who kept the law, but died to pay the wages for OUR sins), that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Rom 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Rom 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Let's go back to our original passage in 1 Tim 2:

1 Tim 2:5 For there is

- one God,
- and one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus;

Adam's original sin plunged his off-spring (the entire human race)

under the curse of death.

Because Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin none of us deserved it

anyone who believes His sacrifice --- by grace, will have everlasting life:

Rom 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

So it is in our program for the 'But Now' period.

Through Adam --- man is estranged from God.

Through Jesus --- man is redeemed to God.

The way back to God is has been and will be through Jesus Christ.

So it was in Israel's program in 'Times Past':

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So it will be again in Israel's program for the 'Ages to Come':

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Let's go back to our text passage speaking of the man, Christ Jesus:

1 Tim 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in **due time**.

The first part of that verse is **UNIQUE** to Paul's ministry.

Prior to the revelation God committed to Paul,

Jesus **LIMITED** the extent of His atonement as being for 'many'.

Matt 26:26-29 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for **many** for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

We who understand right division know that 'many' does not apply anymore.

But that was the same message Jesus taught all along:

Matt 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Gentiles were excluded then. We were 'outside the wall'.

That was the prophecy program.

Jesus came to His people --- that was ISRAEL, not US.

Even of His birth, the angel of the Lord announced:

Matt 1:21 And she (Mary) shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

John the Baptist knew his mission was to point Israel to their Christ:

John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Jesus specifically prohibited His 12 disciples -- turned apostles -- from Gentile ministry:

Matt 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Likewise, He told a Gentile woman who was crying after Him:

Matt 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Also, Jesus also told a Samaritan woman:

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Gentiles couldn't sing "Just As I Am" then.

Our only channel to God --- then --- was through Israel.

Remember?

Eph 2:11,12 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time (that's Time Past) ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

It is only as we read Paul's epistles that we find a change.

... and what a blessed, welcome change it was --- for us Gentiles:

Eph 2:13,14 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

NOW we learn through Paul's ministry, we Gentiles have direct access to God:

Eph 2:18,19 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 3:11 (the last phrase), 12 Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Rom 5:1,2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

NOW we know that God wants all men to be saved

and come to the knowledge of the truth

and that Jesus gave His life a ransom for all men.

Paul testified again :

2 Cor 5:14,15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Paul could correctly be called the 'Due Time' Testifier --- by our text verse:

1 Tim 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Paul could be termed that --- because of this next verse also:

1 Cor 15:8 And **last of all he was seen of me also**, as of one born out of due time.

2 points to notice in that verse are:

1) Paul was the very last person to see Christ.

That fact has particular relevance, in that, it was PAUL's mystery information

that COMPLETED the canon of scriptures --- NOT JOHN's revelation:

Col 1:25,26 Whereof I (Paul) am made a minister,
according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you,
to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which **hath been hid** from ages and from generations,
but now is made manifest to his saints:

THAT'S IT! plain and simple

Paul's dispensational message CONCLUDED God's word to mankind.

God has nothing else left to say!

.... *So if someone tells you that 'God told them so and so'*

--- *You can understand (and maybe even tell them)*

according to that verse that 'NO, God didn't!'

Let's go back to 1 Cor 15 for the 2nd important point::

1 Cor 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, **as of one born out of due time.**

2) It seemed like Paul had an 'untimely' birth in that

he was used of God to interrupt the Prophetic Program with a New Message.

Paul knew right from the get-go of his conversion

that God had a unique ministry mapped out for him:

Acts 26:12-18 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from **the Gentiles**, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open **their** eyes, and to turn **them** from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they** may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

That was certainly a different order than the position of Gentile dogs in Times Past!

Through Paul God was offering a distinctive opportunity to the Gentile nations:

Titus 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

3 But hath **in due times** manifested his word through preaching, **which is committed unto me** according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

Yes, Paul had an unrestricted offer that could change a person's eternal destiny:

Rom 3:21,22 **But now** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ

- unto all (It is **UNLIMITED AVAILABLE to everyone anyone who wants it.**)
- and upon all them that believe: (It is **LIMITED restricted it only works for those who believe it. If you don't believe it, you won't be effected by it, and you'll die in your sins.**)

for there is no difference: (Jews have no special, favored rank with God now.)

Let's go back to the text passage, for the final verse there:

1 Tim 2:7 Whereunto I (Paul) am ordained

- a preacher,
- and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;)
- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Paul restated his claims again in the 2nd epistle he wrote to Timothy

as he encouraged Timothy to be brave and willing to suffer for the gospel's sake:

2 Tim 1:8-11 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is **now made manifest** by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

11 Whereunto I am appointed (same Greek word, as ordained, we just read)

- a preacher,
- and an apostle,
- and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul assured his readers that he **preached** a message directly from the risen Christ:

Gal 1:11,12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was **preached of me** is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul guaranteed that he was an **apostle** who had actually seen Christ:

1 Cor 9:1 Am I not an **apostle**? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Although Paul was an apostle Paul was not one of the 12 apostles He numbered them **SEPARATELY** than himself He did not include himself in the count:

1 Cor 15:5,7,8 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

They were sent to Israel,

who was supposed to rise and shine God's light to the Gentiles who were in darkness.

But Israel stumbled and fell into blindness ---

So Paul **by-passed Israel** to be the Gentiles' apostle and **go directly** to them:

Rom 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am **THE apostle** of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

As a **teacher**, Paul wanted the doctrines he taught to be passed on to others:

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to **teach** others also.

Knowing and understanding these truths

about Paul being the 'due time' testifier

with his distinctive revelation of the mystery

it behooves us to talk about them to everyone who will listen!

Here are my closing thoughts and prayers:

Phile 1:4-6 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,
5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6 **That the communication of thy faith may become effectual** by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"