

Some Covenant of Grace Particulars
Harmony M.B.C., January 18, 2009 (Morning)
Robert P. Myers

Titus 1:1 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;

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Titus 1:3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

Salvation and its fruits are the product of a covenant or contract between God and a believer. The Lord stated in Psalms 89:3, "I have made a covenant with my chosen...." The elements or stipulations of that contract are defined by the Lord, who is the omniscient owner of knowledge about what conditions are beneficial to those with whom He contracts. The covenant He made with humans was made with Jesus Christ. The elect of God were comprehended as being receivers of the benefits of the covenant in Christ before the world began. In the framework of that covenant, God will be God, the sovereign of the universe, and His Son Jesus Christ will be fully glorified as the one and only Savior. In addition, His subjects and His children must be given access to the infinite riches of His grace and mercy, and be able to have all the privileges and benefits of being citizens of a heavenly kingdom. But they must also be true and faithful representatives of who He is. The conditions of His covenant with them must ensure all these things. The apostle, in our text, is stating those conditions which establish the outcome of this covenant relationship. We notice three elements expounded:

- 1) God's enabling of those He has contracted with
- 2) The Human Enrollment in the agreement
- 3) The Divine Incentive set forth by the Lord, and anticipated by the believer-in-covenant

I. God's Enabling ("according to the faith of God's elect...")

- Paul recognized that his service and apostleship existed because God had appointed him to receive the singular faith that sets men apart in salvation and the provisioning faith that enables them to pursue their holy purpose.
 - > Illustrate using a car: See a car on the dealer lot; looks complete; what if you looked under the hood and noticed that it did not have an engine and drive train? (incomplete); only a superficial representation of a car; now put an engine and drive train in it; now it has been enabled to run; you can drive it down the road. This illustrates what saving faith does for a person. It makes the person complete in Christ, furnished with the wholeness needed to function as a believer. But lets imagine that we plan to drive that car to Alaska. When we contemplate that, something is missing. We might not know it unless we look at the gas hand and notice that it is almost empty. But, put gasoline in that car as needed, and it will take you to Alaska. That is provisional faith. Paul was writing about both. That is the faith of God's elect.
- People must have this faith to be accepted of God: (Heb. 11:6) "Without faith it is impossible to please (God)

- A person will not possess it without the contractual provision of God: Eph. 2:8 “ For by grace are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**”
It is provided to God’s people because that is part of the contract God has forged:
 - > Philippians 1:29 For unto you it is **given** in the behalf of Christ, **not only to believe on him**, but also to suffer for his sake;
- A person will receive from God all measure of faith needed to be what they are supposed to be in the Lord:
 - > John 1:16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.
 - > Romans 1:17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall **live by faith**”.
 - Salvation is not just about an epiphany in a moment of time; but about a work of the Holy Spirit that establishes a new set of principles and originates a new lifestyle.
- So, it is according to the divinely given faith of God’s elect that we as humans are enabled for the life that we will live for Christ in whatever state of service He has ordained.

II. The Human Enrollment in This Agreement (Covenant) - “...the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness....”

- No person was ever saved by making a profession of faith. Remember what scripture says:
 - > Rom 10:8-10 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - > This is acknowledging of the truth
 - People who are covenanters with God acknowledge the truth of God:
 - > Scripture says in 2Thess. 2:13 “But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth****;
- Acknowledgment of the truth is the converted soul’s submission to the truth of God and the God of truth
- Acknowledgment of the truth also gives the Lord’s people insights into their calling
- It is part of the conversion process within a human soul (without this element people are not really converted to the Lord)
- Acknowledgment of the truth goes further than just saying that God’s word is the truth. The idea of acknowledging includes the very thing that acknowledging did to Paul’s life; namely it made him a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. In other words, it caused Paul to take up and pursue a spiritual role in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - > When speaking of truth and its effects on people in John 3:21, Jesus said, “he that doeth truth....”
 - > Doing truth! May sound a little strange to our ears when we are always thinking of “believing truth.” But, that is what we see in Paul’s life. He was doing truth. Acting out the role of a servant. Acting out the role of an apostle. DOING!

III. The Divine Incentive and Human Inspiration (it is both): (“...In hope of eternal life...”)

- The tragedy facing human-kind today is that all who have not acknowledged the truth of God are walking dead men.
 - > As scripture describes how we who are recipients of the covenant were before God’s salvation was revealed in us: (Eph. 2:12) “That at that time 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:”
 - > The big question: Having no hope about what? What does hope of eternal life suggest about the absence of this hope?
 - No hope about escaping eternal death
 - No hope about escaping the effects and ravages of sin
 - No hope about a better state after death
 - No hope of inheriting eternal life in the presence of our Creator
 - > This is the tragedy of mankind.
- But God puts in each recipient of the covenant the steadfast expectancy (this is the true meaning in scripture of “hope”) of eternal life.
 - > This is two-fold. It is that which God gives us as a seal and comfort to have while living through this earthly experience; the incentive to “faint not.”
 - > Then it is also the inspiration we have to act out our believer’s role.

Additional verses:

Jer. 32:40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.