

Episode #340 Titus 1 Part 1: God and Time

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Paul, in introducing his letter to Titus, speaks of eternal life which God promised before the world began. What does this mean? How does God relate to time, anyway?

III. Titus 1:1-2. Paul's Introduction.

A. Titus 1:1.

1. Paul: the author, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Paul a slave (*doulos*) of God and an apostle (*apostolos*.)
2. Writing according to the faith of God's elect (*eklektos*, chosen) and the acknowledging (*epignosis*, further knowledge, response to knowledge, acknowledging) of the truth which is down along the lines *kata* of right living.

B. Titus 1:2. "Hope" of eternal life.

1. Eternal life is *eonian* life. I Corinthians 2:9.
2. Promised by God, Who cannot lie.
3. Promised when? NOT before the world/time began.
4. "In the beginning." Genesis 1:1. What is the beginning? No such thing as "before" it! John 1:1. Christ already existed. The only thing that would have existed if time had not existed. But not "before" time!
5. Eternal (*eonian*) life promised before *eonian* times (*pro chronon aionion*.)

IV. God's interaction with time.

A. Many have the idea that God stands outside time. The reasoning: God is too big for time. He created it, so He must be unaffected by it. The "unmoved mover" idea of God. Isaiah 46:10. But end = *acharyth*, result. God knows the outcome of all.

B. Is the unmoved mover idea of God really how God is? Example: Christ. God does not just create and then remain aloof from what He has made. He rolls up His sleeves and enters into the creation He has made. He experiences life along with us.

C. II Peter 3:8. Day = thousand years, thousand years = day.

1. This sounds like how an infinite God would experience time if He stepped into it! Our God participates with us in time.
2. Many take as a formula. But if a day = a thousand years, then 2,000 years = 730,500,000 years.
3. Psalm 90:4. This is no formula!

D. Isaiah 55:8-9. God's ways and thoughts are not like ours.

V. If we look at time logically, there is no such thing as "before" time. Since the earth was created "in the beginning," there is no such thing as "before" its creation. God does not stand outside of time, as some imagine, but steps into it and experiences time along with His creation. Yet there is no "formula" for how He experiences it. Our God is the Lord of time.