

The Dispensational Principle
Rightly Dividing The Word of God
II. Timothy 2:15

Intro.

1. This week we want to finish our study on the Dispensational Principle.
2. Last week when we talked about a dispensation, we said that this was a period of time during which God dealt with man in a particular way.
 1. It has also been defined as an administration.
 2. Last week we made it clear that Salvation has NEVER been apart from the blood. Man is born into sin, death by sin salvation is only in Jesus Christ. Period end of discussion.
 3. The dispensations that we looked at last week and the remaining ones we will look at this week define the different ways God has dealt with man through history, again this has nothing to do with the way mankind is saved but more with HOW God has had dealings with mankind.
 4. We were reminded in Hebrews 1:1-2 how God communicated with mankind in different ways in different time.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

5. (1) From the creation of man to the call of Moses at the burning bush, God spoke directly to individual man, without any human instrumentality or agency. Adam, Abel, Cain, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had direct communication with God.
6. (2) From the call of Moses to the First Advent of Christ, God spoke by human agencies, namely, "unto the fathers by the prophets".
7. (3) From His birth to His ascension in glory, God spoke directly through His Son.
8. (4) Since the Ascension of Jesus, God has spoken directly through His Son by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-14). Peter, James, John, Jude, and lastly Paul received the messages and wrote them down in the completed Word of God.
9. Here is our list of dispensations from last week:
 1. Dispensation of Innocence
 2. Dispensation of Conscience "with knowledge"
 3. Dispensation of Human Government
 4. Dispensation of Promise
 5. Dispensation of the Law
 6. Dispensation of Grace
 7. Dispensation of Judgement and Tribulation
 8. Dispensation of the Kingdom
10. The Dispensation of Innocence Genesis 1:26-2:23
 1. Characteristics:
 2. Here they neither knew good or evil, being neither holy or sinful - but free to choose when good and evil were placed before them.
 3. Man had a responsibility to believe God's Word or the statements of

Satan.

4. Failure of man
 1. Man chose to believe Satan over
5. Therefore consequences - Genesis 3:14-19
 1. Judgement of Satan
 2. Judgement of the woman
 3. Judgement on the man
 4. Judgement of the earth
 5. Promise of the seed to deliver
6. Moral condition - one of perfection until sin came in
7. Divine mercy - Genesis 3:15 Promise of victory

11. The Dispensation of Conscience with Knowledge

1. After the fall of man Now they had conscience with knowledge
2. This period covers from the fall of man to the flood @ 1656 years - about 2000 years.
3. Begins with man in his fallen condition - having knowledge and guided by his conscience.
4. Man is now outside of the garden.
5. Man had a responsibility - In Genesis 4: 7 Failure of man - Genesis 6:5; 11-12
 1. Consequences of man's failure - Genesis 7 (here we find the account of the world wide flood.)
6. Moral condition of man during this time - became worse and worse.
 1. Begins with the birth of Cain, made in Adam's likeness and fallen.
 1. Cain refuses to make his sacrifice as God commanded - this marks the beginning of rebelling against God.
 2. This is followed by man refusing to accept the will of God.
 3. The decline of the race of man begins and it gets worse and worse. To be clear it begins with the fall of man.
 4. It became so bad - that the destruction of man seems to be the only way to remedy the situation.
7. We find divine mercy in Genesis 7:1
 1. 8 people are saved out of the flood.

12. From there we move to the Dispensation of Promise

1. Time Period - From the call of Abraham to the Exodus - (about 430 years).
2. Abram's condition - more than likely started in idolatry BUT he listened to God.
 1. His faith begins when he left Ur.
 2. He became righteous when he believed God's promise concerning his son.

3. During this time man had a responsibility -

1. To stay in the land which God gave to him, and not to go down into Egypt
2. Abraham doubts God's Word, and when the famine came, he goes to Egypt for food.

4. Man's failure - Genesis 47:1

5. Consequences of not trusting God is found in Exodus 1:8-14.

6. Divine Mercy - With God delivering and preserving Israel.

13. Once delivered from Israel we find the Dispensation of Law - (this lasts about 491 years)

1. At the beginning of this period of time we find man trusting in his own strength instead of depending upon God.

2. Man's responsibility was to keep the law

3. Man's failure - II. Kings 17:7-17

4. They failed to keep the law.

5. The only one to keep the law was the sinless One they nailed to the cross.

6. Consequences of man failure

7. Moral condition - fallen

8. Divine Mercy - Shown in the fact that judgement upon Israel was withheld for forty years after the crucifixion.

2. This morning we begin with The Dispensation of Grace

1. The Dispensation of Grace

1. This time period begins with descent of the Holy Spirit to the descent of Jesus Christ.

2. This Dispensation is called "The Dispensation of the Grace of God" (Eph. 3:2) is God dealing with Jew and Gentile being distinctly heavenly, rather than earthly, its time element is found, not in the historical record of the Acts, but in the spiritual revelation of Paul's Prison Epistles.

2. A. ITS COMMENCEMENT

1. 1. Eternally

1. **Eph 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love

2. **Eph 3:9** And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ)

2. This Dispensational dealing of God with men had its inception in the eternal counsels of the Godhead. It was God's eternal purpose before the foundations of this planet were laid.

3. Look at Ephesians 3:1- 12

1. **Eph 3:1** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Eph 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Eph 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Eph 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Eph 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

2. Here we learn so much about this dispensation:

1. It as revealed to Paul to be revealed to us. V.2

2. That before this was a mystery v.3

3. Is now revealed unto the apostles v.5

4. In verse 8 we find "should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." While reading this verse it dawned on me that the man that God used to disclose this great truth to the gentile nations was Paul who was known as a Jew of the Jews, as we read in I. Corinthians 9.

5. to be known by the church v10

6. That this was an eternal purpose v. 11

4. Man has a responsibility

2. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ Spiritually - We find man's condition by nature is set forth in Romans Chs. 2-3 and Eph. Ch. 2.

1. After stating man's sinful condition Paul concludes: "There is none righteous, no, not one" and "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:10,23).
2. So salvation is by grace, apart from all works (Eph. 2:8-9).
3. All that is demanded is by grace, apart from all works (Eph. 2:8-9).
4. All that is demanded is faith, with nothing added, all else excluded.
5. These saved ones constitute the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18).
6. This takes place by a Divine identification in Christ, in which its members are Buried, Risen, Quickened and Seated with Christ (Col. 2:12; Eph. 2:5-6).
7. It gives the members identification in the Heavens with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).
8. This Body is joined to the Head, Christ Jesus, and all to fulfill the purpose of His grace and glory.

5. Man's failure

2. Become lovers of themselves, money, and of pleasures than lovers of God

1. II Timothy 3:1-7.

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2. Have a form of godliness but without power.

6. Morally and Ethically - This is expressed by the word "walk" -

1. We are exhorted to "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4); "walk honestly" (Rom. 13:13); "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7);
2. "Walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16);
3. "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Eph. 4:1);
4. "Walk in love" (Eph. 5:2);
5. "Walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8);

6. "Walk circumspectly" (Eph. 5:15);
7. "Walk in wisdom" (Col. 4:5).
7. On the negative side we are not to walk
 1. "Walk after the flesh" (Rom. 8:1);
 2. "not walking in craftiness (2 Cor. 4:2);
 3. and not according "to the course of this world" (Eph. 2:2);
 4. and "not as other Gentiles walk" (Eph. 4:17).
8. Consequences of man's failure
 1. God will give them up to their unbelief
 1. I. Timothy 4:13
 2. Timothy 4:3-4
9. Moral Condition
 1. Fallen and sinful
10. Divine Mercy - God has provided salvation for the whole human race
11. During this dispensation note what the Bible says about "Prayer;" By a Divine Provision
 1. A Plenitude of Power (Eph. 5:18) - "Be filled by the Spirit." We have at our disposal the fullness of the Spirit of God. The Spirit is referred to some ten times in Ephesians.
 2. A Profit in Prayer (Eph. 6:18) - "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." The resource of prayer at the Throne of God's Grace is always ours.
 3. We have free access unto the Father (Eph. 2:18; 3:12).
12. Note how long this dispensation has lasted. By a Divine Prolongation - This Assembly of the Body of Christ has been in the world some 2000 years. It has become one of the longest dispensational dealings of God with man. Such is God's supreme grace.
13. By a Production of Good and Evil - In 2 Tim. 3:1-17 we have a graphic description of the good and evil of this age.
 1. On the evil side we are told that there will be: "perilous times" (diabolical); "men lovers of self, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of the good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than God;" having "a form of godliness, denying the power;" "women laden with divers lusts". In all this the heavens are silent; it isn't God's time to intervene.
 2. On the good side we are told to "continue in the things which we have learned" and to rely on the Holy Scriptures which made us "wise unto salvation" and are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for

correction, for instruction in righteousness". This will make "the man of God ... thoroughly furnished unto all good works".

14. By a Divine Preservation (2 Tim. 2:19; Rom. 8:35) - "The Lord knoweth them that are His"; "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Like an Enoch or a Noah God will preserve us until His purpose is complete. Satan can never frustrate or do away with God's purpose in the Church.

15. ITS CONSUMMATION

1. By a Prior Resurrection (Phil. 3:10-11; Eph. 1:12) - "...an out-resurrection from among the dead" (Phil. 3:11). "Who first trusted in Christ", or better, "Who had a prior hope in Christ" (Eph. 1:12). This resurrection will be prior to the "First Resurrection" of Rev. 20:5-6).
2. By a Pre-eminent Manifestation (Col. 3:4; Titus 2:13; Rom 8:19) - When our Lord shall be manifested in glory, then we shall be manifested. It will be at the epiphanea "of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"
3. By a Perfect Presentation (Eph. 5:27) - It will be "a glorious church" with "no spot, wrinkle, or any blemish; holy" in His sight.
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