

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Titus 1

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"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began." (Titus 1:1-2)

The Apostle Paul is writing to the followers of Jesus, the elect, according to the common faith of those who have come to know God in a personal way and thereby granted discernment in spiritual things. The Word for discernment or intense knowledge is Greek, *ἐπίγνωσις*, *epignósis*, pronounced (*ep-ig'-no-sis*). He reminds Titus, his other son in the faith, besides Timothy, that our salvation is based on the **assurance** that God is always faithful to His promises, His Word! The word for **hope** in the New Testament is *ἐλπίς*, *elpis*, pronounced (*el-pece'*) and is the word for **assurance** or **confidence**, not wishful thinking as in English. Paul wanted Titus to remember at the outset of this personal letter that a believer's salvation and eternal life are based upon the truth of God's testimony, which cannot be false, or lie, and that God will keep his word. The story below I have heard Dr. Criswell tell several times, that after he surrendered to preach, he had doubts about his salvation because he did not have a "lightning bolt" experience as a 10-year-old boy. Read the following account and be assured!

W.A. Criswell on assurance of salvation:

Someday, when I stand before the judgment bar of Almighty God, and the saints are marching in and I assay to join their number, and the Lord stops me and says, "By what right and by what prerogative do you enter My beautiful city and walk on My golden streets?", I shall say:

"Lord God, in the days of the long ago when I was a ten-year-old boy, they were having a revival meeting in the little white Crackerbox of a church house in our little town where I grew up. And the evangelist stayed in our home and talked to me about the Lord every night. And on a weekday morning seated back of my mother, she asked me, 'Son, today, will you take the Lord. Will you trust Jesus as your Savior?' And I said, 'I would.'

And Lord, I am just depending upon You to keep Your Word, for You have it written here in the Holy Scriptures: "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But to as many as received Him, to them gave He the right—the prerogative, the power—to become the children of God, even to them that trust, that believe in His name." And Lord, the best a ten-year-old boy could do, I trusted Thee as my Savior, and now I am just depending upon Thee to keep Thy Word and Thy promise."

And then I dare Satan to scoff and to laugh at the Word of God. My salvation is not a matter between me and Satan, for I am no match for him. But my salvation is a matter between God and His Word, whether or not He will keep His promise. And I know that the promises of God in Christ Jesus are everlastingly Yea, and Amen. My salvation and its assurance is based upon the Word of God.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, thank you that you have promised eternal life to all who will come to you in repentance and trust. Thank you for never lying and the reality that you cannot lie. Thank you that you have proven yourself trustworthy from all eternity. Thank you for assurance of salvation. Amen