"So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever." -- 1 Chronicles 29:10



Mardi and Kristina Bishop super daughter and mother team from the Roanoke, VA area at the Lima Rally Christ's Church in Lima, OH

"And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another." *Romans* 15:14





Question of the week:

In the book of Romans, Paul said that having been justified by faith, we as saints have something. What is it?

Last week's question: After David brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem and pitched a special tabernacle for it, he left Zadok the high priest to minister before the altar of the Lord at the tabernacle Moses constructed. Where was that tabernacle located? *Answer: Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:40).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 69	Wednesday Night (7/19) — 67
Morning Assembly – 97	Butte Lord's Day – 9
Evening Assembly – 80	GF Lord's Day – 64,74 Wed 42



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Paul to Timothy: Second Epistle

The great apostle Paul, close to the time of his death, incarcerated in Mamertine Prison (as near as we can tell), wrote his last recorded letter to his beloved son in the faith, Timothy. To the end, the apostle was concerned about the continuing forward progress of the gospel, desirous that Timothy have courage in its proclamation and that the sound doctrine delivered through the apostles be preserved. The epistle also informs Timothy that Paul knew that his death ("the time of my departure") was imminent, and his words provide great encouragement and a great example of how to close earthly life with a strong finish.

 Paul's apostleship – Timothy knew Paul intimately. Timothy is called "my beloved son" in the opening of this epistle, and Timothy had labored for and alongside Paul for a long time. It is interesting

that, even considering the close relationship between the two, Paul and the Holy Spirit chose to open with these words: "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God" (2 Timothy 1:1). Timothy knew that Paul was an apostle of Christ, so it is pretty clear that the Holy Spirit knew that other people would be reading this letter, and the stated apostleship of Paul needed to be clearly established to put the official stamp on the key points and doctrines being iterated. Not physically present with the other apostles during the three and one-half years of Jesus' earthly sojourn following His immersion, Paul was able to walk by revelation and receive exactly the same information and experiences of the others. Referring to his late entrance into the apostleship as "untimely born" (1 Corinthians 15:8), nevertheless he repeatedly affirmed his standing as an apostle, not sent "from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father" (Galatians 1:1). Thus he would say to his challengers in Corinth, "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles" (2 Corinthians 12:12).

Promise of life – The apostle says that his apostleship "according to the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:1). His apostleship, in other words, was for the purpose of helping others have the eternal life found only in Christ Jesus. The prospect

of living eternally with God is still hanging in the balance; earthly challenges must be overcome and the faith of the saint must be intact and strengthened. Hence God sets forth "the promise of eternal life," and grants the indwelling Spirit as the guarantee of His promise to grant the faithful the positive resurrection from the dead. "God," said Paul to the Corinthian brethren, "gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge" (2 Corinthians 1:22).

The apostle's greeting to Timothy is somewhat standard, but the content is not to be minimized. "To Timothy,



and between the former sinner and God through what He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:2). The new covenant is the covenant of *grace*, as contrasted to the covenant of law wherein there is no grace. The appeal for grace, then, is the appeal for God to overlook any short-comings in the saint. *Mercy* is another characteristic of that which is found only in Christ, where God is willing to withhold the punishment and wrath rightly due the transgressor; it is worth recalling that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It is appropriate to call for the blessings of grace and mercy as Paul did for Timothy. *Peace*, then, is the wonderful and awesome result of mercy and grace. Peace with God stems from His having broken down the barrier between the former sinner and God through what He accomplished in Christ, and the Christian's having participated in the gospel of peace. Peace with God sets the stage for inner peace because the redeemed, again by the powerful action of Him who sits on the throne, has the clean conscience purchased by the sprinkled blood of Christ (by His own High Priestly action). This in turn allows for the development of peace between brethren, and the continuing attempt to have the lost reconciled to the heavenly Father and Creator.

JAY WILSON