

COMMON FAITH

Paul introduced Titus as his **TRUE CHILD IN A COMMON FAITH** – “To Titus, my true child in (kata+acc / according to) a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.” (Titus 1:3)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of a COMMON FAITH in regards to Christ Jesus our Savior.

1. Paul referred to Titus as his TRUE child in a common faith. The Greek word for TRUE is (gnesios/ true, genuine, and sincere). Gnesios is derived from gnetos (born).

“It originally denotes the true son as opposed to the adopted, or the legitimate as opposed to the nothos. It thus means ‘true born.’ The NT always uses it of persons by way of recognition.” (TD of NT, pg.727)

Paul uses it this way with both Titus and Timothy (Titus 1:3; 1 Tim.1:2). “To Timothy, my true child in the faith.” (1 Tim.1:2)

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children (teknon) of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (John 3:3; 3:1-7)

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

2. True CHILD recognizes Titus as a convert of the personal evangelism and mentoring of Paul. The Greek word for child is (teknon). Teknon is derived from tikto (to begat or bear).

“It gives prominence to the fact of birth.” (Vines, pg.99)

MY TRUE CHILD is an endearing term of a relationship between a convert and spiritual mature believer who has taken responsibility for the convert’s spiritual growth - “My children (teknon), with whom I am again in labor until Christ be formed in you.” (Gal.4:19)

“Paul’s affectionate relationship to his converts see Acts 20:37-38; Phil.4:1; 1 Thess.2:7-8.” (NIV, Gal.4:19)

3. COMMON faith expresses the universality of grace salvation. The Greek word for common is (koinos/ belonging to generality as opposed to few).

This word was used by Jude to describe grace salvation – “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our **common salvation**, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)

The gospel of grace salvation was under attack and Jude called upon believers to defend it.

COMMON teaches that it is available to all mankind – “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.” (Titus 2:11)

COMMON teaches that each person who believes the gospel of Jesus Christ receives the same 50 things in the package of grace salvation. 50 things that you can never lose in time or eternity. “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” (Eph.2:8-9)

4. Common FAITH emphasizes that the object of grace salvation is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for faith is (pistis).

The verb form of faith is to believe (pisteuo). It is used in John 3:16 as a transitive verb. It must have an object and subject and the merit lies with the object. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

What does a person have to believe about Jesus to have eternal life?

A person must believe that Jesus died as a substitute for his sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day. This is called the gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4) – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)

Salvation is by faith (non-meritous thinking) so that it can be by GRACE rather than by works of the law. “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness apart from works.” (Rom.4:5)

5. Jude wrote about a COMMON SALVATION (koinos soteria) in Jude 3

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

This refers to the 50 things you receive in the package of grace salvation that you can never lose in time or eternity [13 judicial charges of AOS; 9 communion factors of Eucharist; 8 works of Holy Spirit; and 20 status privileges).

Common salvation means that these 50 things belong to every person who believes the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jude called spiritual advancing believers to DEFEND this COMMON SALVATION – “contend earnestly for the faith.”