1Thess #117

Submit to the authority once you recognize it.

We will do the Lord’s Supper Sunday.

As far as the 2023 Bible Conference (Nov 11 & 12) I would wait until late August early September to look for flights.

The 3 airports you can use are Orlando, Tampa Bay and Gainesville.

We will open in Ephesians chapter four today RF.

/This study is directly related to spiritual leadership, that is the authority you must submit to and get under once you recognize that the ministry or pastor is the right one for you. Your spiritual I.Q. is dependent upon your doctrinal viewpoint. One of your most important life decisions is related to your spiritual I.Q. and that may be almost as important as the home you purchase or the person you marry, it is that serious! \

Who you sit under for Bible study is extremely important – it will shape your spiritual walk in a very profound fashion.

In this section of Ephesians, we see the Apostle Paul teach a victory principle in relation to the angelic warfare.

The ascension and session of Jesus Christ was the final victory march of the angelic conflict – it solidified God’s perfect plan and victory over rebellion once and for all time!

Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

The gifts Christ secured for us because of HIS complete victory not only on the cross. Also, the resurrection, ascension and session, was the finishing portion and legal standard, fulfilled in relation to victory over rebellion.

[Eph 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/8/s_1101008) Therefore it says,
“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE *THE* CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO PEOPLE.”

This answers the question what TLJC did during those three days in the tomb before HIS physical resurrection in HIS humanity.

/Psa 68:18 **You have ascended** on high, You have **led captive *Your* captives**;
**You have received gifts among people**,
Even *among* the rebellious as well, that the LORD God may dwell *there.*\

Most scholars believe this psalm is connected with the coming of the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem ([2 Samuel 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2sa/6/1-23/s_273001)), in relation to a victory march for David.

It was common in the ancient world for a victory march with the defeated army brought forth in chains, symbolic of their defeat and now they became the captives. It also was common that the victory march would end with the giving of gifts which had been pillaged during the battle.

This is known as a triumphal procession.

/[Eph 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/9/s_1101009) (Now this *expression,* “He ascended,” what does it mean except that **He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?**

the Old Testament saints who have died, those who were in Paradise at the time of the ascension, follow in our Lord’s victory train. \

They are called captives because they do not have a resurrection body and will not have resurrection bodies until the second advent of Christ.

Paradise was a holding place in the bowels of the earth where it was completely peaceful and pleasant for Bels in the other dispensations to relax and wait for the cross of Christ.

/[Eph 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/10/s_1101010) **He who descended is Himself also He who ascended** far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

The descension and ascension (aorist tense) of Christ is a part of the final strategic victory of the angelic conflict.\

The aorist tense is a culminative aorist, which views the action of descension and ascension in its entirety but regards it from the viewpoint of its existing results — the aorist tense, often meaning already completed in the past.

 REPEAT

The glorification of Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father as the unique person of the universe, was completed by the power of the Trinity in eternity past.

This points to the physical completion of a certainty designed by God possibly billions of years ago.

*The term -“on high”*…speaks to the third heaven.

/[Eph 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/11/s_1101011) And **He gave some** as **apostles**, some *as* **prophets**, some *as* **evangelists**, some *as* **pastors and teachers,**

These are NEW gifts given to CA Bels as part of the battlefield royalty. Victory was assured at the Cross and it is assured for CA Bels. \

These gifts were given for two reasons-

One was to complete the canon of scripture and the other was for developing the Church of Jesus Christ, not denominational nonsense or counterfeits we see in the world under religious lies today.

/[Eph 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/12/s_1101012) **for the equipping** of the saints for the **work of ministry**, for the **building up of the body of Christ;**

All of these leadership gifts had specific callings. Yet each one would build up the body of Christ.\

[Eph 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/13/s_1101013) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Once again we see BD (knowledge), at the foundational core of the plan of GOD. *To the measure of stature-* speaks to spiritual maturity.

You do not achieve levels of maturity away from BD.

/Eph 4:11 *- He gave some as apostles;*

The core meaning in the Greek is a messenger, one who goes ahead of another speaking for a king or leader. One who is sent forth under orders to represent a higher rank – an ambassador is affiliated with the title. It was also used to describe the highest-ranking officer in the Athenian navy. \

The apostles were all men who Jesus chose, there were no female apostles. They were the ultimate authority left by Christ for the church. This was an office for 12 men, hand-picked by Jesus Christ and also taught face to face by Jesus Christ. This office was closed forever after Saul of Tarsus was converted into the Apostle Paul.

 REPEAT

/Prophets (*prophētēs*)- for the CA this was a gift given to a few men and women. Those who were serious disciples of Christ under the authority of the apostles. More than likely a handful of Bels from the 120 who were there on the original day of Pentecost. Their sole purpose was the completed canon of scripture.\

PROPH-ATE-ACE, is used in a different context within the Church age. Though very similar as the OT prophets, in that the hand of God and visions were active in the life of a true prophet. This gift was sparingly given and always affiliated with a closeness to the apostles.

It no longer was given after this point in human history.

 REPEAT

The apostles never went around ordaining more prophets or more apostles …I challenge you to find that in scripture!

Apostles and prophets were given once and done away with.

/Eph 4:11 – *HE gave some as... evangelists, some as pastors and teachers*

*Euangelistēs-* a very specific calling for a man who proclaims the gospel and has an inner strength for saving souls.

*Poimēn didaskalos-* a shepherd of Christ, a teacher and spiritual leader within the WORD.\

YOU-ANGAL-ESTACE, - a title given to men who proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ. Their main desire and focus is upon salvation.

You can get saved under the teaching of an evangelist – you do not grow under an evangelist.

POY-MAIN DEE-DOS-COLOSS, this is really one title, a shepherd or care-taker and a teacher, all under the realm of spirituality.

It is hyphenated in how it is truly used in the original context.

PASTOR-TEACHER.

It is not designed as two separate titles.

It is the pinnacle of leadership inside the current church or body of Christ in the dispensation of the CA.

/The pastor-teacher is God’s chosen authority over certain bodies of Bels who recognize the office and are led under his authority. Evangelists, pastors and deacons were all MEN who the apostles appointed once they recognized a gift within them. Each gift is a calling by GOD for men who understand their gift and fully submit to that calling. Pastor-teacher is the head under Christ, while Evangelists and Deacons follow under that authority. \

There is no human hierarchy in the whole church because the office of apostleship was done away with.

No pastor or church leader is responsible over any other body except that which GOD has given to him.

 REPEAT

Every Pastor-teacher is given his own flock, large or small and it may vary over time, but that’s it!

It is the mind of CHRIST that dictates a pastor-teachers’ messages.

Christ is the head; HE is the Good Shepherd and the pastor is under that authority as a type of shepherd.

That is the chain of command in the CA.

Any other denominational dogma and hierarchy is man-made religion; it is a counterfeit to the original.

Both letters to Timothy and Titus are the letters that define church leadership more so than many other scriptures in the NT.

/Titus 1:5 For this reason **I left you in Crete, that you would set in order** what remains and **appoint elders** (*presbyteros*) in every city as I directed you,

A title for a man over the age of 30 with a history of having a serious relationship with Christ and an organized life. \

PRES-BOOT-AHRUS, this is often used for pastors and deacons – men in church leadership.

This title was taken from the original Jewish, Sanhedrin for leadership.

It is truly another name for a pastor-teacher.

Notice Titus was called to take full control as the head – the pastor-teacher in full authority and to take charge, no questions asked.

When a pastor comes into the church he cannot come in and bend and twist in the wind to the whims of congregation.

A church under Christ will have a definitive head who is subject to the WORD not human emotions.

The Apostle Paul goes on to clarify it is a MALE role of leadership;

/Titus 1:6 *namely,* **if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife**, having children who believe, not accused of indecent behavior or rebellion.

If a man proves themselves under authority and they have no outstanding issues of conflict within the church, then you test to see if they have a spiritual gift of leadership. \

Go ahead into Titus chapter two RF.

The man who can not handle a marriage and organizing a family is not prepared for ministry.

The freestyle life of partying and dating is usually a sign that the man is not prepared for the pulpit…too many distractions.

The gift for pastor-teachers, evangelists and deacons is a serious call…any job you do in ministry is serious! Never embark on that ministry if you are not prepared and have yourself organized on some basic level.

 REPEAT

If your life is a hot mess the ministry will become a hot mess.

Keep in mind – GOD is not so concerned with your past failure and mistakes, as HE is with your current walk with HIM.

This is further instruction for Titus as a leader and what he has to give an example of.

Titus 2:12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

/[Tit 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/2/12/s_1131012) **instructing us to deny ungodliness**and **worldly desires** and to **live sensibly**, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age,

People involved in ministry are held to a higher accountability. Yet all Christians are called to have a balanced and organized life, dedicated to walking in the plan of God.\

[Tit 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/2/13/s_1131013) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

The blessed hope points us to the Rapture of the church and then comes the 2nd Advent of Christ after the 7 years of Tribulation.

Also note; another scripture pointing to the deity of Christ.

[Tit 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/2/14/s_1131014) who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds.

GOOD DEEDS – is what we do in the new nature, what is the fruit of the Spirit in our life?

/Titus 2:15 These **things speak and exhort, and rebuke with all authority**. No one is to disregard you.

Everything Paul had taught Titus was handed to him as the full authority of that region. Titus had to train pastors, deacons and develop leadership.\

A few men like Titus, Timothy and probably Luke, became an extension of the Apostle Paul in establishing the early church.

Whomever GOD has placed in authority once you recognize that authority, you should willingly submit, or leave and find the right authority for your spiritual growth.

/Heb 13:17 **Obey your leaders and submit *to them*—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account**—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this *would be* unhelpful for you.\

You only hurt yourself when you buck against authority – especially spiritual authority in your life.

The Apostle Paul used terms like elders as well as teachers which is all related to the gift of pastor-teacher;

/Act 20:28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which **the Holy Spirit has made you overseers** (*episkopos)*, to **shepherd the church** of God which He purchased with His own blood.

The term *bishop,* was derived from this, yet it truly is another name used for church leadership – pastors, evangelists and deacons. \

EPISS-KO-POS, bishop, which one denomination twisted the title into what they desired it for. It has always been designed for pastor-teachers or ministers of the WORD to be the head over ONE group of Bels.

Evangelists and Deacons are roles of leadership under the pastor-teacher.

/In many cases a Deacon or Evangelist may be in training for full time ministry as a pastor-teacher. They may fill in or be used sporadically to teach the word. Yet they are not called to be at the pulpit habitually teaching until they are deemed fit for the title pastor-teacher. One man is the head as pastor-teacher and his current message is what the SPIRIT is speaking to the church (Rev 2 -3). \