1Thess #105

We now know the mystery of times and seasons.

Open up in 1 Corinthians 9 RF.

Today we will begin a wrap up of this series on dispensations – it may take me two more lessons leading to the last message I do before going on vacation. But I think I can wrap it up before I leave.

Where we began the study is important because the Apostle Paul used two words that need to come into focus to fully digest this series.

Two words we already noted and now we peel the layers back a little deeper.

/1Thes 5:1 Now **as to the periods and times**, brothers *and sisters,* you have no need *of anything* to be written to you.

The Apostle Paul is teaching a set of trends and designated periods under the teaching of Eschatology. This is why he uses the same terminology Christ used in Acts 1:7\

The Apostle Paul is trying to rectify a group of Bels at Thessalonica who were confused about some core principles related to end time events.

Specifically, the resurrection of Bels, the Rapture of the Church and the opening up of the Tribulation period.

Sadly, this is the case when Bels allow false teaching to infiltrate their soul structure.

This terminology revolving around these two words point us to dispensations – yet they are often used to describe seasons, time periods and even trends underneath a dispensation.

/The Greek word for *“times”* is *CHRONOS*, and for “*seasons or epochs*,” is *KAIROS*. Both words refer to periods of time, but with minor, yet important differences: the word *CHRONOS* indicates a succession of events, one following in order to the other. This is where we get our English word *“chronology*” from - a chronological order.\

CHRON-US, is very specific, or a number or time - one following in order to another.

KI-EYE-ROS, is broken into segments and was often used for seasons. Seasons that we know are coming, yet they have certain trends you have to see before they come full circle.

In other words, snow does not miraculously fall from the sky if the season is still warm – it doesn’t matter if it is December or January, there is a trend of cold air for a period of time before snow can accumulate.

 REPEAT

/KAIROS, (seasons/epochs) refers to events or trends by their components operating in a certain mannerism. It can be precisely counted on to happen, yet it may vary in length, strength or exact time specifications. Segments of time or seasons divided into specific periods, epochs or eras, that have definitive trends.\

Under the umbrella of a dispensation, we can note times, epochs or seasons which may be related to trends or orderly chronological events, usually both appear under any given dispensation.

This portion of the letter from the Apostle Paul to Corinth, is thick with reprimand and some divine sarcasm. Negative people came into the church who under the influence of Judaism, they had infected others and now several Bels became critical of Paul.

In fact, it is shortly after this confrontation that the Apostle Paul would stop working as a tent maker and focus on full time ministry.

At this point, he was still exhausting himself working full time ministry and also as a tent maker.

1Cor 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast *about,* for I am under compulsion; for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.

This compulsion means, a very strong drive or burning desire, to the point of exhaustion. This is written in a present tense – this was Paul’s calling, his lifestyle.

The true calling for pastor-teacher is to exhaust yourself in the study so that the teaching will be academically honest and precise!

/1Cor 9:17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a commission (*oikonomia) nonetheless.*

The original language tells us - *this is my stewardship, this dispensation of the Church Age is my calling*. \

OAK-COIN-OH-ME-AH, is a Greek term for dispensation. This word was used for an office of a qualified leader, to take care of a property or household for a period of time.

A piece of real estate with specific boundaries.

The Apostle Paul is stating clearly this new dispensation of the Church, is something I am called to help establish and teach mystery doctrine and be a *‘care taker’* of.

[1Co 9:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/9/18/s_1071018) What, then, is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

At this historic point the Apostle Paul was supplying all the needs for himself and any men he traveled with.

[1Co 9:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/9/19/s_1071019) For though I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may gain more.

/In every era of the human race, God puts someone in charge of making the truth of the Word (BD) clear - stewards or leaders & administrators to fulfill this calling. We have names or titles of the four Dispensations, Gentiles, Israel (Jews), Church and Christ – these are the properties / households GOD set up in eternity past. These dispensations are to be upheld and dependent upon the mind of Christ, which is their foundations and very fabric of their existence. \

These dispensations have trends, time periods, seasons and regulations that have to be fulfilled for a dispensation to begin and end in proper fashion.

God’s perfect timing.

That Greek word – *dispensation*

 *(OAK-COIN-OH-ME-AH)* is used about 9x in NT scriptures. Almost always pointing to God’s plan.

 Only a few times it is referenced as an office of *care taker* for a real piece of property, not related to God’s plan.

In fact, it is the parable Jesus used in Luke 16 - that it is used in that fashion and even that parable speaks to the plan of GOD.

The Apostle Paul used it in Corinth, Ephesus, and Colosse as well as his letter to Timothy.

/Eph 1:9 **He made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which **He set forth in Him**,

God’s plan is within the person and work of Jesus Christ – you can not know the full plan of GOD outside of knowing Christ intimately. \

TLJC- HIMSELF, points to mystery doctrine of the CA.

The more you study the person and work of TLJC - the more you will open up mystery doctrine and it will become evident.

/[Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) **regarding *His* plan** (*oikonomia*) of **the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

The original language – *with a view to the administration (dispensation) of the fullness of time.\*

In fact, the original language looks closer to this;

/Eph 1:10 *with a view to the administration (dispensation) suitable to the fullness of the times (kairos), that is, the summing up of all things in Christ things in the heavens and things on earth in Him. \*

All things will come to the fullness when TLJC returns for HIS 2nd Advent.

The Apostle Paul is teaching that there are seasons and a chronological order of events still yet to unfold.

These seasons, trends and chronological events are under umbrellas of dispensations.

As I mentioned in the other lessons it is similar to a football field – with boundaries and markers and lines.

Let us look at the words of Jesus Christ and how HE used words like seasons, times and ages;

/Act 1:6 So, when they had come together, they *began* asking Him, saying, **“Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel**?” 7 But He said to them, “**It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which** the Father has set by His own authority;

 *Times - chronos or Epochs- kairos. \*

Jesus just like the Apostle Paul is speaking about trends, seasons and chronological order.

Jump over to the gospel of Mark chapter ten RF.

These trends, seasons and chronological periods of time are all connected under the umbrella of dispensations.

Jesus along with the Apostle Paul often taught this as looking for certain trends, portions of time designated in God’s plan to unfold and then move into the next dispensation.

/Mark 1:14 Now after John was taken into custody, **Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God**, 15 and saying, “**The time** (*kairos*)**is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near**; repent and believe in the gospel.”

The season or trend of focusing on the Nation of Israel is about to be interrupted. \

Jesus was highlighting what John the Baptist was doing – closing out the last section of this season before the Cross interrupted the age of Israel.

Look at Mark 10:29;

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,

/[Mar 10:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/10/30/s_967030) but that he will receive a hundred times as much **now in the present age** (*kairos*), houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; **and in the age**(*aiōn*) **to come, eternal life**.

This portion of the dispensation of Israel - present age. The age to come, looking ahead toward eternity. \

EYE-ON was often times used to point to a time of eternal security - a future in heaven.

When Jesus taught the parable of the vine-grower, about those who attack and reject the messenger of the Gospel- HE used the term KRONOS for seasons;

/Luk 20:10 “**At *the harvest* time** (*kairos*) he sent a slave to the vine-growers, so that they would give him *his share* of the produce of the vineyard; but the vine-growers beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

A harvest does not come to fruition on an exact date because weather conditions (trends) have to be right. A harvest time, speaks to a window of opportunity. It could be wide or narrow, long or short. \

Look what the Apostle Peter wrote on the same subject matter;

/1Pet 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but **has appeared in these last times (*chronos*) for the sake of you**

Peter wrote this in a plural sense – times, Jesus appeared during HIS earthly ministry (Dispensation of Israel, doctrine of the Hypostatic union) and then in HIS resurrected ministry (transition period into CA). \

*These last times* – really speaking to two different dispensations yet even the transition periods in between those dispensations is in view.

/Jud 1:17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were **spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ**, 18 that they were saying to you, “**In the last time** there will **be mockers,** following after their own ungodly lusts.”

Periods of time(*chronos*)- during the CA from the beginning until the Rapture where those who mock CHRIST, will repeatedly stand against the church. \

Jude wrote this in a fashion as if to say periods of times – different points of history.

There are points of time, seasons and ages, where mocking Christ and attacking Christianity will be at a heightened point more so than other times.

I am old enough to attest to 30 or 40 years ago, there was some mocking of Christianity - yet not at the level we have today.

 REPEAT

The outbreak of free love and the hippie generation of the 1960’s into the 70’s was a season of great change for Christianity.

There was a season in the early 1970’s that was a Jesus revolution period, that began in the end of the 60’s. Yet that cooled off and faded by 1978.

It only lasted about 3 or 4 years, before it began to fade away.

By the mid 1980’s there was a strong wave of anti-Christian movements on the rise again.

These were all seasons and periods of time under the dispensation of the Church. Directly after 9/11 there was a wave of Conservative Christian movements that sprang up, yet they faded quickly as well.

Within a year after 9/11 most people were back to the same old, lazy ideology.

In closing let me explain or at least put a cap on exactly what these words we studied today mean.

/Under the four Dispensations – Gentile, Israel, Church, Christ, there are seasons, trends and time periods that God ordained in eternity past to fulfill each dispensation. Each time period, trend or season was filtered through God’s Divine, Justice System and calculated into the Divine Decree so as to fit perfectly into the pre-designed plan of God. \

/Seasons and trends - would account for mankind’s and fallen angel attacks, failures and free will decisions. Within that would fall the principles of reaping what we sow, God’s discipline as well judgement and operational grace for repentance.

Times or chronological order – would account for the transitions in-between, as well as God’s silence and time for reconstruction or judgment to bring results into fruition. \

We will close next lesson with these principles of transitions and judgements.

/Dispensations cover a full spectrum under God’s plan from one completed boundary to the next one. All four dispensations are covered within a deep study of mystery doctrine. The points of time and trends or seasons prior to the CA had hints and shadows of what was coming. God’s grand design was a completed canon of scripture which would give mankind the exact nature and plan of our Triune God with the person and work of Jesus Christ at the center. \