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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#3)

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DISPENSATION OF GOD

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Dispensation of God.
The theology comes from the Greek word for administration of God (oikonomia Theos).**

1. In our context of our lesson text (1 Tim.1:3-7), Paul left Timothy to trouble-shoot for the Pauline missionary team at the Church of Ephesus.

First up were the **teachers of the Law** (nomodidaskalia). They were teaching strange doctrines (heterodidaskalia). These legalistic doctrines were creating doctrinal confusion regarding grace doctrines.

These legalist teachers were teaching with “confident assertions (diabebaioomai)

(1 Tim.1:7) ”But the truth was that their confident assertions were based on mere speculations (1 Tim.1:4) and fruitless discussions (1 Tim.1:6) about what they do not understand or either what they are saying nor the matters about which they make confident assertions (1 Tim.1:7).”

They were teaching a **work’s salvation gospel** and a **work’s spirituality** in the Christian Way of Life (CWL) [last lesson](#)

2. Paul gave the doctrinal solution to get the Church of Ephesus back into grace doctrinal orientation.

- **The solution** was to offer the doctrine of the **Dispensation of God** as the answer to their teaching of doctrines of myths (muthos) [mythological legends added to OT] and endless genealogies (aperantos genealogia) [OT genealogies that don’t end with Jesus Christ] (i.e. Matt.1; Luke 3).

Paul said that these “strange doctrines” were **mere speculation** (ekzetesis).

(2 Tim.3:7-9) Mere speculation leaves the believer always searching but never able to get the truth when comparing Scripture to Scripture or Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD)

Paul said that these “strange doctrines” were **fruitless discussions** (mataiologia). Fruitless discussion is talking that is empty of Divine Production in The Dispensational Plan of God (1 Tim.1:6) [Judaizer] (Gal.3:1-5).

3. Paul’s answer to the strange doctrines of myths and endless genealogies was the doctrine of the dispensation of God.

The false teachers were substituting these in place of Dispensation Doctrines.

(1 Tim.1:4b) “rather than (furthering) the administration (dispensation) of God which is by faith.”

The Greek word, oikonomia, refers to stewardship of the administration of a household or an estate.

In biblical theology, it refers to a specific period of human history important and special divine revelation for the divine agency to teach in their dispensation.

The special Divine Revelation in the **Dispensation of the Church Age** is called **mystery doctrines**.

(Eph.3:9-12) “**And to bring to light what is the administration (dispensation) of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all thing; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.**” (1 Tim.1:9-11; Col.1:24-29)

4. We will list four Divine Dispensations that cover the biblical history of fallen humanity.

(1Cor.15:45) [From the first Adam to the last Adam].

- **The Gentile Age** (Gen.3-11)
 - The Divine Agency was the redeemed Sethite and Shemite families
 - The custodians of the Old Covenant
 - The world involved one language and three ethnic groups (Cainites, Sethites, and Shemites).
- **Jewish Age** (Gen.12) to the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, through the gospels and Acts to the day of Pentecost.
 - The Divine Agency involved the Patriarchs, Moses and the Priest-Nation of Israel (Ex.19:6)
 - The custodians of the Old Covenant
 - The world had diversity of languages, ethnic groups, and nations.
- **Church Age** (Acts 2) From Pentecost through the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess.4:13-18)
 - The Divine Agency is the Church, the mystical body of Christ in the world (Eph.3)
 - The world still has diversity of languages, ethnic groups, and nations
 - The Church has none of these boundaries of membership (Gal.3:26-28)
 - The Church is the custodian of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor.11:25)
 - Responsible for world evangelism (Acts 1:8; Matt.28:18-20)
 - Has the completed Canon of Scripture – the completed Bible.
- **Millennial Age** (Rev.20) The re-establishment (last 7 years) of the Jewish Age (Tribulation), 1000 years of peace. [to be followed by the release of Satan and final war, then the Great White Throne Judgment]. (Isa.65:20-25)
 - The Divine agency will be Jewish Age Believer and the Church Age Believer in their Resurrection bodies.
 - One world government ruled by King Jesus
 - A perfect environment (Rom.8:19-23) with Satan and demons removed (Rev.20:1-3)