

INTRODUCTION

Acts 27:13. Today's text is 1 Timothy 6:14, but I will come to that text near the end of the sermon this time, rather than the beginning. To introduce the main theme for today's text, hear this episode from when the Roman authorities were taking Paul, under arrest, to Rome, travelling by ship.

Acts 27:13-20 When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. 14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. 15 So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive. 16 And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. 17 When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven. 18 And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. 19 On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. 20 Now when **neither sun nor stars appeared** for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

God made the sun and the stars to give us light. Normally the sun and the stars appear to us in the sky. In the morning, the sun appears in the east, coming up over the horizon. In the evening, as the sun disappears, setting in the west, the stars appear, their dimmer light becoming visible to us as the brighter light of the sun fades away.

But during that dreadful storm in the Mediterranean Sea, neither sun nor stars appeared for many days. We know that the sun and stars were still there. They were not affected by the storm. But they did not appear to the sailors, because the storm produced a thick layer of clouds. So the sun and the stars were hidden behind the clouds, and so did not appear.

I set this historical account before you to get your minds ready to consider what comes next in our study of 1 Timothy: the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BODY

I. There Has Been an Appearing of Our Lord Jesus Christ Already

2 Timothy 1:8-10 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the **appearing** of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

- A. The Son of God, or Word of God, was invisible to our sight, being the divine nature, which is pure, simple spirit, having no body for us to see
- B. Then, in the womb of the virgin Mary, by the work of the Holy Spirit, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
 - 1. when He was born, the angels announced His birth
 - 2. on the eighth day, Simeon said of Him that He was “a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Luke 2:32)
 - 3. when He began to preach, He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah---”the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned” (Matthew 4:16)
 - 4. as we have studied these past three weeks, when the Bible says that Jesus Christ appeared to us, that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, it means that our Lord Jesus Christ is both very God and very man; truly divine and truly human; being both the divine nature and the human nature in one person
- C. We are used to speaking of the appearing of Jesus Christ as His “coming,” or in the old liturgical Latin, His “advent;” the two concepts are both present in what we are talking about: our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to us by coming here to us
- D. The Greek word for “appearing” is *G2014 epiphaino* in which you hear our word “epiphany.”
 - 1. In the early centuries of the churches, Greek-speaking theologians used this as it is used here in Paul’s writings.
 - 2. But later corruptions in the churches have made “epiphany” a man-made holy day in the Roman Catholic system
 - 3. we also use the word in today’s English to mean when someone grasps an important concept or makes a discovery of some idea; we say he had an epiphany
- E. In the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, the purpose and grace of God appeared, which was to abolish death and bring life and immortality to light through the gospel.
 - 1. our Savior Jesus Christ abolished death by taking the death penalty for our sins upon Himself, then rising from the dead on the third day
 - 2. He brings life and immortality to light by preaching the gospel to us: that whoever believes on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life

There has been an appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

II. But Now Our Lord Jesus Christ Does Not Appear

- A. He told His disciples about that ahead of time. John 16:28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."
- B. When His work here was finished, He ascended out of their sight. Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- C. He has promised to be with us, which He is, by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in us
- D. And He pronounced a blessing on us who believe in Him, not having seen Him
 - 1. He said: "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."
 - 2. He blesses greatly those who do not see Him, but who read or hear of Him from the scriptures, and believe according to the testimony recorded there
- E. Yet, as to sailors in a storm the sun and stars do not appear, so we do not see Our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that there is more hiding our Lord Jesus Christ from our eyes than the clouds in the sky. If you fly in an airplane, you can go above the clouds. But you will not see Jesus there; He still will not appear. Yet He uses the clouds, which we can understand, to help us understand how He is hidden from our sight in heaven.
- F. We are of good cheer, knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world. We have a deep, abiding joy that cannot be taken away.
- G. Yet inside we sigh and groan, because while the inner man has been regenerated in the new birth by the Holy Spirit, our flesh is still sinful, our bodies are still subject to death, and our souls still sorrow with the troubles of this present world.

There has been an appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ
But now our Lord Jesus Christ does not appear

III. Yet There Will Be Another Appearing of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- A. We more often talk about this as His second coming, or, in the old liturgical Latin, His second advent
- B. He again will appear, but no one knows when
- C. At His appearing, He will judge the living and the dead
 - 1. 2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His **appearing** and His kingdom:
 - 2. Those who are still in their sins, not in Christ, should tremble in fear at the approach of this judgment. For if you are still in your sins when He appears, He will judge you guilty of all your sins, and will send you to the lake of fire for everlasting punishment.
 - 3. But those who are in Jesus Christ through faith, who repent of sins and trust in Him, have nothing to fear in the judgment when He appears, but look forward to rewards that He has will give us. We do not dread His appearing, but love it.---2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His **appearing**.
- D. At His appearing, He will raise us incorruptible
- E. At His appearing, we will be with Him forever

CONCLUSION

Finally we come to today's text from 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's **appearing [G2015 *epiphaneia*]**

As our Lord's apostle exhorts Timothy and us to obedience, he sets before us the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming again; He shall appear, so we keep His commandments, without spot, blameless, until He appears.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation **has appeared [G2014 *epiphaino*]** to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious **appearing [G2015 *epiphaneia*]** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

As mentioned earlier, in the first appearing of Jesus Christ, the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared. The gospel message of that grace teaches us that as we look back to His first appearing, in which He gave Himself for us, to redeem us from our sins and purify us as His own, to do good works, we also look forward in hope to the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. With light shining on us from behind and from ahead, we walk in the light as He is in the light, having no fellowship with the darkness of this world.

G2014 *epiphaino* Strong: lit. become visible; fig. become known

G2015 *epiphaneia* Strong: a manifestation; appearing; brightness

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - John 14:1-3

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading - Job 19:23-27

Lord's Supper - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Dillon - Congregatioal Prayer

Benediction - Revelation 22:20

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 727 "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" - Andrew

Journey - Trinity 689 "One Day" - Alex

Angie - Trinity 421 (First Tune) "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"