



Paul in Prison

# “My Son, Timothy”

“Timothy, my true son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2). . . .

“To Timothy, my dearly beloved son. . .” (2 Tim 1:2)

## Paul Meets Timothy

“Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was believer; but his father was a Greek. . . Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and [so] he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those places: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.” Acts 16:1, 3

## Paul’s Last Letter to Timothy

“I thank God. . . that without ceasing I remember thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also . . . “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” 2 Tim. 1:3-6

## Timothy, Representative of Gospel Church

“We have frequently noticed and called attention to the earnest exhortations and careful instructions given to Timothy by the faithful Apostle Paul. **But while these instructions were applicable and profitable to Timothy in his day, they apply with still greater force to the Gospel Church as a whole**, of which Timothy was a member, and of which we have reason to believe he was a figure, or **representative.**” “We believe, then, that **in the person of Timothy as a representative**, the entire Gospel Church is here addressed by Paul, and we notice that the name Timothy signifies-- “honor of God.” The church honors God and is to have honor conferred upon her by God. **In the present age the honor consists in the fact that so important a “charge” is committed to her trust.**” R1127

## Paul Charges Timothy Three Times

**1<sup>ST</sup> CHARGE:** “This charge I commit unto thee, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to thee, that by them thou mayest war the good warfare; **holding [the] faith [Strong’s #4102, system of religious faith] and a good conscience**; which some having thrust from them made shipwreck concerning the faith.” 1 Tim 1:18-19 ASV

**2<sup>ND</sup> CHARGE:** “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing **nothing in a spirit of partiality.**” 1 Tim 5:21 NAS

**3<sup>RD</sup> CHARGE:** “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience** and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...” 2 Tim 4:1-3

## Peter’s Last Message Mirrors Paul’s

“I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.” 2 Peter 1:12-15

## Elders have to First Watch Themselves—and also Doctrine

“Watch your life [“Take heed” KJV] and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” — 1 Tim. 4:16 NIV

## Elders Must Give an Account

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as **they that must give account**, that they may do it with joy. . .” Heb 13:17

## Elders Exhort in Sound Doctrine and Refute Those who Contradict

“Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict [convince the gainsayer].” Titus 1:9 NAS

## Paul Warned of Wolves Entering Flock—also He-Goats Leading in Wrong Paths

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!” Acts 20:28-31 NIV See also **R 3388**

## Timothy, “Honor of God,” the Honor of Serving God

“The church honors God and is to have honor conferred upon her by God. In the present age the honor consists in the fact that so important a ‘charge’ is committed to her trust. And those thus honored in this age, and who prove faithful to the trust, will in the next age be yet more highly exalted and honored.” **R 1127**

## Peter Warned: False Teachers, Heresies, Scoffers. . .

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them. . .” 2 Peter 2:1 NAS “. . .in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” 2 Peter 3:3-4 KJV

## Paul Warned: Youthful lusts, Immorality, Coarse Jesting. . .

“Flee also youthful lusts. . .” 2 Tim 2:22 “But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.” Eph 5:3-4 NAS

## “The Hour of Temptation” (R 5981):

“. . . a great crisis upon Bible Students. . .divisions (1 Cor. 11:18,19). . . It causes real grief to write that much of the difficulty and danger to the Church seems to **lie at the door of the Elders and Deacons. . .**”

## 1916: Br. Russell was Expecting [1] Churches Uniting with Government, [2] Israel’s Restoration:

“The Bible points out that about this time **the Nominal Church systems of the world will rise to great prominence again** in connection with the Civil powers. . .All the kingdoms, financially weakened, will realize the necessity for keeping a dominating grip upon the public and preventing anything akin to Socialism and Anarchy. They will naturally look to the great religious institutions called Churches to support them...to help keep the Ship of State from being overturned...Already, they are rolling together as a scroll—the one side, Catholic, the other, Protestant, opposed and yet connected—each side united and federated to the best of its ability. But the Bible declares that this reign ‘as a queen’ will be a short one, and that the fall of Babylon will be tremendous—like a great millstone cast into the sea. . . It will be during the power of this so-called ‘queen’ for a little season, that the world will be under a great strain as respects any presentation of the Truth. And those found loyal to God and to principle will doubtless suffer therefor.” **Vol. 4, 1916 Foreword, p. 3**

“We are free to say that the restoration of Israel has not been accomplished as rapidly as we had anticipated. ...We should be in a waiting, expectant attitude. It looks as **though the trying experiences** of the Jews would arouse considerable numbers of them eventually to go to their home land....” Vol. 3, Foreword, p.ii “Now we are able to tell them that the Gentiles Times have expired, and that they may go up and take possession. According to their faith it will be unto them.” **R5568 Nov. 1914**

**Are we willing to stand up against the restraints  
of a Church-State confederacy?**

**Are we willing to “comfort” and encourage Israel  
and our Jewish friends—in spite of consequences?**



# Dominionism—A Work Already in Progress: How “*The Nominal Systems of the World*” May Soon “*Rise to Great Prominence*”†

What, if anything, does Dominionism have to do with the rise of Church and State in America or world wide? What are the theological foundations of the movement? What are the goals of the theologians behind it? Why are we interested in this movement?

**The rise of the “Religious Right” has been widely spoken about in books and the media.**

Ralph R. Reiland in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* commenting on Kevin Phillips’ *American Theocracy* said the following: “Straight out of Dixie high-powered, crusading fundamentalism” has bit by bit succeeded in creating a ‘southern-dominated, biblically-driven Washington GOP’ and a national Republican Party in which 40 percent of its voters are Christian evangelicals, fundamentalist or Pentecostals.” (Kevin Phillips was a former aide to President Richard Nixon and also published in 1969, *The Emerging Republican Majority*.)

**D**ominionism is deeply rooted in Calvinism and what they allege to be “historic post-millennialism”—it is also called “Christian Reconstructionism.” The leaders of this movement claim that the Lord Jesus asked his followers to “**occupy**” until he returned (Luke 19:13). Dominionist Rushdoony\* asserts, “*The Christian theonomic society will only come about as each man governs himself under God and governs his particular sphere. And only so will we take back government from the state and put it in the hands of Christians.*” Dominionists claim that the early church got it right when the Church and Emperor Constantine joined forces. Rushdoony notes that Christian Bishops were asked to wear the garb of Roman Civil Magistrates—thus giving credibility to the Roman civil government in the eyes of the growing Christian population.

Reconstructionists, or Dominionists as they are known, have a theological basis for of their movement in what appears to be “Orthodox ‘5-Point’ Calvinism.”

The man considered the “father” of the Christian Reconstruction movement is the late Rousas John Rushdoony. He is the author of *The Institutes of Biblical Law*. The work has become what may be considered the backbone of Dominionist thinking about society and government. It may be viewed as a guidebook on how society should operate as a “Theonomy” under “Old Testament Biblical Law.”

We should be aware that when Calvinists, such as these, are consistent with their own beliefs, they (like Muslim fundamentalists) would be willing to take the heretic to the proverbial gallows or stake as did the followers of John Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland and Salem, Massachusetts. And yes, Dominionists applaud the Christianity of Constantine who put the support of

his sword to the service of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Christian Church to punish heresy!

The Dominionist goal is to remove from American society those impositions of democratic government which they see as anti-Christian (that is, against their view of Christianity). They believe that majority rule is not Christian—although they will use that method to achieve their control of society and impose their views for Christ. The U.S. Constitution which is giving them the right to move their political agenda ahead would likely have to be replaced by “Biblical Law” and the guidance and teachings of *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (Rushdoony) because they believe that “democracy” is not Christian. The results of their agenda to change government will result in establishing a Christian government.

There are opponents to these Dominionists. They are very angry and very nervous because they see the rank and file of the would-be “Christian Government” moving to take control of our society from bottom to top. One of several websites which reveal that nervousness is *TheocracyWatch.org*. However, it is difficult to recommend reviewing other sites as we find their choice of language less than acceptable. Nevertheless, for some of us they are sources of information about the way in which Christian Reconstructionist theologians have been working with the “grassroots” in the American political system to create a Government of, by and for Christians.

Our view, we believe, is in harmony with the expectations of our Pastor. We believe that a church/government will one way or other rise as a confederacy and rule briefly to deal with impending threats to the stability of this “old order.”

Let us remember that Christ’s Kingdom will establish “True Biblical Law”—but not at hands of fallen man.

As Bible Students familiar with “The Cleansing of the Sanctuary” study in *Thy Kingdom Come*, Volume 3, we should be aware of the existence of list of 9 points of “Orthodoxy” the Evangelical Alliance believed to be essentials of faith at its inception in 1846.

The following excerpts from “42 Points of Affirmation and Denial” are taken from the website of the Coalition for Revival. <http://www.reformation.net/cor/cordocs/42Articles.pdf>

The sets of “affirmation and denial” cited below, we are told, have been circulated among principal Evangelical churches and have been received, according to Dr. Jay Grimstead\*\*, with “*nothing but rave notices about how wonderful and, how comprehensive this is, and how it fits their denomination-- Lutheran, Episcopalian, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Independents.*” The list of 42 “confessions of faith” and their corresponding denials (of what is considered error if not heresy) draw a line, so to speak, in the sand. Why is this a matter of critical importance to us? Simply because if we really understand what the Dominionists propose, we will see that they would consider heresy punishable by death. We therefore need to be fully committed to “The Faith” which we have espoused. Our faith must be deep and full of commitment. We must not be “head knowledge” believers, but must believe in heart, mind, soul—and tongue. We pray that none of us would succumb to any challenges to our faith. . . .

### SOME of the 42 DOCTRINES of the DOMINIONISTS

*Note below five doctrines which they consider true, and the denials which would brand us as “heretics.” These doctrinal position statements are like those of the Evangelical Alliance of 1846, just more expansive, precise and detailed:*

**#6. We affirm** that this one God exists eternally in three distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), each of whom shares equally in all the divine attributes.

**We deny** that God is more than one Being (as in Trinitarianism) or that He is less than three eternal Persons (as in strict Monotheism, Arianism, or Modalism).

**#31. We affirm** that Jesus Christ, the God-Man, by virtue of His perfect life, His substitutionary, atoning death, and His bodily resurrection, is the only Mediator between a Holy God and sinful man.

**We deny** that man can achieve salvation by means of secular education, social programs, political action, genetic engineering, psychology, or self realization, or by any other means.

**#32. We affirm** that Jesus Christ in His Incarnation is wholly God and wholly man, two natures in one person, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.

**We deny** that the two natures of Jesus Christ can be confused, changed, or divided, or that the one Divine Person can be separated from either nature.

**#38. We affirm** that it is always the obligation of believers to participate in promoting good government.

**We deny** that a Christian can fully discharge his duty to God apart from social, cultural, and political action aimed at influencing society for God and for human good.

**#42. We affirm** that the consummation of history is the final triumph of God over all death and evil and their consequences, and its ultimate goal is the manifestation of the glory of God.

**We deny** any view which embraces reincarnation, universalism, the ultimate overpowering of good by evil, the annihilation of man, or the elimination of a place of eternal punishment and separation from God.

### READING OR LISTENING FOR YOURSELF TO THE DOMINIONISTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

If there is any question about the validity of these observations, it would be good for each one of us to validate the observations made about the Dominionists by checking the links supplied below.

Any questions or comments—contact Bob Gray by email at [harvesttruthinfo@aol.com](mailto:harvesttruthinfo@aol.com)

### Links to interviews with leaders of the Dominionist / Christian Reconstructionist movement.

\***Rousas John Rushdoony** is the intellectual father of this movement. <http://forerunner.com/revolution/rush.html>

\*\***Dr. Jay Grimstead** appears to be a leader of the Coalition for Revival. <http://forerunner.com/revolution/grim.html>

General link on which others can be read and heard — <http://forerunner.com/revolution/revolution.html>

*For more detail on this subject, please listen to the discourse by Br. Mark Tribble, “Occupy Till I Come” Chicago, 2/26/2006 available at <http://harvesttruth.info/?password=love> Locate the .mp3 under “Audio Files” for 2006*