



raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2).”

The Apostle Paul’s life was to be imitated and so he encourages the godly, saying, “Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). The things Paul endured should give us, not only hope, but also a sober look at what he meant, when he said, “Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

Paul described his life “as ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; in pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (2 Corinthians 6:4-10).

The Apostle Paul, as all men, suffered, and rejoiced in his life. No matter what took place, he kept his focus on the things above. Therefore, he was able to say, “I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

If you have the same desire to serve the Lord, that which is required is that which was set forth by the Apostle Paul to the brethren in Thessalonica, saying, “For verily, when we were with you, we told you beforehand that we are to suffer affliction; even as it came to pass, and ye know” (1 Thessalonians 3:4).

Ross Triplett

## **Church Series: Authority**

### **I. Introduction to the Study:**

- A. 1 Cor. 2:10-16 - “have the mind of Christ”
- B. Matt. 16:18 – “I will build my church.”
- C. Matt. 11:28-30 – The Lord’s invitation
- D. 2 Thess. 2:13-15 – No greater calling
- E. Why the study?
  - 1. 1 Cor. 3:10-13 – “But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon.”
  - 2. Matt. 7:13-14 – Not just any ole way is acceptable, and/or “leadeth unto life.”

### **II. The Appeal:**

- A. Jn. 17:20 – The plan laid out
- B. Titus 2:15 – Obedience expected

### **III. Source of Authority**

- A. Jn. 16:13-15 – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- B. Jn. 17:17-20 – “believe on me through their word”
- C. Matt. 7:21-23 – Through obedience to the Father will access to the kingdom of heaven be provided.
- D. 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:16-17 – The scriptures are provided to establish God’s will unto every good work.
- E. Col. 3:17 - Man’s right to act
- F. Eph. 4:4-5 – Emphasis on “ONE”
- G. Titus 1:10-11; Gal. 1:6-10 – Beware.
- H. Rom. 12:2 – Prove.

---

### **Solomon Says**

My son, keep my words, And lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments and live; And my law as the apple of thine eye. Proverbs 7:1-2