

Jesus is Working on You Right Now

Titus 2:11-14 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

❖ Intro

- Paul is writing this letter to Titus
 - Titus is likely one of Paul's disciples
 - Titus is a pastor... He is a leader in the church
- Paul has assigned Titus with the task of appointing elders
- Paul also warns him of trouble makers who think they know God
- In chapter 2 He tells Titus how to instruct: Older men and women and younger men and women
- **Throughout these 4 verses:**
 - **We see instruction**
 - Ways we are to live
 - Things we are to turn away from
 - **We see the Why...**
 - Because of Jesus...
 - Then we are reminded as to what he did...
 - **Everything Hinges on the work of Jesus**
 - Because Jesus has appeared...
 - Because Jesus has brought salvation
 - Because Jesus is coming back
 - Because Jesus redeemed us
 - Because Jesus is purifying a people
 - **Therefore:**
 - We have to run away from worldly passions and ungodliness
 - And run toward a self controlled God like life

❖ Outline:

- 1) God's Grace Has Appeared
- 2) God's Grace Trains Us
- 3) God Grace is Coming Again
- 4) God Grace Gave Himself For Us

❖ God is a Masterful Renovator (We could go into a lot of detail...)

- **There are people that love to fix up old properties.**
 - They buy up on older run down property
 - And in their mind they can see what it can become.
- **This property may be atrocious**
 - Bathroom, Basement, foundation, bedrooms, kitchen
 - Front yard, back yard, driveway
- **But the Renovator has a plan....**
- **He buys the property**
 - He buys the property from its former owner
 - The owner that allowed it to be run down and almost inhabitable

➤ **After He buys it... He begins his work of Renovation**

- He may rip out all the old carpet
- Knock down some walls
- Take out some ugly lights
- Take out some cabinets
- Remove a bathtub
- Takes out some old weeds and bad grass

➤ **Then:**

- He puts new walls up, maybe some sheetrock
- Maybe a new ceiling
- Some different lights
- Puts in new floors
- New cabinets
- Bath tub
- Paints all the walls..

➤ **The process:**

- **Was not complete when He bought the home**
 - But He had a plan for the property
 - And a little sweat, and tears
 - Lots of long hours...
- **And then in the end...**
 - The master renovator has a house he can move into
 - A place he will call home

➤ **This is not the whole of what we see in these verses,**

- But it is a main theme
- **Jesus has redeemed us**
 - To transform us
 - To change us
 - Scripture tells us:
 - ◆ 2 Cor. 5:17 ^{“17} Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - ◆ Philippians 1:6 ^{“6} And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

❖ **God's Grace Has Appeared**

- ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

➤ **The grace of God has appeared**

- **Can We Substitutue God's Grace with Jesus here?**
- I think so...

➤ **Jesus has appeared.**

- Jesus brought salvation

➤ **Appeared**

- This word means... to give light.... Has illuminated

➤ **We could read this:**

- Jesus has given light...
- Paul is telling us that:
 - God's grace has been seen in Jesus...
 - Jesus has appeared and in His coming, He has given us grace

- **Past tense:**
 - Paul says, this has already been done... We are not waiting on it.
 - It had been accomplished

➤ **And it is a good thing...**

- Because we know... We were in darkness
- The whole world was in darkness...
- The bad thing about being in the dark is:
 - We have no idea where we are going
 - We can not see what we are doing
- **Example:**
 - Playing capture the flag...
 - Could not see the flag...
 - Could not see where we were
 - Except for that little bit of light
- **We were in a terrible spot:**
 - Most of the world was living against God
 - And they did not know who God was
 - We were in rebellion against the God who made us
- **Living in Darkness would lead us into Perdition**
 - It would lead us into separation from God in hell...
 - This is why Jesus coming was so important...
 - **Jesus said:**
 - ◆ John 12:46 ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
- **God did not have to send His grace...**
 - He is free to do as He chooses...
 - He did not sin against us... He did not rebel
 - We were in rebellion against the God of the universe
 - And we had broken his laws time and time again
 - **But... God is Kind and loving... So... Grace appeared**

➤ **Bringing salvation for all people**

- Jesus has come... He has appeared... His grace has not only been made visible
- But it has been demonstrated
- **God's grace has been shown:**
 - In that Jesus has died for us...
 - Jesus has shed His blood for us
 - Jesus was resurrected from the grave
- **God's grace has appeared...**
 - When it appeared, it brought salvation to all people....
 - God's grace did not just appear...
 - ◆ For everyone to see, and look at it...
 - ◆ It came and accomplished something

➤ **Bringing salvation**

- **This word here is an adjective**
 - Do we all understand what and adjective is?
 - ◆ I get confused often...
 - ◆ Example: The red Truck

- It describes the truck
- **The bringing of salvation is connected to God's grace**
 - And to all men...
 - It is the grace, that brings salvation
 - And it brings salvation to all people
- **All people**
 - So, this does not mean that all men gain salvation
 - But, here it is for all the world to see
 - Here the grace of God is offered for all men
 - Another reason I can not agree with Limited Atonement
 - ◆ For all of you Theology buffs
 - ◆ And those who understand Calvinism, etc...
- **Recap that:**
 - Ok... so here is the foundation that everything else stands on
 - Paul is telling Titus... Older men should act this way...
 - Older women should act this way and teach younger women
 - Younger men should act this way
 - If anyone is a slave, they should act this way...
 - **And the reason they should...**
 - Is because God's grace has appeared...
 - And with it Salvation is available to all people...
- **Grace is not finished...**

❖ **God's Grace Is Training Us**

- ¹² **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,**
- **Training us:**
 - Let me make a point: Let me fight against the idea of perfection when we are saved
 - ◆ There is no doubt we will be different...
 - ◆ But we will not be what we are going to be until we are trained
 - ◆ The fact that we must be trained... means we are a work in progress
 - **Training**
 - Simply means to instruct, and discipline and to teach
 - **Training is tough usually**
 - ◆ Take an type of training:
 - Training for a new job, a new career
 - Training to get your body in condition for an event
 - ◆ **When you train**
 - You must endure hours of teaching time
 - Your mind is tested
 - Sometimes you undergo hours of physical training.
 - **Who trains?**
 - ◆ Soldiers, Life Guards, Electricians, Plumbers
 - ◆ Athletes
 - ◆ Mountain climbers
 - ◆ Marathon runners
 - **So, God's Grace bring us salvation...**
 - And it also trains us

- Praise God this morning for his discipline and instruction...
- **Now, Paul is going to add a little detail as to how we are being trained**
 - He does not just say we are being trained...
 - He explains it...
- **Renounce Ungodliness**
 - Ungodliness is simply
 - Wrong doing... doing what God has said not to do
 - Adam and Eve practiced ungodliness when they took of the fruit in the garden
 - That was the first example of man being ungodly
 - He said, do not take, and they took
 - **I like to think of it as:**
 - Living in a way that is contrary to God's moral character
- **Renounce Worldly Passions**
 - **Worldly passions are**
 - Earthly things... man made things... things that will perish
 - **Worldly passions**
 - Simply means seeking after the things of this world.
 - We have worldly passion when we:
 - ◆ Seek riches in this world
 - ◆ Seek the fame of this world
 - ◆ Seek the sexual gratification the world is offering (in adultery, and pornography and homosexual relationships)
 - ◆ Seek the pleasures of this world (food, entertainment, laziness, and drugs)
- **When we are in training we are called to renounce those things**
 - Ungodliness and worldly passions
- **Renounce:**
 - One commentator put it this way: ““The true learning of heaven must begin with the *unlearning* and laying *off* of all which stands in the way of the development of the new man.”
 - **Renounce:**
 - To disown, to deny, to forsake, to refuse to follow
 - **Example:**
 - **People renounce citizenships**
 - ◆ If they no longer want to be a part of their country
 - ◆ Maybe they do not like what their country stands for
 - **Many people have renounced their U.S. citizenship...**
 - ◆ Often it is because they do not want to pay taxes here
 - **This is a great example:**
 - ◆ We are called to renounce our citizenship with this world.
 - ◆ **James 4:4 ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**
 - **Therefore:**
 - **We are called to “Refuse to Follow” the ways that are opposed to God**
- **So Paul states that the training is done in two ways**
 - **Both positively and negatively**
 - We get rid of some things
 - We start doing other things.

- **An example is in training our body for health**
 - We get rid of the sugar, and all the bread, the processed junk we eat, the tobacco, drugs, too much alcohol
 - And we add healthy foods
 - ◆ We add walking or jogging and exercise
 - **He has stated what we are to renounce...**
 - Now He states how we are to live
 - **To Live Lives that are:**
 - **Self Controlled and Godly**
 - Remember, it is God's grace that is training us. So we owe Him all the glory
 - **At the same time, We must put in the effort...**
 - We must put in the effort God has given us if we want to grow
 - God is responsible for any abilities we have...
 - But, He wants us to work... he wants us to put in the effort
 - He gives us all the tools we need...
 - **Live Self Controlled and Live Godly**
 - These two things are opposed to ungodliness and worldly passions
 - **Self Controlled means we are to live moderately...**
 - ◆ In moderation...
 - ◆ Under control
 - ◆ According to good sense...
 - You have heard people say of those that get mixed up in the wrong things...
 - That boy ain't got no sense!
 - I have been that boy, sometimes still am...
 - ◆ **Being self controlled is in opposition to worldly passions...**
 - **It means we control ourselves and seek money for God's glory**
 - And we are generous
 - It means we are humble and have no need to brag and make a name for ourselves
 - **I means we control ourselves in the sexual area**
 - We stay away from pornography
 - We stay away from relations with another person before marriage
 - We stay away from other relationships besides our spouse
 - It means we control how much food, or drink we consume
 - It means we stay away from drugs that can harm us
 - ◆ **Godly**
 - It means upright...
 - It is the opposite of ungodly...
 - Live like Jesus lived... Do the things Jesus did or would do
- **When: Presently**
 - In this present age
 - We are being worked on right now...
 - We do not have to wait until the end...
 - Our training is ongoing
- **Are you going through training?**
 - Ask yourself that question
 - Because it could be the key that opens your mind to the knowledge of your own salvation
 - If there is no training going on...
 - You are not on the team...

- How hard are you training?
 - Are you at it daily, or are you a lazy recruit
 - Are you sitting in the bunks playing cards, while all the other soldiers
 - Are running, doing pushups, learning to shoot right, digging trenches together and giving it their all?

❖ God's Grace is Coming

- ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
- **Our Blessed Hope**
 - The Appearing of:
 - The glory of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- **Here is Something to help us in our training...**
 - Sometimes training is tough... it is grueling... We are ready for it to be over...
 - We say, as soon as I get done with this training, I am going to sit down and relax...
- **Paul says we do this...**
 - As we wait... As we wait for our Hope...
- **Our Hope is the coming of Jesus.**
 - When times get tough
 - When things are hard and rough
 - We fix our eyes on Jesus
 - Who is the author and finisher of our faith
- **We are to pray for His coming**
 - John says in **Revelation 22:20** "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"
- **When He comes He Will Give us Rest**
 - He will take away all the pain and hardships and struggles
 - So, when it gets tough... Focus on His promise to return...
 - He will return as assuredly as He came the First time...

❖ God's Grace Gave Himself For Us

- ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- **Here Again... We see that Jesus came to work a work in us**
 - He came, not just to save us, but to work a work in us
 - We again see here that we are a work in progress
- **Pauls says He gave himself for us for a reason**
 - And that reason was not for us to stay the same
 - It was not for us to get worse or remain in our sins...
 - We do not join a book club
 - To not read any books
 - We don't go on a fishing trip
 - And not bring our fishing pole and attempt to catch fish
- **Gave Himself for us to:**
 - **He Gave: Means He endured the loss of something so someone else could have**
 - Jesus gave His life...
 - He came to the earth and lived and He died on the cross for us... for a reason
 - His death was not in vain
 - The reason is here:
- **Redemption and Purification**

- **Redeem us from all lawlessness**
 - Redeem: Means to liberate, by paying a ransom...
 - We were enslaved to sin and death...
 - Jesus came and liberated us...
 - Here we see Paul say that we were redeemed from Lawlessness
 - ◆ Galatians 3:13 ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us
- **Lawlessness**
 - Living against the laws of God... Against the ways of God
 - We could live no other way
 - Now Jesus has redeemed us from that...
 - So now, we can walk in the ways of God
 - There is no walking in the ways of God outside of knowing Jesus!
- **Purify for himself a people**
 - Purify: To make us clean, get rid of the dirt
 - Not only does He purify us...
 - ◆ Meaning we are completely clean in the eyes of God...
 - ◆ **He does this to make us a people for himself...**
 - We are in the possession of Jesus... We are His people...
 - **1 Peter 2:9 ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**
- **Past Tense...**
 - Both of these words here...
 - **Redeem and Purify...**
 - ◆ Are in the Past tense... It has already been done
 - ◆ He has already redeemed us
 - ◆ He has already purified us...
 - **Yes, we are still in training... We are still growing and working...**
 - ◆ That is our practice and our testing...
 - ◆ Our position with God is one where we are:
 - Redeemed and purified
- **A People Zealous for Good Works**
 - Where the Rubber Meets the road
 - 8 Times in this book Paul says something about good works...
 - Sometimes, He just throws it in there to remind Titus to remind people...
 - **Even in his closing**
 - Titus 3:14 ¹⁴ And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.
 - **We are called to good works**
 - Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 - **This is who we will be**
 - It is the proof of our faith...
 - It does not save us, it simply proves we are in the faith...
 - Paul makes that clear:
 - ◆ Titus 3:5 ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

❖ **Invitation**

- Have you received the grace of God
- Are you training?
- How is it going?