

## Be Desperate to Encounter God

Titus 2:9-15 <sup>9</sup> Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

### ❖ Introduction

- **Explain my personal journey so far...**
  - Slow at first... and a work in progress...
  - But God is working in me
  - And my heart burns to SHAKE you and Wake you to what is possible
- **2 Parts of the Message**
  - 1) **The Who We** (Christians) are to be and **The Why We** ought to be that Way
  - 2) 7 General Observations of our Current State and the Means to Return to God

Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith,

### ❖ 1) Be like Slaves

- **Before this verse**
  - Paul is giving instruction on how Christians should live out their lives...
    - He talks to me and women and young men
- **Paul's Exhortation to Slaves...**
  - There have been slaves throughout history, even unto this day.
  - The one thing we know about them, is that they were considered someone else's property.
  - Not all slavery is like what we saw in America...
    - Some was better, much better, some worse.
    - Some were enslaved by their own actions,
    - Others captured
- **Paul's Instruction to Christian Slaves...**
  - **Submissive in Everything**
    - Be under the control of their master in all things...
    - To place themselves underneath their master
  - **Well-Pleasing**
    - Just as the word says.... They are to bring pleasure to their master in their actions...
    - The good servant tries to please His master
  - **Not Argumentative**
    - To speak against... or to be contradictory...
    - To be in opposition
  - **Not Pilfering**
    - To keep back something that belongs to the master....
    - To embezzle
  - **Showing All Good Faith**

- Essentially being trustworthy...
- **We Should be Slaves to God...**
  - **Rom. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1**
    - These guys all introduce themselves as “servants” of Jesus Christ...
    - Using the same greek word that is used for slaves...
    - Dulous... Same word, just in one place translated as slave, and the other as servant...
  - **Matthew 20:27<sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,**
    - Jesus calls us to be slaves of each other, and this is built on the premise that we are first His servants....

so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

## ❖ 2) You Should be Clothed with Christ

- **Be Clothed in Christlikeness**
  - Called to be like Christ.... And Look like Christ
  - So that others may see your godliness...
  - And come to God...
- **The Purpose Here**
  - Was for the slaves to live in a godly manner...
  - So their masters... who at that time mostly saw Christianity as an oddity
  - And did not like this “religion”
- **Godliness leads men to God**
  - Seeing that their Christian slaves were more faithful
  - And did their work better, and did not fight back, but they served...
  - It would lead them to Christ

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

## ❖ 3) God’s Grace Brings Salvation (LOGIC LESSON)

- **God’s Favor to us.... Even though We:**
  - Had no money to buy it
  - Were not a righteous enough person to earn it
  - We did nothing that could earn us favor with god
- **God’s favor on His people**
  - Has not been earned by “these” people
- **God’s Favor on His people was earned by:**
  - His Son....
  - Jesus earned God’s grace on Us
- **Jesus’ Earning of God’s Favor brings salvation....**
  - We are Saved from our sins... and ultimate and inevitable destruction in Hell...
  - By the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

<sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

## ❖ 4) God’s Grace is Training us to: (Sanctification)

- **Renounce ungodliness**
  - Renounce means... to Deny... or Just say no

- To Disown
- We are to Disown Ungodliness...
  - Once we Owned it, and it was a part of who we were....
  - But No longer...
- We Renounce: Ungodly Anger, Lusty and perverted thoughts, laziness, greed, and gossip
- (As You Fast... Ask God to reveal any ungodliness in your life)
- **Worldly Passions**
  - This list could go on and on...
    - But to sum it up... Worldly Passions, would be Passions that are in opposition to Godly Passions...
  - To be Passionate.... Longing for something... Wanting it badly, The passion for it makes you put in the time for these things...
  - Renounce Wordly passions...
    - (As you Pray and Fast.... As God to reveal any worldly passions you may have)
- **Live self Controlled**
  - Under control
- **Upright**
  - Righteous
- **Godly lives**
  - God-like likes... mimic God...
  - How do we do that?
  - Look to Jesus.... Jesus is God...
    - He came to this earth to reveal Himself to Us...
    - Study the life of Jesus to learn what being godly looks like... and then do that

<sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

#### ❖ 5) God's Grace Brings us Hope

- **Blessed hope**
- **The Appearing of:**
  - The glory of
  - Our Great God
  - And Savior
  - Jesus Christ
- **We are living in waiting of His Return**
  - Do you live like this...
  - With this expectation...

<sup>14</sup> 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.

#### ❖ 6) God's Grace Redeemed and Purified Us

- **Redeemed us from**
  - Lawlessness
- **Purify a People**
- **For Himself (His own possession)**
- **The Mark of these people is:**
  - They are zealous for good works...

- They are passionate and have a longing to do good things...
- They want to make a positive difference in the world around them...
- **NOTICE: They want to do this for the glory of God...**
  - So that others will see their good deeds and glorify their father in heaven
  - They point out that their good works are done through the Grace of Jesus Christ...
  - Their good works point others to Jesus... not to themselves or some organization

<sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

❖ **7) We Should Be A Witness to God's Grace**

- Be a Witness and let no one disregard you...
  - Don't worry about what others might say...

❖ **The Question: ARE WE LIKE THIS?**

- **Do we do these Things? Are We thankful, and praising God for What He Has Done**
  - Although in humility we would say, we could never be perfect in these things
- Is it a Yes (I pray that it is).....Is it a Kinda..... Is it a Resounding NO!

**7 OBSERVATIONS of our Current Status and the Means to Return to God:**

❖ **1) We have Gone Away..... Oh How We have Gone Away**

- We are not a praying people!
- (Bring forth fruits of Repentance... Repenting of prayerlessness means to pray)
- We Do not Seek God... and Have not been passionate for His name...
- **We are passionate about:**
  - Ourselves though...
  - We think a lot about what is good and fun and enjoyable to us...
  - What WE need

❖ **2) We are Slaves to Everything But God**

- **What are you a slave to...**
  - TV... Some Drug... some habit... sex... sleep.... money... fame... etc....
- **1 Peter 2:11 <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.**
- **Waging a War Against Your Soul**
  - Your World is upside down, my brother and sister Christians...
  - Because we are not abstaining from the passions of the flesh...
  - They are killing your soul
  - There is a great War within you...
    - And you are being torn apart...

❖ **3) We Have Caused God to become Indignant toward us**

- **God becomes indignant toward His people when they are not walking with Him.....**
  - Very Angry With Us
  - Just like a good earthly Father becomes angry when his children are:
    - Disrespectful
    - Or Act Spoiled

- Micah 7:9 <sup>9</sup> I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.
  - We will bear it because we have sinned....
  - But there is hope... God will bring us out to the light...

#### ❖ 4) We Should Recognize our Frailty

- **We are All so very weak...**
  - 2 Corinthians 12:9 <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- **Some of us Don’t Even Want to Try Anymore...**
  - Just roll over and die
  - Roll over and let ourselves fall into the traps and snares of Sin
  - And its greivous and unrelenting consequences
- **God knows this and still loves you...**
  - He saved you when you were in worse condition, not even knowing Him...
    - How much more does He save you even now...
  - Romans 5:10 <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

#### ❖ 5) We Need to Be Desperate for God to move in Us...

- **Remember these things... (LOGIC LESSON)**
  - **1) To be pleasing to God We must have Faith....**
    - Hebrews 11:6 <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
  - **2) We do not have because we do not ask**
    - James 4:2 “you do not have because you do not ask”
  - **3) Draw Near to God and He will draw near to You...**
    - James 4:8-10 <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
  - **4) We Don’t Do these things because we are not Trusting Him**
- **How desperate are you to see God moving in your life...**
  - **Please Want God....**
    - Please Seek God....
    - Seek Him with your Whole heart..
      - ◆ Jeremiah 29:13 <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
    - Remember Ephesus... Left their first love.... Return to Him...

#### ❖ 6) Our prescription is quite easy...

- **1) Repentance....We Must Return to God**
  - Proverbs 28:13 <sup>13</sup> Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 <sup>14</sup> if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- **My People Called By My Name**
  - Christians
- **Pray**
  - Praying to the One True God
- **Seek My Face**
  - Seeking to know Him...
  - To see Him as He is...
  - In truth...
  - Seeking His will in their lives
- **Turn from their Wicked Ways**
  - Admit their sin is wrong
  - Remove it from their life.... Their homes
- **I will forgive their Sin and Heal their Land...**
  - Forgiveness of sin comes in...
    - ◆ Isn't our sin already forgiven,....
      - Yes...
      - But... (It causes us to lose our closeness to God, while on this earth)
  - Heals You... (Your Land is YOU.....)
    - ◆ In a spiritual sense...
    - ◆ You need to be healed...
  - **1 John 1. 9<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

➤ **2) Turn to God in Prayer....**

- Seek His will in His Word....
- Do this consistently...
- And wait for God to break you hard heart and to soften it...
  - It may take some time to Soften your heart...
  - It may take some time... let it take all year if it must... but seek him daily until He answers You...

❖ **7) Our FASTING Should be for Growing closer to God....**

➤ **Why are we fasting?**

- Because others are...
- Because we want to try it....

➤ **Or because we are tired of the status quo....**

- Wanting God to **be glorified** in our lives in all things...
  - (Be still and Know here... stop and pray here.... ) Meditate on this...

➤ **Our Fasting Should Be Because We Want to Please God**

- And We Want to be Like Him
- And We Want to See Him Move and let us see Him Glorify His Name (make it great)

❖ **Application: Great Revival in Early 1900s**

➤ **Evan Roberts Sermon:**

- 1) You must put away any unconfessed sin.
- 2) You must put away any doubtful habit.
- 3) You must obey the Holy Spirit promptly.
- 4) You must confess Christ publicly.