



# What is Your Doctrine: Part 2

*Titus 2:9-15*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Bill & Marie Eddy to share an update.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 2:9-15 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>9</sup> Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

<sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

## APPLICATION

Matthew 23:25-26 (NKJV) 25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 “Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Last week, we walked through the first portion of Titus 2, looking at the importance of doctrine and a lifestyle that adorns the gospel with beauty. Paul is very clear that sound doctrine should be directly attached to sound living. By God's grace, how we live our lives as older and younger men, older and younger women, husbands and wives will reflect whether or not we truly believe the things we proclaim about Christ.

This plays into where we find ourselves today. We will learn that God's grace transforms us. If our lives and hearts do not change, it's questionable if we have experienced the transformative power of God's grace in Christ.

We left off with Paul's practical instructions to bondservants in verse 9.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 2:9-10 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>9</sup> Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

<sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

## APPLICATION

In Paul's time, within the Greco-Roman culture, slavery significantly differed from how we envision it today. I'm not saying it was morally acceptable or ideal, but it was different than the 18th-century slavery of America. Roman slavery was not racially motivated and typically came as a result of two scenarios. The first was war. Soldiers captured from opposing armies were often turned into slaves rather than killed. The second scenario was debt. If you owed someone money you couldn't pay, you didn't file for bankruptcy to escape your commitment. You would become an indentured slave to essentially work for the family until you were free of debt.

- Some suggest that Paul is somehow promoting the idea of slavery. This couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, the principles of the gospel presented by Paul were the seeds of the abolition of slavery altogether. In Christ, there is neither slave nor free. Two Christians were no longer slaves and masters but brethren, equal at the foot of the cross. The gospel would have never allowed for a Christian master to treat a slave abusively but rather with the dignity of a fellow believer and family member in Christ.
- But if there were slaves under these conditions, Paul gave them counsel on how to represent Christ well within their state of servitude.

And what was true of servants in Rome, in many ways, can be true of employees today. Our desire to be a godly example starts at work! 2:9

- **Obedient and well-pleasing in all things** - This certainly doesn't mean we obey our bosses in any way that causes us to dishonor Christ. No Christian should cheat anyone, manipulate figures, or have to embrace cultural ungodliness simply because their employer is pressuring them to do so. Our human obedience to anyone is always limited by our loyalty to God's truth.
  - However, there should be a general attitude that we want our employers to see Christ in us. This means we go above and beyond that call of duty, we display honesty and integrity in our work, and we are diligent and trustworthy. We pursue excellence because we want our employers to see us as a blessing to the company, not a burden.
  - Joseph in Potiphar's house and Pharaoh's palace are beautiful examples. His fear of the Lord, wisdom, and diligence allowed him to rise through the ranks, even in a pagan environment. It didn't prevent him from being falsely accused and convicted, but his integrity carried him through every false accusation to bring him to the second highest place of authority in all the land.

- **“Not answering back...”** Don’t be a smart aleck or insubordinate. Respect authority; don’t buck it...
- **“Not pilfering...”**- taking unlawful advantage. 2021 statistics show that American businesses lost three times as much to employee theft as they did to shoplifting. One out of eleven Americans are guilty of shoplifting, while three out of four have stolen from their employer. Just because you’re not paid what you think you deserve doesn’t entitle you to self-appointed perks and favors.
  - *Taking what doesn’t belong to you is stealing.* Instead, employees should 2:10 **“show all good fidelity...”** They should be honest and trustworthy. 2:10 **“That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”** I love this idea, that we can 2:10 *“adorn the doctrine”* of God’s truth. We can give the Gospel color, and beauty, and charisma by living lives transformed by Jesus.

**Next, Paul explains the main reason why we should desire to live transformed lives within our daily activities and roles.**

- **Why do we want to be men of integrity, self-control, and sober-mindedness? Who do we want to be, women of reverence, loving mothers and wives? Why do we want to be faithful husbands? Why do we want to be employees that can be trusted?**

We see the reason expressed in three points this morning:

- 1. Our Present Responsibility**
- 2. Our Future Reality**
- 3. Our Past Redemption**

## 1 Our Present Responsibility

### BIBLE PASSAGE

## Titus 2:11 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

## APPLICATION

If you've ever taken a road trip with young children (or older ones, for that matter), you may have experienced the proverbial **"Are we there yet?"** This arises from boredom or from a desire to be at the destination but holding disdain for the journey. How weird would it be if the opposite was true? What if your kids were so excited about the car ride that they lost excitement about the destination? What's the middle ground? Make the car ride as pleasant and as meaningful as possible. Listen to stories and music, play games, have conversations, avoid accidents, get good snacks, etc. **Don't fall too much in love with the car while taking advantage of the necessary trip.**

- We are a people on our way to eternal life that is beyond what any eye has seen, ear heard, or has entered into the minds of men. (Anyone glad about that?)
- In the present, we are travelers, sojourners, and pilgrims in a temporary vehicle called life. While we live, we have a responsibility for the kind of journey we take. We should be warned not to fall in love with the journey or become too comfortable in this world and in these bodies, for this is only our temporary stopping place. Conversely, we must not take the journey for granted or abandon our responsibilities while we travel. Much can be done, experienced, and gleaned from this temporary life.

What makes this life journey worth living is found in verse 11: ***For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men...***

- When Paul speaks of God's grace, he refers to God's ***unmerited*** and ***undeserved*** favor toward sinners. In other words, mankind didn't arrive at some spiritual plane or moral high ground that triggered a response from God. In fact, the Bible is clear that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
- This Grace is referring to the appearing of Jesus Christ. The common grace of God reveals that God is gracious and patient with all human kind. But God's saving Grace is presented in the person of Jesus Christ, for it is Jesus Christ that brings salvation.
  - Peter states in Acts 4 - **[Act 4:12 NKJV] 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**
- This grace, bringing salvation, coming in the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, has appeared to ALL men. In other words, there are no qualifiers for the type of people that have access to this saving grace.

- All men and women, regardless of culture, ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, or any other qualifying factors, have been welcomed into the saving grace of God.
- **Not only does this grace offer us salvation from the eternal consequences of our sin, it also teaches us how to be free from the temporal grip of sin in this life.**

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 2:12 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

## QUOTE

**“ Grace not only SAVES us, it also SANCTIFIES us.**

## APPLICATION

Paul was frequently battling the idea in some that, "If I'm saved by grace, and I can't add anything by my works to merit God's favor, and it's faith alone that justifies me, then does it really matter how I practically live my life?" It's summed up in the question that Paul addresses in Romans,

**[Rom 6:1-2 NKJV] 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

***It's in this Spirit that Paul reminds Titus and the church in Crete that the same grace that appeared to them unto salvation also is teaching them about the kind of life that is acceptable and befitting for those who are touched and transformed by God's grace.***

*In other words, there is a biblical expectation that those who raise their hands and say, "I've been touched by God's grace. It's all about grace baby!" prove the power of God's grace through the way they live.*

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## ILLUSTRATION

Growing up, my dad did custom paint and autobody work. He had a reputation in town as being among the best for hot rod flame, pinstriping and custom work. I've seen him work some miracles on vehicles that looked fairly hopeless. We have such a miracle worker in our church. Terry Mace has quite a reputation for excellent bodywork.

Imagine you take your old beater over to Terry. It's full of rust, has been in 3 accidents, and is dented and scratched. Terry looks and says, "Bring it over. I'll fix it for free (That's not something he's currently offering to you all). That's grace. You go around telling everyone, "Man, Terry fixed up my car for free; it's amazing." But what if you pull into church and your car is still just a beat up, rusted and ugly as the before you met Terry?

**Well, I can only draw one of two conclusions:** Either Terry is a liar and doesn't do good work, or you talked a lot about His services by never took your car to the shop!

Well, God's grace operates in two ways. It presents us totally faultless as a completed project before God the Father, but it also repairs us and sets us apart while we live on this earth. But if you're preaching grace, but nothing in your life reflects holiness, it's not because God isn't capable; it's because your life is not surrendered.

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## APPLICATION

We are told that Grace is a teacher. It teaches us two lessons: What we are to do and what we are not to do.

- First is what we must put off: Deny ungodliness and world lusts.
- Ungodliness - things that are contrary to Who God is and what He's revealed.
- Worldly lusts - not just sexual lust. All the allurements of the temporal world that desire and demand our worship.
- Second, how we are to live: righteously, soberly and godly.

Here's the picture: you can't live righteously, soberly, and godly if you're not denying ungodliness and worldly lust. The first is required for the second. If your roots are in the world, your fruit won't reflect the kingdom.

#### QUOTE

**“Moral purity is not a condition FOR salvation, but it is a product OF salvation.”**

Pastor Josh

#### APPLICATION

**In this present age:** Living a life set apart for the Lord is required in the here and now, but what motivates us is what's ahead of us in the age to come.

- Christians live in the present age but do not live according to the present age.
- On the contrary, Paul calls us not to be conformed to the world (Romans 12:1), to be delivered from this evil age (Gal 1:4), and not to live according to its standards or godless philosophies.



## 2 Our Future Reality

### BIBLE PASSAGE

## Titus 2:13 (NKJV - New King James Version)

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

### APPLICATION

The word appearing is the same word he uses in verse 11 about the Grace of God appearing to all men. We could see this as two bookends:

- ***The grace of God appeared in Jesus' first coming, and the glory of God will appear in Jesus' appearing when he comes to take His people to be with Him.***

There are four weeks of sermon material packed in verse 13. But here's the context: Part of our urgency in how we live according to the righteousness of God now is because we are actively awaiting His imminent glorious appearing.

1.) Notice the verb, the active imperative: ***LOOKING. The Christian will have trouble living right if they aren't looking up. LOOKING - to receive something that was promised - there is confidence.***

- Some have suggested that the view of the imminent rapture of the church is unhealthy because it causes Christians to be apathetic toward their worldly responsibilities. But Paul teaches us the opposite. If we really believe Christ could appear at any time, we should make the most of every moment, living with eyes wide open, pursuing Christlikeness, loving, and serving as though heaven may literally be around the corner.

2.) What we are looking for is considered "Our Blessed Hope."

- Our happy expectation.
- What excited you the most? What are you hoping for, expecting, and living for that pushes you on from day to day?
- Is there any greater hope for the believer than the day we will be transformed into glorious bodies, prepared for eternity, and forever be with the Lord?

**[1Co 15:51-55 NKJV] 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?"**

#### GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR

This glorious appearance is not the arrival of an ordinary man.

- The Greek structure is clear: Paul refers to Jesus, the Messiah, as our great God and Savior.
- It's possible that no other passages are so definitively clear about Jesus's divine nature.

## 3 Our Past Redemption

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

Titus 2:14 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>14</sup> 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.

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## APPLICATION

I want to talk briefly about living in the past. Paul the Apostle made a very important statement in Philippians.

**[Phi 3:13-14 NKJV] 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

Paul believed that the Christian life must be one that is always moving forward. He recognized the danger of getting stuck in YOUR past.

- **Paul would let go of His past failures** - persecuting the church, being insolent, arrogant, and self-righteous.
- Paul would let go of His past achievements and successes - Circumcised the 8th day, tribe of Benjamin, Pharisee of Pharisees, perfect concerning the law... He would count all those things as rubbish and as loss for the excellency of gaining Christ.

## QUOTE

**“Yesterday’s victories won’t overcome tomorrow’s battles, and yesterday’s failures don’t have to keep you from tomorrow’s victories.”**

Pastor Josh

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## APPLICATION

***But this is all possible because of one past event. When it relates to our mistakes and victories, we shouldn't live in the past, but when it relates to Jesus' victory, our future is secured by Jesus' past.***

In other words, the one past event that we should never let go of is the moment when Jesus gave himself for us so that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify us as His own special people.

**[1Co 6:9-11 NKJV] 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

**There's an old adage; I'm not sure of its original source. It tells the story of a farmer walking down a road and seeing a turtle on top of a post. Every time he saw a turtle balanced on the top of a post, he knew someone else put it there because there was no possible way the turtle made it there on its own.**

But not only is Jesus coming in the future to rescue us from judgment, but he has already come to redeem us from our sins and rebellion against him.

- He did this by giving himself for us on the cross.
- Our lawless deeds declared us guilty before His holy nature. But He redeemed us, purchasing us back from our slavery to sin and the power of death with His own invaluable life.
- But He didn't just purchase our freedom; He saved us FROM sin, but He also saved us TO purpose... purified and zealous for every good work.

### **Zealous - to be heated; boiling over.**

When it comes to our passions, we should be bursting at the seams to serve the Savior who has forgiven, redeemed, purified, and set us apart.

**BIBLE PASSAGE****Titus 2:15 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>15</sup> Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

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**APPLICATION**

Preaching is an interesting calling. People tend to love you when you tell them things that inspire and motivate them. They enjoy discovering and learning new information.

- It can also be true that people get offended easily when you step on their idols, or imply that they may need to change or grow... that's human pride.
  - Paul wanted Titus to know that his main loyalty was to the truth and to the God who called him. The church's highest authority is the Word of God, but Jesus also gives people a level of authority to communicate that word to His people.
  - This is why
-