

While We Wait
Titus 2:11-14

There are 2 KINDS of WAITING. The waiting of *impatience and the waiting of expectancy*.

- Impatience waiting is an INCONVENIENCE.
- Expectancy waiting is different. It is hopeful
 - ★ like a child waiting for Christmas
 - ★ or like someone waiting for something special to arrive in the mail
 - ★ or like waiting for someone special to arrive

The waiting of Titus 2:13 is the waiting of EXPECTANCY!

(Titus 2:11-14, NIV) *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."*

The events of 2008 have drastically changed our world

- financial crisis
- World wide globalization (finances, politics)
- growing danger in middle east (nuclear Iran)
- dramatic change of political power in the US
- Acceleration of moral decline in the US

World events FIT THE PATTERN of things that will be in place during the Tribulation. We have been reminded more than ever before that the Lord could return at any moment!

WE ARE WAITING for JESUS to RETURN, ***But so were First Century Christians!*** Granted, we know today much that they were not aware of 2,000 years ago, but nonetheless, we are waiting, just like they were.

Titus 2:11-14 teaches us **How to live in light of Christ's return**

"There are few passages in the New Testament which so beautifully and vividly point us to the transforming power of both the first and second epiphanies (appearances) of Christ as does this passage." (Hampton Keathley, "The Foundation, Means and Motivation for Godly Behavior," www.Bible.org)

2:13 cannot be removed from the context. Verses 11-14 form one long sentence, with

the grace of God as the main subject. (Titus 2:11-14) *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."*

Let's do a little elementary English syntax.

SUBJECT: Grace of God

VERB: Appeared (epiphany)

- The word means a "shining of light"
- it is used of the sun and stars (Acts 27:20)

Here's what the text is saying: **If we want to know how to live in light of Christ's return, we need to learn something about God's GRACE**

I. **God's Grace is ABUNDANT. Titus 2:11**

- The APPEARING here is the appearing of Jesus Christ!
 1. "Epiphany"
 2. It's an aorist verb, emphasizing a one time action
 3. This is speaking of the first advent of Christ!
 4. (John 1:14-17) *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."*
 5. (2 Timothy 1:8-10) *"So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."*
- It is Jesus who offers God's Grace to the entire world
- Note the Translation differences in this text:
 1. **NASB** *"For the grace of God **has appeared**, bringing salvation to all men,"*

2. **NIV, KJV** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."
3. The NASB brings out more clearly the fact that it is Jesus who has appeared, and that his appearing brings salvation to all men. More specifically, salvation is available to all men because Jesus came offering eternal life to all who believe.
 - a. This does not mean that all are automatically saved (universalism).
 - b. It means that salvation is available for all humanity.

II. **God's Grace is LIFE CHANGING. Titus 2:12**

Are you **LEARNING** to live the Christian life?

- If you live by **RULES**, you will become a Pharisee
- If you live by **KNOWLEDGE**, you will be become a Scribe
- We are to live by **GRACE!**
- Notice that God's grace **TEACHES US**. Greek **παιδεύω**
 1. It is in the present tense which is the tense of continuous or ongoing action.
 2. This word emphasizes the relationship of a disciple and a teacher
 3. The Greek lexicon defines this verb, "To correct, discipline us - lead us to something" (BAGD)
 4. There is no greater teacher than the Grace of God!
- **NEGATIVELY-** *there is an instruction for us to follow. "To say no to ungodliness and worldly passions"*
 1. the Greek words are παιδεύουσα ἡμς, ἵνα ἀρνησάμενοι
 - a. **ἵνα** is a common preposition and means "For the purpose of"
 - b. **Ungodliness** = ἀσέβειαν. This word is used in **(Romans 1:18)** "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the **godlessness** and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,"
 - c. **Worldly passions** = τὰς κοσμικὰς ἐπιθυμίας
 - d. The question for us is, "how do we say no to ungodliness and the passions of the world? The answer: by God's Grace! We cannot deny the world, the flesh or the devil through our own power or strength. Only God can supply what we need for spiritual victory.
- Let's get back to our text. There is also a **POSITIVE** dimension to the power of God's grace.
 1. The verb "to live" is a subjunctive verb. This is the mood of possibility or potential. Literally, we could translate this "*that we*

might live.”

2. KJV “*we should live soberly, righteously and godly*”
3. NAS “*to live sensibly, righteously and godly*”
4. NIV “*to live self controlled, upright and godly lives*”

5. **How** should we live?
 - a. “Self controlled” (“filled with the Spirit”)
 - b. “Upright”
 - c. “Godly”

6. **When** are we called to live this way?: “*In this present age*”

III. **God’s Grace is HOPE PRODUCING. Titus 2:13**

- Here the condition is given. This kind of living is done *While we wait*. In other words, the emphasis is not only on the living, but on what we anticipate! We are waiting for The BLESSED HOPE. The Glorious appearing is the blessed hope! We should live self controlled, upright and godly lives in light of the soon return of Jesus!
- Hope is needed most, **when things are the worst!**
- Let’s **integrate** what we have studied in ROMANS. **Romans 8:22-25**
 1. Teaches that there will be deliverance from our mortal bodies
 2. Deliverance from our sinful natures
 3. Deliverance from the hardships of life

IV. **God’s Grace is GUARANTEED EFFECTIVE. Titus 2:14**

- Theologically, we refer to this as the “Perseverance of the Saints”
- This means that God will accomplish what he has begun
- (Titus 2:14) “*who gave himself for us to redeem (λυτρόω - aor mid subj. -) us from all wickedness and to purify (καθαρίζω - aor act subj.) for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*” The tense used here for these two verbs emphasizes that God himself will do the redeeming (middle voice), and that the action is looked at as completed (aorist tense). We can say with confidence that God himself will do this. His promised redemption is guaranteed effective!

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH....

What are we waiting for? *The glorious appearing!*

What are we doing **while we are waiting?**

Illus - People do different things while waiting. ILLUS - the AIRPORT

- some read
- some sleep
- some work

- some are idle

FBC we are waiting

NEGATIVELY - (ungodliness and worldly passions)

POSITIVELY - (self-controlled, upright and godly lives)

- Toward the LORD
- Toward ONE ANOTHER
- Toward THE LOST

We all need to SHARE THE GOSPEL like we REALLY BELIEVE that people are going to HELL

We all need to fall deeper in love with our SAVIOR

We all need to be PATIENT and LOVING toward one another