

Sermon Discussion 17 October 2021

Read Titus 2:11-15

Dig Deeper

In the Greek, “has appeared” (v.11) stands emphatically at the beginning, stressing the manifestation of grace as a historical reality. The verb “**epephane**,” from which we derive our word “*epiphany*,” means “*to become visible, make an appearance*,” and conveys the image of grace suddenly breaking in on our moral darkness, like the rising sun. (It is used of the sun in Acts 27:20.)

In v. 13, both “blessed hope” and “glorious appearing” suggest that Paul was viewing one event as having two aspects. The blessed hope is the glorious appearing of our Saviour. In the New Testament, hope often does not indicate merely what is wished for but **what is assured**.

It seems that v. 14 is communicating Christ’s purpose was also to purify a people for Himself who are eager to do what is right and good. It’s like when a royal visit is expected, everything is cleansed and decorated, and made fit for the royal eye to see. The highest and purest motivation for Christian behaviour is not based on what we can do for God but rather upon what God has done for us and yet will do.

1. What is the clearest manifestation of God's grace?
2. How is v. 11 linked with the preceding verses of chapter 2
3. How would you explain that the grace of God in Christ is sufficient and available for all people, but not all people will be saved?
4. What is the connection between salvation and obedience? Does God’s grace come with conditions? Is it possible to receive grace by faith without one’s life changing?
5. Do non-Christians “wait for” something? How does “hope” add meaning to the everyday Christian life?

Application & Prayer

- In what ways will you say “no” to ungodliness today? How will the gospel be the engine of that? What areas of your life need training in the gospel of God's grace?
- How does the “blessed hope” practically impact our daily lives? What is the difference between worldly hope and biblical hope (read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6)?
- Reflect on the implications of Titus 2:11-15 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.