

“Our Blessed Hope”
Titus 2:13-15
(Preached at Trinity, April 23, 2023)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In this chapter Paul continues to keep our attention on the importance of sound doctrine. What we believe is important. What we believe about the Bible is important.
Titus 2:1 NAU - "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."
2. This is of universal importance.
Christianity transforms people from every walk of life. To demonstrate this Paul has directed our attention upon several different groups within the church.
Older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and finally, bondservants or slaves. These are just a few of the endless varieties of conditions that Christians occupy, each having particular challenges and particular responsibilities. But each enjoying the transforming grace of the Gospel and each benefitting from the right application of sound doctrine.
3. In **Verse 11** Paul turns our attention upon the wonder of God's grace, still within the context of the previous verses.
Titus 2:11 - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,"
The word is ἐπιφάνω – literally means “to shine upon”
Grace here refers to the entirety of God's work of redemption in Jesus Christ.
God has caused His grace to shine upon this world of darkness.
The brilliant light of Christ has dawned upon the earth.
John 1:4-5 NAU - "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."
4. This grace has shined upon all of God's people, male, female, old and young, rich and poor, bond and free.
All of them are instructed to live lives consistent with the transforming grace of the Gospel.
Titus 2:12 NAU - "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age"
5. In **Verses 13-14** Paul describes our motivation for living this consecrated life.
As God's redeemed people our hearts have been captivated by our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. He overshadows everything in our lives. This is true of Christians living in every age. We are living in a fallen world, but for Christians Jesus overshadows every earthly condition. We seek to glorify Him in our lives as we anxiously and patiently await His glorious return.
Titus 2:13 NAU - "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus"

6. Paul seems to be saying, while we are awaiting the return of our Savior, we are occupying ourselves in the pursuit of holiness – denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts and making righteousness our high pursuit. The Christian life is an active life, an intentional life. It is as the Apostle John wrote:
1 John 3:3 NAU - "And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
7. Our redemption finds its fullness in Christ. He is the only Redeemer and only way of salvation. He is our ultimate hope. We keep our eyes fixed upon Him. Paul is referring to Christ as "our blessed hope." We are looking for His return.
Titus 2:13 NAU - "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,"
8. Paul often spoke of our hope. Hope can be used as a verb or a noun. It can be something we do – we hope for something. Or hope can be something that is, something we possess. Hope for Paul pointed to a future expectation, an absolute certainty, an unflinching confidence.
- A. In Romans 5 Paul calls it "the hope of glory"
Romans 5:1-2 NAU - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."
- B. In Colossians 1 Paul refers to it as the "hope laid up for you in heaven."
Colossians 1:5 NAU - "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel"
- C. In Galatians 5 Paul directs our attention to the "hope of righteousness."
Galatians 5:5 NAU - "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."
- D. In all of these examples Paul uses hope to refer to our future expectation. This is the idea here in Titus 2. We are patiently awaiting the appearing of Christ in glory. It is our blessed hope, our confident assurance.
- I. The object of our hope.
- A. We are awaiting the appearing of Jesus Christ. It is referring to the second coming of Christ.
1. This is one of the greatest and clearest statements of the deity of Christ in the Bible. He is our great God and Savior. Jesus Christ is our great God.
 2. Jesus is the object of our focus.
Hebrews 12:2 NAU - "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
 3. Paul refers to Jesus as the blessed hope. He is our full expectation. Our surety. Our reward. Upon the return of Christ we will experience our resurrection and glorification, the consummation of our redemption.

4. He calls attention to the glory of Christ's return. John tried to capture the awe of the exalted Christ.
Revelation 1:13-15 NAU - "/ saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters."
Revelation 1:16 NAU - "His face was like the sun shining in its strength."

B. This hope directs our attention beyond this world. It's an upward gaze, keeping an eye upon our Savior.

Philippians 3:13-14 NAU - "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

1. This is Paul's point in **Verses 11-12**. The man with his heart fixed upon Christ does not fix his heart upon this world—upon worldly lusts.
Titus 2:11-12 NAU - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires"

2. Worldliness is making this present life our priority.
 The lost man is blinded by this world. He cannot see beyond it. He is in love with this world, intoxicated by it.

Philippians 3:18-19 NAU - "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things."

3. This worldliness is a constant threat against which we are always on guard. Paul warned that those who mind earthly things are actually enemies of the cross. They are not looking to eternity. They have no interest in Christ.

Philippians 3:18-20 NAU - "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"

19th Century Scottish pastor John Eadie – "When men are so absorbed in earthly things, in the lust of power, pleasure, wealth, fame, or accomplishment, as to forget their high calling to glory, honour, and immortality; when they live so much in time and sense as to be oblivious of life eternal, and seek not a title to it, nor cherish the hope of it, nor yet make preparation for it; they surely are the enemies of the cross, and their end is destruction."¹

¹ Eadie, John, *A Commentary on the Greek Text of Paul's Letter to the Philippians*,

3. The Christian denies worldly lusts because Jesus has captured his attention. Jesus is the object of our desires.

II. The certainty of our hope.

A. Jesus gave Himself as the surety of our hope

Titus 2:14 NAU - "who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

1. Our redemption is an accomplished work. He has redeemed us from every lawless deed and purified us unto Himself.
2. Our redemption is accomplished but we have not yet received its fulness.
Romans 13:11 NAU - "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."
3. Our ultimate redemption has not yet been realized but its end is certain.
 - a. While we wait we may face many trials.
John Newton – "Through many dangers, toils, and snares . . ." In this life we face much suffering – suffering from living in a fallen body with all its weakness and proneness to disease. Suffering from the corruption of men who hate Christ with a vengeance.
 - b. But our hope is fixed upon Christ. The certainty of His reward. This life is not meant to be our reward but we are assured of that which is to come.
4. Our hope is certain because we have been purchased by Christ.
Titus 2:14 - "to purify for Himself a people for His own possession" Jesus owns us. We are His possession. Is there any power in the universe able to snatch us from Him.
Romans 8:38-39 NAU - "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

B. We must never forget the source of our hope. Ultimately, this great confidence, this lively hope rests upon our confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NAU - "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us."

1. Jesus Christ is our only Redeemer.
Titus 2:14 NAU - "who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."
We are saved unto holiness – redeemed from every lawless deed, a purified people zealous for good deeds.

2. God has blessed us with the promise of eternal life. It is an absolute certainty.
Titus 1:2 NAU - "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,"
3. God's promises are absolute. They rest upon his infallible character, the perfection of His work as our Redeemer, and His unfailing faithfulness. We saw this in Paul's second letter to Timothy.
2 Timothy 4:18 NAU - "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."
4. God says our reward is sure. His promises are true. Our life must be one of pressing on in confidence and hope.
Titus 2:12-13 NAU - "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,"

Conclusion:

1. The Christian hope is a certain expectation. It is an expectation of the return of our Savior at any minute. Every generation has lived with this sense of nearness.
Revelation 22:20 NAU - "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."
2. He will return at a time unknown but not unexpected.
3. Those who live with such an expectation do not plant their roots too deeply here.
 - A. We know that everything around us will soon be consumed.
2 Peter 3:10-12 NAU - "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!"
 - B. As Christians we have an expectation of that which is to come, of a Master that we delight in pleasing.