

The Gracious and Glorious Appearances of Christ

Titus 2:11-14

Introduction: In this present age, between the first appearance and second appearance of Christ, believers live by Grace alone. While we eagerly expect His return, we can live confidently and gratefully in the grace by which we are saved, sanctified, and called to serve.

“All Christians by definition believe in grace. ...But the Bible teaches we are not only saved by grace, but live by grace every day of our lives.” Jerry Bridges

I. Saved by Grace (v.11,14) ...because we cannot recognize our need or His provision without Him

A. Gave Himself for us - Two-fold purpose Ephesians 5:25-32

1. He redeemed us from all wickedness - forgiven, full and free
2. He purifies us – an ‘alien righteousness’ pleasing to God credited to us

A Debtor to Mercy Alone...

B. Grace has appeared to all [types] of men *epiphany, to become visible*
Titus 3:4, Luke 1:79 (used in Acts 27:20)

Universalism vs. Definite Atonement (see Romans 9:14-15)

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done and,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, thy will be done.”

C. S. Lewis

II. Sanctified by Grace (v. 12)...because left to ourselves we are prone to wander...

God WILL accomplish all that He promises

A. 'Just say NO'

1. Ungodliness - Ephesians 2:1-10

To not worship or show reverence

2. Worldly desires - 1 John 2:16

Reaching out, craving with the purpose of obtaining

B. 'Just say YES' (three directions)

1. _____ soberly, *sound mind, self-control*

Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1,2

2. _____ righteously, *dealing honestly without causing injury*

Romans 12:10

3. _____ godly, *reverent lives devoted to God*

Matthew 6:33

III. Serve by Grace (v. 14)...while we eagerly await His return...

"Faith is trust in what God has already done. Hope is trust in what God promises for the future." R.C. Sproul