

Who's Your One?

Titus 2:11-15

Living in Light of Our Blessed Hope

We are in the **second sermon** of our series, *Who's Your One?* I invite you to join with me in [Titus 2:11-15](#)

In the first sermon, our passage dealt with **spiritual mentoring**. The Bible establishes the concept of mentoring by giving **examples** like Jethro/Moses; Moses/Joshua; Naomi/Ruth; Jesus/the Twelve; Paul/Titus.

We were challenged from the text last week to have a gospel-motivated mentorship. We should be **intentional** about mentoring others concerning Jesus Christ, who was virgin-born, sinlessly perfect, crucified as a substitutionary death and atonement, and gloriously resurrected on the third day.

In Titus 2:11-15, we are challenged to live in light of the blessed hope we hold as Christians. **Knowing that I have something coming** up determines how I am going to structure and live my life.

- If you have a **big test** coming up I'll get plenty of sleep and eat a good breakfast.
- If you have a **wedding** that weekend you'll get a haircut and shave.
- If you have a **dentist appointment** you'll more than likely brush your teeth.
- **Vacation** - counting down the days, researching, saving money

The first week of **college football** games is just two weeks away. In the minds of the players and coaches, though, the season has already begun. It would be **unwise** to start living for the team **the same day they start their games**. Football coaches started preparing their teams weeks ago assigning individuals to their own personal workouts and dietary disciplines, team workouts, camps, practices, position breakout sessions, one on one sessions, footage review, recruiting, and lots of physical workouts.

Football teams live constantly in light of knowing that game-day is approaching. The serious fans are already getting their tickets and game-day fan wear. Facilities are being prepared, the turf is being lined. Everyone is getting ready for the big day!

Similarly, **Christians have a day we are to live and prepare for.** We are to live in light of the day of Christ's glorious appearing. The day Christ comes to take the Church out of the earth, the rapture.

Paul was mentoring Titus concerning how to live in light of Christ's appearance and our blessed hope. Who is someone you are mentoring when it comes to the disciple of living in light of Christ's coming?

TT - There are three aspects to consider if you are going to live in light of this big day!
(Read the Text - Titus 2:11-15)

Introduction - v. 11

You see, there are two great events that **inform how we structure and live** our lives:

- The grace of God that brought our salvation - v. 11
- The glorious appearing of Christ - v. 13

A. The Grace of God That Brought & Bought Our Salvation - v. 11

[Titus 2:11](#) - ¹¹ For the grace of God that **bringeth** salvation **hath appeared** to all men,

V. 11 - establishes what our hope is based on, that is the grace of God that brought our salvation. This is the work of the incarnate Christ as we established last week ([Titus 1:3](#)). If you have received salvation you are to live in light of this blessed hope.

[1 John 3:5](#) - ⁵ And ye know that **he was manifested** to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

The second great event that informs how we structure and live our lives is

B. The Glorious Appearance of Christ - v. 13

[Titus 2:13](#) - Looking for that blessed hope, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

We will deal more with this in a while.

Pastor Steve Gaines, "We are to live everyday in light of that day"

TT - Let's look at the three aspects that should be part of our lives as we live in light of the blessed hope:

The first aspect for living in light of the blessed hope is:

1. Godly Character - v. 12

In his book, *Not a Fan*, Kyle Idleman writes, the grace of God doesn't simply *invite* us to follow ... it *teaches* us to follow.

Paul expands on the grace of God and says that it is teaching us that we are to live a certain way.

A. Godly Character Is a Learning Process

Teaching us - this is referring to a learning process. Some translate this as *training us*. God's grace teaches us how to become more like Jesus everyday. Every day is a classroom to teach us how to live a godly life in Christ. The Holy Spirit is with us every step to instruct us.

[Isaiah 30:21](#)²¹ And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, When ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Paul David Tripp writes,

“It is okay to admit that **we are not perfect in wisdom**, that sometimes we are a fool. It is okay to admit that **we are not complete in character**, that there are moments when we lack the character that is needed. It is okay to admit that **we fall short** when it comes to strength;”¹

B. The Character of the Christian is Developed by a Negative and a Positive Action.

v. 12 - *denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.*

Someone has said, It is **who you are when no one else is looking** that determines your character. Paul reminds Titus that godliness isn't just doing what's good when everyone's watching. Godly character is doing right even when no one else will find out you had done wrong.

Richard Lischer is quoted as saying,

It's not better performances the church needs, but truer characters.²

Developing godly character includes

1. The Negative Action - v. 12

[Titus 2:12](#) - ... *denying* ungodliness and worldly lusts

The word denying - to deny utterly, to disown, abstain; sometimes translated renounce which means, to renounce, or forsake. We are told to run from ungodliness and worldly lusts.

[1 John 2:15-17](#) – Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, **the lust of the flesh**, and **the lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Too often we are doing our best to **ignore** ungodliness rather than renouncing it.

ILL - At Servants Alive retreat, they told about a football player who had died and the coach brought his team into the meeting room, sat them around a table, and threw a rattlesnake in front of them. They all took off running and hollering. The coach rounded everyone back up and around the table and threw a little baggie of cocaine in front of them. No one moved. The coach made the point that **the very thing they should have run away from, they didn't**. Instead they sat unmoved by the very thing that killed their teammate the day before while the rattlesnake had been milked about couldn't have hurt them.

That's how we often treat sin. We categorize the things **we think we have control over** and ignore *them* but we run from others. We ought to run as hard away from any sin - regardless of what category it falls under or how much control we think we have of it. The grace of God teaches us to deny it, forsake it. We aren't to ignore it or leave it there in front of us acting like it couldn't have power over us.

You might have control over that habit or sin or idea *now*...but you wait until you're in a different situation and you don't know what you will do. The **text is calling for Christians** who won't ignore sin but will go to battle against. Who will stop ignoring the strongholds and start defeating them. Stop ignoring the spiritual war we are in and start defeating the enemy.

Application - When someone sends you a **friend request or an invitation** to join something you shouldn't you don't ignore it, you hit the deny button. There's a difference between ignoring it and denying it. Just ignore it and you might be able to go back later if something else doesn't work out, or if something better doesn't come up...and decide yes....deny it any you will probably burn the bridge.

Godly character not only is shaped by the negative action but also,

2. The Positive Action

v. 12 - live soberly, righteously, and godly

We are called to live as the new creation God has made us - [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

[Ephesians 4:22](#) - That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

- The word picture is taking off nasty, sweaty, dirty clothes

So what does this look like for Paul mentoring Titus? He instructs us to:

v. 12 - live soberly, righteously, and godly

v. 14 - the substitutionary atonement of Christ redeems us from iniquity, and purifies us to become a peculiar people zealous for good works.

Don't miss the word picture here: redeem us *from*

- The word *from* mean to bid farewell -

ILL - I was watching **Little House on the Prairie**. Mary was telling her fiancé goodbye as he was going off to a four-year college. She saw him get on that train and she cried and ran after him. Sometimes that's how we treat sin. We are to bid the sin farewell and have nothing else to do with it. Don't chase after it. Let it go.

ILL - I've told you before about **Hernan Cortez**, when he arrived with his men on the island they started complaining and wanting to go back. They woke up one morning to flames down by the water banks as the ships had all been set afire. Cortez made sure that they had no way to go back.

May that be **our prayer and action today**, to bid farewell to the sin and embrace the new life of self-control, righteousness, and godliness that we have been called to.

[Psalm 23:3](#) - ³ He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

To illustrate this from [Titus 1:6-9](#) this is what the Holy Spirit has in mind when Paul writes to Titus in the first chapter. Establish bishops/pastors that are godly men. He offers a list of character qualities of those men who qualify as leadership within the church body.

In the context of the pastor **Paul David Tripp** writes about the crisis of ministers and I think too often it can apply to every Christian as well,

*It begins with a distant, impersonal, information-based handling of the Word of God. It begins with pastors who, in their seminary years, became quite comfortable with holding God's Word distant from their own hearts. It begins with classrooms that are academic without being pastoral. It begins with brains becoming more important than hearts. It begins with **test scores being more important than character**. The problem with all of these things is that they're subtle and deceptive.³*

Godly Character is an aspect of your life when you live in light of Christ's return. Secondly,

2. Hopeful Anticipation - v. 13

There are two great events that inform our living - The first is our salvation that was accomplished on the cross.....the second is the day that the Lord catches away the Church from earth.

[Titus 2:13](#)

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

A. Christ Wants You to Look Forward to His Return -

Robbie Galaty said, *"Some of us are looking forward to the next election cycle more than the appearing of Christ's return."*

We are **living on the edge of eternity** and need to be looking forward to the glorious appearing of Christ. As we said in the beginning if we are looking forward to something it is going to change some things in our lives. You'll start living everyday for that day.

Dr. Steve Gaines told about **a man who went off to war** and came back home. His troop had been gone for so long, everyone was looking forward to them being back home. The airport was filled with families gathering to welcome their brave men as they returned home. One man comes to the lobby but there was no one waiting. He went home and found his wife going about the daily chores. He walked in and she responded, "Hey, honey, I'm glad you're back. **I've been waiting on you** to get home."

The difference between her and the other people is that she was just waiting, she wasn't looking for his return.

As Christians we ought to be so in love with Christ for what He has done for us that we are not just expectantly waiting but **looking for his return**.

Jesus warned about this **lackadaisical approach** in **[Matthew 24:40-42](#)**

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

So, what will the glorious return be like?

B. Christ Appearing Will Be Glorious

Titus 2:13

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Now, there's a **lot of variations of beliefs** on the details about this day when this day will be and exactly what all it will be like.

Adrian Rogers said, "When it comes to the exact time of Jesus' second Coming, I'm on the Welcoming Committee, not the Planning Committee."⁴

We need to watch for His glorious coming:

Matthew 24:30–31

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven **with power and great glory**. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:42

⁴² Watch therefore: for **ye know not what hour** your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:44

⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not **the Son of man cometh**.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ **For the Lord himself** shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord** in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Dr. Rogers presents three facts about the glorious appearing of Christ:

1. A Time of Rescue - [Revelation 3:10](#)

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will **keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

2. A Time of Reunion - [1 Thessalonians 4:17a](#)

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **to meet** the Lord in the air: and so shall we **ever be with the Lord**.

3. A Time of Reception - [John 14:1-3](#)

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and **receive you unto myself**; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

We anticipate Christ's return because it's a time of rescue, reunion, and reception

If we're going to live in light of Christ's return we need Godly Character, Hopeful Anticipation, and the third insight in the text is:

3. Good Works - v. 14c-15

Paul describes the fruit of redemption as including zeal for good works

[Titus 2:14](#) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

ILL - A man said to a preacher, "If I believed that I could be saved by grace without my good works, I would get saved and then have the time of my life doing what I want to do." The preacher replied, "Yes, you would have the time of your life doing what you want to do. But if you were really saved, **what you would want to do would be far different** from what you are now thinking."⁵

A. We are created to work - [Ephesians 2:10](#)

This was our theme verse at VBS verse this year.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

B. Good works are evidence of faith - [James 2:17](#)

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

ILL - Two men were arguing about faith and works as they were going across the river in a little boat. The man who was rowing them across was a fine, enlightened Christian man. He said, I think I can solve your problem. **I hold in my hands two oars**. The one I call faith, the other I call works. Now watch it. I pull the oar of faith alone. You see, we go around and around; we cannot go forward. Now I pull the oar of works alone; again, we go around and around. Now I pull them both together and we go on. In his conclusion, he added, faith without works is dead.⁶

C. Good works Glorify God - [Matthew 5:16](#)

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works, and glorify your Father** which is in heaven.

D. Work more with the day approaching - [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

24 And let us consider one another to **provoke unto love and to good works**:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and **so much the more, as ye see the day approaching**.

E. Good works are profitable - [Titus 3:8](#)

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might **be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and **profitable unto men**.

F. Good works distinguish us from the world - [Titus 1:12](#); [Titus 1:16](#)

There is a picture of what Paul doesn't want us to be like.

12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

16 They profess that they know God; but **in works they deny him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and **unto every good work reprobate**.

Closing:

Are you struggling to live in light of Christ's return?

Has your salvation made a difference in your life or have you just gone back to your old ways?

Salvation is not....."Okay, I prayed a prayer, now what was I doing?" and you go back to your old life unchanged? If that's what you're claiming as your salvation then you need to really get saved.

If you know game day is coming, or test day is coming, you're going to live differently in light of that day.

1. Will you trust Christ today?
2. How regularly are you living in light of Christ's return? Sure, Sundays...but Mon-Sat?
3. Will you consider how you can get more involved with the church life and how you can participate in good works as a believer and a member of FBCL?
4. Will you commit to mentoring someone to live in light of the Day of the Lord?

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¹ Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous Calling* (p. 208). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

² McCallum, John. *The 23rd Pastor: Pastoring in the Spirit of Our Shepherd Lord*. McCallum Publishing. Kindle Edition.

³ Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous Calling* (p. 52). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁴ https://twitter.com/bellevuepastor/status/817871225913573376?s=20&t=VGIWOhQNJArLxi3D_QmfDA

⁵ Herschel H. Hobbs, *My Favorite Illustrations* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990), 45.

⁶ Zodiates, Spiros. *Illustrations of Bible Truths* (#224.p.75) AMG Publishers