

Sunday, October 24, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 2:14-15: Let No Man Despise Thee

Introduction

- Last week we studied the details of our blessed hope.

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.”***
- The first thing verse 14 teaches is that Jesus Christ from verse 13 gave himself for us of his own free will.
- Philippians 2:5-7—Jesus Christ was willingly of his own free will came to earth for the purpose of going to the cross to pay for the sins of the world.
- Matthew 26:39-42
- Galatians 1:3-4, 2:20
- Ephesians 5:25
- II Timothy 2:6—Jesus Christ gave of himself. He wanted to pay the price no one was forcing him to do so.
- *“That”*—shows us the purpose and the intent of what was just said. Christ gave himself or us so that he might redeem us from all iniquity.
- The Greek word translated redeem in verse 14 is the word *“lutroo”* which means to set free by paying a price. In the context, Christ gave his life so that we could be redeemed or set free from sin.
- Romans 3:24—redemption is in Jesus Christ because he is the one who gave himself, paid the price, and satisfied the offended justice of God against our sin.
- How many sins have you been redeemed from? Titus 2:14 says all iniquity. The word *“iniquity”* means a violation of the law or wickedness.
- Ephesians 1:7—redemption provides for all our sins to be forgiven.
- Colossians 1:14—notice that redemption comes through the blood that Christ shed when he gave himself for us. The result is the forgiveness of all our sins.
- Colossians 2:13—*“trespass”* is an error or willful transgression. The work of Christ has taken everything we have ever done wrong or ever will do wrong and killed it on the cross with Christ.

- A second reason why Christ gave himself for us is so that He could “*purify unto himself a peculiar people.*”
- This is the only time Paul uses the word “*peculiar*” in any of his writings. The word means being beyond usual, i.e. special. *Strong’s Concordance* defines the underlying Greek word as follows: that which is one’s own, belonging to one’s possessions, a) a people selected by God from the other nations for his own possession.
 - Exodus 19:5—the Hebrew word means treasure, good, or special
 - Deuteronomy 14:2, 26:18
 - Psalm 135:4
 - I Peter 2:9
- Because we now possess the redemption and atonement that Israel has yet to receive, Paul call us the peculiar people of God.
- I Corinthians 6:19-20—God to today has chosen the believer to is temple. Rather than dwelling behind the vial in the Holy of Holies not go has chosen us for his habitation.
- Ephesians 2:22
- As the peculiar people of God Paul tells Titus that we are to be zealous of good works.
- Consider the following forms of the word zealous:
 - *Zealous*—Warmly engaged or ardent in the pursuit of an object.
 - *Zealously*—With passionate ardor; with eagerness.
 - *Zealousness*—The quality of being zealous; zeal.
- Galatians 1:14
- Colossians 3:6—that same zeal that Paul used to persecute the Jewish Kingdom church in early Acts is the same zeal that Paul instructs believers to have towards good works.
- Titus 1:16— The reason the people described in the passage are reprobate concerning God works is because they have denied the only truth that is capable of producing good works that God will accept.
- Good works are the result of the belief and application of sound doctrine in the details of our lives. Paul’s entire point in Titus One is the good works steam from belief of the truth. The truth working in a believer’s life ought to spur them to love and good works.
- Ephesians 2:10—now that we are saved by the grace of God, believers are the workmanship of Jesus Christ unto good works. In our natural state we are not capable of doing anything to please God and earn our own salvation (Romans 3:9-12). But now as believers through the process of spiritual identification Jesus Christ lives his life out through us (Galatians 2:20) and works in our inner man (Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 2:13) when we believe God’s word to us (I Thessalonians 2:13).

- Romans 12:1-2—to live Godly in Christ Jesus is the reasonable response of Grace. As believers we ought to want to do the right thing not because we fear the punishment of the Law but because we are moved and motivated by our gratitude of what Christ has done for us.
- In Titus good works find their source in the sound doctrines of God’s word rightly divided.

Titus 2:15

- *“These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”*
- What things is Titus to speak, exhort, and rebuke with all authority? The things which become sound doctrine in verse one.
- All of the instructions to the aged men, aged women, young women, young men, and servants are supposed to be spoken with all authority.
- Paul expects Titus to authoritatively teach grace as the means for producing a Godly life in Christ Jesus (Titus 2:12), and the Rapture of the Church as the believers blessed hope (Titus 2:13).
- *Despise*—means to contemn; to scorn; to disdain; to have the lowest opinion of. (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)
- Paul knew first hand that Titus was going to hated, persecuted, and viewed with distain for teaching these doctrines. Therefore, Paul tells him to go and do what is right regardless of what people might say or think.