

Sunday, October 27, 2019—Titus 2:14: A Peculiar People

### Introduction

- Two weeks ago, before the conference, we continued our mini-series looking at Titus 2:11-15. In doing so, we studied the first half of verse 14 before we ran out of time.
- In summation we observed the following regarding this portion of scripture:
  - Of his own will, the Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins.
    - Galatians 1:3-4, 2:20—Jesus Christ “gave himself for our sins.” It was his choice. Our faith rests in his faith.
  - The first reason that he “gave himself for us” was to “redeem us from all iniquity.”
    - 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.
    - 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.

### Titus 2:14

- 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. Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* offers the following definitions for the English word “peculiar:”
  - Appropriate; belonging to a person and to him only. Almost every writer has a peculiar style. Most men have manners peculiar to themselves.
  - PECU'LIAR, noun Exclusive property; that which belongs to a person in exclusion of others.
- *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 be His 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
- Philippians 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 people described chapter 1 are reprobate concerning God works 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 1 is that 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 (Rom. 3:9-12). But now as believers through the process of spiritual identification Jesus Christ lives his life out through us (Gal. 2:20) and works in our inner man (Eph, 3:20, Phil. 2:13) when we believe God’s word to us (I Thess. 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 doctrine 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 1.
- 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 condemn; to scorn; to disdain; to have the lowest opinion of. (*Webster's 1828 Dictionary*)
- Paul knew firsthand that Titus was going to be hated, persecuted, and viewed with disdain for teaching these doctrines. Therefore, Paul tells him to go and do what is right regardless of what people might say or think.