

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

# Jesus' Work in the Past has Transformed Our Present and Our Future!

Friday, **December 25** at 10:00 AM**The Nativity of Our Lord**

Join Us on 12/27 at 10; 12/31 at 7 PM

Our Regular Schedule Resumes on Sunday, 1/3 and Monday, 1/4

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Jesus Christ: ➡The Father sent His Son—Christmas; ➡Jesus showed His work was finished—Easter; and ➡the Holy Spirit has given us the benefits of Jesus' work—through baptism. So **on this Christmas Day, and every day, we have countless reasons to live with joy!**

Today we turn to Paul's letter to Titus; Paul and Titus were working together on the Island of **Crete**; then Paul left Titus there to continue the work of establishing those congregations. Missionary Titus had at least two tasks: (1) Appoint qualified men to serve as pastors and (2) teach the church



members to function in God-honoring ways. Paul gave these instructions: <sup>ESV</sup> **Titus 2:1** “But as for you [Titus], teach what accords with sound doctrine [in other words, never compromise God's truth]. <sup>2</sup> **Older men** are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness [why? to set a godly example for others]. <sup>3</sup> **Older women** likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to

much wine. They are to teach what is good,<sup>4</sup> and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,<sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, *[and why should they do all such things?]* that the word of God may not be reviled.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, urge the **younger men** to be self-controlled.<sup>7</sup> Show **yourself** *[Titus]* in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,<sup>8</sup> and sound speech that cannot be condemned...<sup>9</sup> Slaves *[or we might say, employees]* are to be submissive to their own masters *[their employers]* in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,<sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” So why should all Christians follow those words of instruction? Part of the answer is **Christmas!** Notice what follows those instructions in verses 11-14:

1. **Past:** Here we are looking back to the **fulfillment** of God’s promise to save the world: <sup>11</sup> **For the grace of God has appeared** *[in the **Christ of Christmas**], bringing salvation for all people,* // Think about these things:
  - a. Since all have sinned, *everyone needs to be saved!*
  - b. Since God saw our desperate need and loved us, *He promised to save us!*
  - c. Since God promised to save us, *His grace finally appeared in the **Christ of Christmas!***
2. **Present:** Here we are seeing the positive influence of God’s saving work upon our daily lives; Jesus’ work and our reception of God’s salvation are: <sup>12</sup> **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to**

## live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

- a. Those words (in verse 12) summarize the first part of Titus chapter 2. Since God has saved us, we are now moved to honor Him in our lives ➔ **by** rejecting ungodliness and worldly passions, and ➔ **by** living ➔ self-controlled, ➔ upright, and ➔ godly lives.
  - b. As we do such things, we are not only honoring the Holy Trinity but we are also setting a proper example for other believers. Whenever *more mature Christians* are unfaithful, *less mature Christians* are tempted to be unfaithful. So let us *be imitators of God and set godly examples for others* in our attending, giving, and serving!
3. **Future:** Here we are looking ahead: <sup>13</sup> **waiting for** [*anticipating, expecting*] **our blessed hope** [*in other words*], **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** <sup>14</sup> **who gave himself for us** [*on our behalf*] **to redeem us** [*to buy us back*] **from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.** // Those verses encourage us to look to the **future**, but they also remind us of Jesus' **past** saving work and our **present** lives in Christ.
- a. PAST – Jesus has already redeemed us: His first coming, *which included His birth, life, death, and resurrection*, removed our sins and, *through baptism*, put us in possession of God's gift of righteousness!

- b. PRESENT – So let us be zealous for good works:  
To be *zealous* is to be *passionate*; since we believe in Jesus, our passion is to *know* and *do* His will!
- c. FUTURE – Jesus will come again: So, *as we wait*, we are looking forward to His awesome return!

**Conclusion:** As many others just celebrate, *let us celebrate our Savior from sin!* Then, as others just live, *let us passionately live for the **Christ of Christmas!***

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

### Disciple Training (Matthew 28:18-20)

#### Important Teachings to Remember:

1. People are saved by God's grace, not by their own goodness.
2. Believers are called to be different; see Titus 2:1-10.

#### Important Actions to Practice:

1. Whenever the more mature are unfaithful, the less mature are tempted to be unfaithful; so let us set a godly example.
2. Let us rightly understand our sin and God's forgiveness, then, *resulting from the joy of heaven*, let us be zealous in doing good works!