

Titus 2:11-14

The reason for godliness in a godless, decaying culture

Introduction: Christian conduct must be grounded in and motivated by Christian truth. The vitality of doctrinal profession must be demonstrated by transformed Christian conduct. (Hiebert)

1) The basis for the previous commands—2:11

- a) The epiphany of grace—¹¹ *For the (saving) grace of God **has been manifested*** (emphatic in position) [aor. pass. evpifai,nw],
 - i) When did this take place? The whole of Jesus' incarnation and work of redemption.
 - ii) Such conduct harmonizes with sound doctrine (v. 1). In short, it is the proper response to God's grace. God has manifested His grace (unmerited favor) in Christ and the gospel. (Constable)
- b) What has this grace of God done?
 - i) Unrestricted rescuing—*bringing salvation/rescue to all* (kinds of) *people*,
 - (1) Negatively: this is not universalism
 - (2) Positively: salvation is sufficient for all but efficient only for those who repent and trust in God through Christ. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:10; 2 Pet. 2:1)
 - (a) A universal invitation: John 3:16; 7:37
 - (b) A universal love of God: John 3:16
 - (c) A universal mandate to make disciples: Matt. 28:16-20
 - (d) A universal gospel message: Acts 17:29-31
 - ii) Deliberate training—¹² *training* [pres. act. ptc. paideu,w] *us that ... we should live*
 - (1) Grace is instructive. This is accomplished by the Spirit of God using the Word of God.

2) What does Godward living look like?—2:12-14

- a) NEGATIVE preparation for Godward living—2:12a *having denied* [aor. dep. ptc. avrne,omai]...
 - i) Irreverent attitude—*ungodliness* [avse,beia]—the rejection of all that is reverent toward God
 - ii) Illegitimate lusts—*and worldly* [kosmiko,j] *desires* [evpiqumi,a]—desires pertaining to the world's system and values that are often reflected in our choices
- b) POSITIVE characteristics of Godward living—2:12b *we should live* [aor. act. subj. za,w]...
 - i) We should not simply shun ungodliness, we must embrace godliness in its place.
 - ii) How should we live? Paul uses 3 adverbs to describe our living (cf. 2:1-10)
 - (1) **Inward** self-control—*soberly* [swfro,nwj]—
 - (2) **Outward** in relationship to others—*and righteously* [dikai,wj]—

- (3) **Upward** toward God; reverence—*and godly* [euvsebw/]—
- iii) What sphere? *in this present/now age*,
 - (1) This is what Demas loved and thus abandoned Paul (2 Tim. 4:10)
 - iv) Right here, right now, God's grace operates to make us the kind of people who live the kind of lives that honor God and benefit others and ourselves. The grace of God extends the power not just to rescue us from an evil world, but to transform us in the midst of it. (Kitchen)
- c) PARALLEL anticipation in Godward living—2:13-14 ¹³ *while we are anticipating* [pres. dep. ptc. prosde,comai]...
- i) Grace not only saves us from the punishment of past wrongs and teaches us in the present; it also orients us rightly toward the future. (Kitchen)
 - ii) What we are anticipating—*the blessed* [maka,rioj] *hope* [evlpi,j] *and visible manifestation* [evpifa,neia] *of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*,
 - (1) One of the strongest NT statements on the deity of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Cf. John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; Heb. 1:8
 - (2) Paul has moved from the 1st coming (2:11) to the 2nd coming (2:13).
 - iii) What Jesus voluntarily did—¹⁴ *who gave* [di,dwmi] *Himself on behalf of* [u`pe,r] *us*,
 - iv) Why Jesus gave Himself as our substitute—*so that* [i[na] *He ...*
 - (1) Separation from—*might redeem* [lutro,w] *us from* [avpo,] *every kind of lawlessness* [avnomi,a]
 - (a) To release from the captivity of sin
 - (2) Separation toward—*and purify* [kaqari,zw] *for Himself a people who are His very own* [periou,sioj],
 - (a) *who are eager/zealots/enthusiasts* [zhlwth,j] *for good/commendable* [kalo,j] *works*. (cf. 2:1-10)
 - (i) It means settling for nothing less than what the Scriptures require.
 - (ii) We are not saved **by** good works, but **for** good works. (3:4-6; Eph. 2:10)
 - v) He who eagerly awaits the return of the Savior will be eager also to further His cause by good works until He comes. (Hiebert)

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) The highest and purest motivation for Christian behavior is not based on what we can do for God but rather upon what God has done for us and yet will do. (Hayne Griffin)
- b) The grace of God should result in the Christian's present commitment to deny what God detests and to pursue what He values. (Constable)