

Devoted & Committed

Titus 2:11-14

Titus 2:11-14 NLT

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³ while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. ¹⁴ He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

This verse has been reoccurring in me for some time now.

- Largely in part of what God is doing in us concerning Reality Honolulu
- As a pastor you pray towards and work towards what you want God to do in the church

As I seek God and pray and when asked what it is that I desire RHNL to be like...

- I'm continually brought to this verse and have been praying that we are community as described here.

But as I meditate on it, I realize that I've seen this played out before, it's here at Reality Carp.

- I've been reflecting quite a bit lately on our time here in Carp
- Specifically worshipping and doing life here with you guys at Carp.
 - I can say that by God's grace and for His glory, he has done this incredible work in you and you are a testimony of this type of community
 - And when I think/pray and hope for Reality Honolulu...I pray that it would be half of what God had and is doing here...

I want to acknowledge the work that God has and is doing...but also encourage you to press in to even more that God has for you.

- Individually
- Corporately

Or as Paul would say to the church in Thessalonica in his 1st letter...

- He would exhort them for what they had been doing and encouraging them to continue on

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NASB)

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.

What I want to do...Is use **Titus 2:11-14 as a spring board as we strive to seek Jesus as a church**

- Think of this text as something to pray in, work towards and continue to live like
- Excel more in this things Carp

Context of Titus:

- Paul's letter to Titus
 - Titus has been Paul's faithful companion alongside Timothy for quite a while
 - Currently Titus is in Crete helping to provide leadership for the churches there
 - The purpose was to instruct him about what he should do & teach in the churches there

3 Things being said:

- Great flow
- Great/right order

- 1. Jesus has come & is coming back**
- 2. We are to be devoted to God**
- 3. We are to be committed to His work**

Indicative followed by an imperative

- Or maybe a few imperatives
- In light of Jesus, we are to live in a certain way and act in a certain way

Indicative:

- A truth indicated or stated
- Truth indicated is "Jesus saved us & freed us from sin"

Imperative:

- Something that is absolutely necessary or required; unavoidable
 - The Command or necessary action is "to be devoted by God and committed to serving Him"

Let's work thru the text

Jesus has come & is coming back (Verse 11, 13-14)

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.... 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people

Jesus' 1st Coming

- The gospel has been revealed to all men
- Bringing salvation to all men means...
 - It means that the good news of Jesus Christ is offered to all of Humanity
 - Or is made available to all of humanity

It's by God's grace that he sent His son

- It's by grace that we are saved

Ephesians 2:8 (NASB)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Jesus' purpose in coming? (*Verse 14*)

1. Free us from every kind of Sin
2. Cleanse us
3. Make us his very own people

Free us from Sin

- We were dead in our sins, in bondage to it
- Jesus freed us from the bondage & penalty of our sin

Cleanse us

- Sin had made us unclean, unrighteous
- He cleansed us (Made us clean & righteous before God)

Make us his very own people

- We are created by God & were intended to be with God
- Sin has separated us, love has brought us back to Himself
 - We are restored to our intended design as God's own people

Jesus 2nd coming (*Verse 13*)

- Jesus is coming back to rule & reign
- To bring judgment
- To set all things right

Why I like how this sections starts:

- Sets the right foundation
- Sets the posture of our hearts in a right place
 - Starts & reminds us of the Gospel

REMINDER: Jesus is the reason for all this

- Our own testimonies of salvation
- The reason the Church (Capital “C”) exists
- The reason why this church (Lower case “c”) exists

Jesus is the Senior Pastor & Our Lord

- Let’s us remember that
- Let us build our house upon the rock

What does that look like for us?

- Praise God that this church sets Jesus in the right place
- Most of you do as well
 - Let’s always keep it all about Jesus
 - Let us not stray from the goal & prize

My prayer for you is: that the same would be said about you as they did Peter & John

- **Acts 4:13 (NASB)**
 - ¹³Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them ^[a]as having been with Jesus.

Indicative here: (The truth stated)

- Jesus came to cleanse us from sin & save us from the penalty of it
- One day he will come and make all things right

We must keep Jesus at the for front of all we do...

- Segway into the 1st imperative to these indicatives

We are to be devoted to God (**Verse 12, 13-14**)

12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, **13** while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people

Devotion to God

- The fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal
- Having allegiance too...
 - One of Surrender & Lordship

Example/Illustration of Devotion is Marriage

- When we say our vows, we are devoting our life & love to that other person

- What we are also saying, is NO to others
 - Keeping our love, affection, time & life reserved for that other person
 - Saying a Yes to them, is saying No to any other

Similar when we are devoted to the Lord

We say yes to the Lord and the results & no to living a life apart filled with sin

Devotion to God leads to 3 things:

1. Sanctification
2. Anticipation
3. Participation

Sanctification:

A result our devotion to God should be:

- Turn from godless living
- Turn from sinful pleasures
 - Turn from a life that is lived apart from God to a life that is with & for God

Sanctification is becoming more like Jesus

- More like him in life, in deed, in speech, in priority, etc.
- It's being transformed into his likeness

Romans 6:1-14 (NLT)

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. ¹²Do not let sin control the way you live; ^[a]do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Sanctification comes from Devotion to him:

- In the form of a life surrendered to Christ & time spent with him
 - Time with him in his word, in prayer, in worship, etc.
 - Aligning our lives with Christ's word
 - Changed by the power of His spirit

Anticipation:

In addition, our devotion should also lead to anticipation

- As we spend time with Him we will become captivated, entranced, enthralled by Jesus
- Leading to us ever wanting to see him face to face
- Our soul longs to be re-united with our creator
 - Our Text
 - “NLT - Wonderful day”
 - Other Translations – “Blessed Hope”

Psalm 84:1-2,10-12 (NASB)

How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts!

²*My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD;*

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God

¹⁰*For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.*

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God

Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;

The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²*O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!*

While we should hope and keep our minds dwelling on things above

- ***Colossians 3:2 (NASB)***
 - *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

In the mean time until Jesus comes back...

- We are to put our hands to the plow in the furthering of the Kingdom of God

We are to be committed to His work (<i>Verse 14</i>)

¹⁴*He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.*

Participation:

Our devotion to Christ leads us to mission

- Our intimacy flows into Ministry

We're here to be worshippers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of him. God never meant it to be so. God meant that a convert should learn to be a worshiper, and after that he can learn to be a worker...The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it. – A.W. Tozer

“Committed to His work”

- Really means living into our identity as followers
- Ambassadors or Representatives (***2 Corinthians 5:20***)

What type of “work” is the Lord’s...

- Continue to tell of the Good news of Jesus Christ
 - Word
 - Deed
 - Salt & Light (**Matthew 5:13-16**)

What does that look like for us?

- Being involved in Mission (Local & Global)
 - Local
 - Being Jesus where you are
 - Family, work/School & Community/City
 - Here at Church
 - Global
 - God’s heart for the World
 - Reality: Reaching the unreached

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Application // Final Exhortation

Jesus has come & changed everything

- He is coming back to finish what He started

We are left exiles in a fallen world. Our home is not here it is in heaven.

- That is where our citizenship is...

In the meantime our life is to be one of devotion of God

- What we’ve seen is; there is much that flows from a life devoted and set apart for God
 - Sanctification
 - Anticipation
 - Participation

How do these come a reality for us?

- I’ll share what has helped me
- Hopefully it brings the ethereal down to earth for you

These are my guiding verses in which I stand upon.

- "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (*Galatians 2:20*). For I have died and my life is hidden with Christ in God. (*Colossians 3:3*). For I have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in my body (*1 Corinthians 6:20*)

Here's what I say to myself daily:

My life is longer my own, its hidden in Christ. I have been bought with a price, now glorify God in all you do.

I preach these truths to myself everyday

- In the good & the bad
- I have too...
 - I need to remind myself of the truth

Then I ask for the Holy Spirit's help:

- I know I'm prone to wonder, weak & frail
- I know There's NO way to do this on my own

I ask the Holy spirit to make me devoted to Christ & committed to His work

- To continue to be sanctified
- To live in anticipation for the things of Heaven
- To participate in the building of God's Kingdom

There are catalysts for these things

- Time spent with God
 - In the word, in prayer & worship.
- My environment
 - Community, friends, temptations, etc.

To be devoted to God & committed to doing His will...

Starts with a posture of the heart, and is attained by the power of God