



# *STOP going to church... START being the church.*

## week 7

*Scripture to Read*

**Sermon text: Titus 2:11-15**

*Summary of Titus 2:11-15*

Right doctrine rightly understood leads to right behavior. In this section Paul explains the nature of God's transforming grace by reminding us of what God has accomplished and for whom. The grace that cleanses and forgives us also transforms and leads us away from ungodliness and toward holiness.

*Scripture for Memorization and Meditation*

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. [Titus 2:11-14]*

*Questions for Personal Study and/or group discussion*

- Why is it vital to keep in mind that *grace* is what has brought us salvation?
- What kind of determination should God's grace bring into our lives?
- What is the comfort of the gospel? What is the call of the gospel on your life each day?
- To what specific "worldly passions" does God want you to say "No"? How will you say "No"?
- What specific kinds of "Yes" does God want you to live today?
- What ignites your zeal to obey and live for the glory of God?
- Why do you think Paul would include our expectation of Christ's return in this passage?
- Why did Christ give himself for us?
- How does remembering that you are Christ's "own possession" affect you?

*Thoughts worth thinking*

Is "no" in your vocabulary? "We are surrounded by a world that says 'no' to nothing. When we are surrounded by this sort of mentality...then suddenly to be told that in the Christian life there is to be this strong negative aspect of saying 'no' to things and 'no' to self, it must seem hard. And if it does not feel hard to us, we are not really letting it speak to us...We have a society that holds itself back from nothing....Any concept of a real 'no' is avoided as much as possible....Absolutes of any kind, ethical principles, everything must give in to affluence and selfish personal peace....Of course, this environment of not saying 'no' fits exactly into our natural disposition, because, since the fall of man, we do not want to deny ourselves." [Francis A. Schaeffer, *True Spirituality*, in *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview*, Vol.3 (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 1982) p.201-202.]

A lesson from marriage: “Apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ makes us so long to love him and to reject what hurts him that we become intolerant of the sin in our lives. I understand this as I look at my own marriage. The longer I am married, the more I marvel at my wife’s love for me despite my early coldness and continuing selfishness. Now the more I see how much she loves me, the more conscious I become of my insensitivities and the more eager I am to please her. The more I perceive her love, the more I cannot stand distance between us. In the same way, when we see how wondrous is the love of Christ, we become more and more sensitive to the sin in our lives, and we long more and more to do what pleases him.” [Bryan Chappell, in *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus: To Guard the Deposit*, Preaching the Word series, R. Kent Hughes, ed. (Wheaton, Illinois, Crossway, 2000), 350.]

Jealous, God-focused grace: “Paul is saying, ‘Titus, keep reminding people what the great story of redemption is all about. It is not simply about God helping flawed people to be a little better. It is not simply about his willingness, through the sacrifice of Christ, to forgive sinful people. The goal of God’s grace is his own glory, as he calls out and purifies a people that belong to him alone. When he owns their hearts unchallenged, these people will be eager to do what is good in his eyes.’ Paul wants Titus to teach the theology of jealous grace, so that people place their personal stories in the larger story of God’s kingdom, for his glory.” [Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands* (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 84-85.]

#### *For Parents with Young Children*

Monday: Read Titus 2:11-15 to your children. Ask them to remember a time when they got hurt by touching something they were not supposed to touch. Ask them what lesson they learned. Explain that being rescued, forgiven and healed by Jesus should make us hate and fear sin the way we hate and fear things which have harmed us in the past. The passage says that the grace of God teaches us to say “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions.

Tuesday: It would be great to memorize Titus 2:11-14 as a family. Are you up to it? Spend some time on it tonight and every day this week.

Wednesday: Remember that Wednesday Night Connection will not meet during the summer months. Talk and pray about how your family can use Wednesday evenings to connect with other families in our church and/or with non-believers.

Thursday: The passage talks about saying “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions and saying “yes” to things that please God (“zealous for good words”). Have each family member make a list of specific things to which he/she needs to say “no” and a list of specific things to which he/she needs to say “yes” in order to live a life pleasing to God. Let each family member pray for another family member’s list today.

Friday: This Sunday is **Pentecost**—the day that Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on his followers in a new and powerful way. You can read about it in Acts 2. If you are a Christian or become one, you have the Holy Spirit. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit, he was filled by the Holy Spirit, he was led by the Holy Spirit, and he was empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity empowered by the third member of the Trinity for the glory of the first member of the Trinity. If you are in Christ, you enjoy the same presence and power of God the Holy Spirit.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read one to you if they are old enough. Pray that Phillip and Grant will have boldness in preaching the Word of God tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their Sunday School teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.