

A Practical Study of Titus
Growth Toward Godliness
“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

Study Number Five – The Platform of Godliness
– Titus 2:11-15

There were two questions that came to the surface in last week’s study that I hope really bothered you all week.

#1: Are you bringing honor to the Word?

and

#2: Are you beautifying the teachings of the Word with your personal life?

Last week we looked at FIVE different groups. We saw godliness in RELATIONSHIP. We saw the OLDER, the YOUNGER, and then we saw godliness as it related to the JOB.—how I should act in my work.

And both sections—both verse 5 and verse 10 had these TWO CLAUSES in them:

Are you bringing honor to the Word?

and

Are you beautifying the teachings of the Word of God?

Well we come today to the most potent and loaded section—that's why there's only five verses to talk about. And yet it's the richest section of the whole epistle.

If there's any part of it that I would pick out that I love the most, it's these verses we're about to look at.

We've already discerned that the process of godliness is from FAITH, to FOOD, to FRUIT.

We come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—that's essential. That's a requirement.

That leads to an insatiable appetite for truth—the Word of God. That's one of the ways I can tell whether or not I'm a Christian.

That appetite being satisfied produces the godly life as I relate effectively to truth. The Spirit of God applies the principals of truth to my life.

Then we looked at a picture of it, fifteen characteristics of the godly life, and then we saw the perversion of it. In the perversion of godliness we saw some ugly lives. Those who are rebellious, empty talkers, deceivers. Those who are dishonest, pleasure-loving, those who were selfish and savage.

Now as we come to chapter 2 and verse 11, we have just

finished looking at godliness in relationship. It's one thing to be godly, it's another thing to be godly in personal relationships with one another. We know how we're supposed to act.

Now how does God really produce this? You know I'm going to hit at the nerve of something that probably will cause you to raise some questions if you are oriented toward human works, as far as gaining acceptance in the presence of God.

You know one of the biggest problems that people face is getting over the fact that their human works don't count. That you cannot buy salvation. You cannot perform for God and gain it. Many live by that philosophy.

“You know, if I got to church, if I give my money, if I go through the rituals and do the things that I'm supposed to do, then all of a sudden I'm going to become a Christian and become godly.”

And there's a great deal of confusion about that because Ephesians 2, verses 8 and 9 says:

Ephesians 2:8, 9

For by grace you are saved, through faith and that not of yourselves. It is a gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.

Now we face the same problem when we come to the godly life. I don't know why it is that the church has been saturated for

2,000 years with this whole idea of “I perform for God after I become a Christian. And if I get up in the morning and I have my devotions and read my Bible and pray and witness three times a day and I don’t beat my wife and I love my kids, all of a sudden I’m godly.”

And you’re sitting down at night with your tongue hanging out thinking that that’s it.

The beautiful thing about today’s study is that the God of grace who provides the gift of salvation, is the same God of grace who trains us in godliness. This is the most beautiful passage. I cannot describe to you as I was working on the translation of the text, when I came to that twelfth verse and I saw instructing or disciplining us through grace—“For the grace of God has appeared to all men” and it is “disciplining or training us” in specific areas which develop the godly life.

Now pick up with me at verse 11 and you’ll see the unfolding of this. If I were to try to take verses 11 and 12 and 13 and put a tense by them:

I’d put the word PAST by verse 11,

I’d put the word PRESENT by verse 12, and

I’d put the word FUTURE by verse 13.

Then you could put PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE in verse 14 because all three of them are summarized in that fourteenth verse.

What does verse 11 say?

v.11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Now there are some big words there. Some that are difficult to understand.

Why are we supposed to beautify the teachings of the Word of God by our lives? That was the last phrase in last week's study.

The REASON:

“the grace of God had appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”

What does that tell you? That tells you that your witness for God is your LIFE, not your LIP.

Why are you supposed to be beautifying the teaching of the Word of God? Because:

“the grace of God has appeared” to all men, offering salvation to them.

And they're going to be attracted to it by what they see in our lives.

Now I know you need some definition on the word “grace.”

Let's take a few minutes.

There's a book written, *Grace Is Not a Blue-Eyed Blonde*. You know we think of that and we get confused about what grace really is.

Way back in the Garden of Eden when our parents sinned, God could have acted in one of two ways. He could have pulled out the hammer and said "WHOP! That's it! It's all over!" Destroy the human race right there in the garden. That would have been acting in justice because "the wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23)

God decided to act in grace. Now, how do you act in grace? He provides unmerited favor while you're guilty. What He did was provide an unconditional covenant to Abraham and said "Abraham, this doesn't depend on you. It depends on Me."

Remember he slays the sacrifice and lays it out and God alone walks between the pieces to say "I'm taking the responsibility for this covenant. I'm going to bless you. I'm going to make you a father of many nations. Those who bless you I'm going to bless. And those who curse, I'm going to curse." (Gen. 17:4 & 12:3)

And Abraham has nothing to do with it. God says "I'm going to do this."

And so through Abraham comes the birth of the nation Israel. And out of the nation Israel comes the grace-gift, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God coming in human flesh. Not because He

has to but because He wants to. And because He loves us and He acts towards us in grace.

Through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, now He can offer you a gracious gift. You can't earn it. We don't deserve it. But it's the gift of His Son which provides the basis for salvation.

That's basically what Paul said. Why am I supposed to be beautifying the teachings of the Word of God? Because "the grace of God"—in the Lord Jesus Christ—"has manifested (or has appeared), bringing salvation to"—HOW MANY?—"to ALL men."

You see it's "whosoever will may come." It's up to you to choose whether or not you're going to receive or reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your godly life verifies the grace of God. And as that life manifests the grace of God, others are attracted to it.

But He came and He brought you a gift. And that gift is "salvation to all men."

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Second Peter 3:9.

He's bringing it. You don't have to earn it.

Our problem is we're trying to buy something that's been paid for. And we're busy selling something oftentimes that's free. Salvation is yours and you can experience it this very night by receiving Jesus Christ.

Now I think if we really concentrated more on our godly life and less on trying to say it right, I think more people would come to know Christ through that than any other possible way.

If we concentrated on the practice instead of our preaching, more would come to Christ.

As I mentioned earlier, if we could just say "what you see is what you get," you know that would be fantastic. Many would come to know Him.

Alright, "the grace of God has appeared...to all men." But look at the next verse—verse 12.

Here's a present manifestation of it if you're a Christian today

v.12 instructing (disciplining) us that denying ungodliness and worldly desires we should live sensibly and righteously and godly in the present (now) age,

How is it that the grace of God trains me?

I always thought you had to legislate godliness. I always thought you had to do certain things in order to prove that you're godly.

God's grace does not leave us alone once we come into the family. He, like we do our children, train them up. He trains us in the relationship. He can show us what we need to learn and how we need to act as we're responsive to this gracious work. That tells me that I can come to God with my failures and my frustrations and my lack of wisdom and I cannot wear Him out.

His grace has been adequate for my salvation and I can come a gillion times in the midst of my failure, and He's never going to say "Anderson, that's 3,786 and here you back again today. And you were here twice yesterday. ZAPP! That's it!"

No. His grace extends on into eternity.

I love that verse:

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will continue it to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

He's not going to give up on you. He's going to train you to the godly life.

How does He do it? Well he CHASTENS us—Hebrews 12:11.

Hebrews 12:11

Though chastening is not joyous for the present, but it eventually yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

He uses CIRCUMSTANCES:

James 1:2, 2

Deem it pure joy when you fall into diverse testings, knowing that the trial or testing of your faith is producing patience.

So He teaches, He chastens, He counsels, He comforts, He encourages, He admonishes, He guides us.

When the grace of God takes over, the sinner begins to repudiate ungodliness. You'll notice that in these next verses.

As we get to verse 12 and break it down, we're going to see **TWO NEGATIVES** and **THREE POSITIVES**.

How does the grace of God train you? Well there are **TWO WAYS** that it does it—**NEGATIVE**. And there are **THREE WAYS** that He does it **POSITIVELY**.

You'll want to make your little outline, you can notice the very first thing that He does is:

1. He teaches us to be “denying ungodliness.”

You know the longer I live in my Christian life and walk with God, the more I realize that the one basic essential when it's all said and done is just the key to Christian growth is to have a TEACHABLE SPIRIT.

You know, if I'm just open with the Lord, I'm submissive, I'm willing to be obedient to His Word, I'm transparent in my motives, I just throw myself open to Him with a teachable Spirit, He then begins to produce this glorious quality of godliness.

And how's He do it?

1. He trains you to "deny ungodliness."

That means that you're sensitive to voice of the Spirit and there are times in your life when you say no. Maybe others around you are saying yes, but you say no, because you can sense that heavenly resident saying "That's not right!" So you speak out about it and say "No, I'm sorry. I can't go along with that. It's wrong."

Daniel did that in Daniel 1:8:

Daniel 1:8

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat.

Here was a diet that was prescribed and he had feelings about

it. He says no, I won't do it. God blessed him in that but he was denying ungodliness.

When I learn to do what is right, love what is kind, and believe what is true, I begin at that point to learn how to deny ungodliness.

Now let me just make a little explanation of the Christian life why it's necessary to do that. When you become a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within you. But you are also, in the new birth, given a new divine nature. And that new nature can only produce godliness.

The power of your old sin nature has been broken by the coming of Christ into your life but it is still there. And like a cancer it'll be with you until you get to glory. You'll never get rid of it.

Paul in Romans 7, at the end of it, says:

Romans 7:24

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

I still have that old capacity there but the power of it's been broken. Before I became a Christian all I could respond to was that selfish old sin nature. And all it would produce is sin. But now that I've become a Christian, I've got a choice. And immediately there's a conflict in my life.

For instance, there I am driving down a freeway with my family and I'm in fellowship with the Lord and we're all going to church and we're singing "Let's just praise the Lord!" and then some hotdog cuts in front of me, I slam on the brakes, and yell out like bloody murder at the guy. Then my wife and kids say "You sure are out of fellowship."

What did I just do? I just said "Sic'em old nature" subconsciously, because the rights had been violated. And just that quickly we can react instead of respond.

Learning to deny ungodliness is learning to say no to that old nature. You don't have to say yes to it anymore. And as a Christian, it is your responsibility unto the power of the Spirit to say "no" to that and say yes to the new divine nature. And the more you train it and the more you say "yes" to the new divine nature, the more godly you become.

And you say that's wild. Well let me give you about four or five verses just to lay it on you and it'll maybe help you.

Galatians 5:16,17

So I say, live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other so that you do not do what you want.

Romans 6:13

Don't yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.

It is learning to say "no" to the flesh. To deny ungodliness.

Paul in Romans 7 describes that whole conflict. He says:

Romans 7:19

The good I would, I find I'm not doing; And that which I would not, I find I'm always doing.

People read that and they say "Oh, he couldn't be a Christian. He couldn't be very spiritual."

You know, the more I'm around and walking in the Christian life, the more I find that the people who are really godly are the people who recognize their sin. You know?

These self-righteous characters that are just sitting around and pulling their self-righteous robes around them and saying, "Boy, I've gotten it together. I sure hope you'll arrive someday."

Those people are far less godly than the guy who is really struggling. You know, I see the most saintly individuals as the people who are the closest to the Lord. You cannot get close to the Lord without being aware of sin in your life

Isaiah chapter 6, Isaiah said when he saw the Lord high and lifted up, he said:

Isaiah 6:5

“Woe is me, for I am undone! I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

First John 1:7 says:

1 John 1:7

...the blood of Jesus Christ is cleansing us from all sin.

While we're walking in fellowship with the Lord we become aware of those offenses in our lives and the Spirit of God is in the process of cleansing.

The closer you get to the Lord, the more aware you're going to be of sin because you can't get close to holiness without seeing these things in your life. And that's part and parcel of the godly life.

Alright, notice number two on the NEGATIVE side. He goes on to say that the grace of God trains us to “deny ungodliness” but also:

2. “worldly desires”

Whereas “ungodliness” is our ACTION, “worldly desires” are our ATTITUDES.

It’s the thought processes that also need to be changed—those “worldly desires.”

Isaiah said:

Isaiah 55:8-9

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” saith the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

There needs to be:

2 Corinthians 10:5

...a bringing of all thoughts into captivity unto the obedience of Christ.

What you think is what you become. It starts in the mind and then it comes out in the conduct. And we’re talking about the godly life.

Alright, let’s get beside the godly action to the attitudes.

And when we’re so filled with “worldly desires,” no wonder we have such a shallow and crumbly profession of faith because we’re all caught up with what’s down here:

power,
popularity,
pride,
money,
things.

John said in:

1 John 2:15, 16

Love not the world, nor the things that are in the world. For if man loves the world, ... the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride of life...

These are certainly not of the Lord.

So on the NEGATIVE side, we're to "deny ungodliness and worldly desires."

ACTIONS and ATTITUDES.

Alright, let's turn it over and make it POSITIVE now. Let's see the THREE THINGS where the grace of God trains us on the positive side of the ledger. First, that you would:

1. "live sensibly"

What does that mean? To “live sensibly”? Do you realize this is the fifth time you’ve heard that word, live the godly life?

Sensible and self-control.

Lenski is probably the finest Lutheran commentator that you’ll ever find. He must have been a phenomenal student of the Greek text. I read him on every passage that I work on. And this is what he said:

The mind has become balanced by grace and is free from its former senseless follies. (source unknown)

To THINK RIGHT is to ACT RIGHT. And the more the Word of God is implanted in my life, the more my thoughts become godly thoughts.

You know I think that is a tremendous reason why you need to discipline yourself to memorize the Word of God. Because you can’t, when you face a crisis, immediately flip over and look for the chapter and verse. But if you’ve got that in your head, you’re going to respond with that.

For instance, here’s a temptation: “There hath no temptation overtaken you but such is common to man; God is faithful. He will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but with the temptation also make a way to escape that you can bear up under it.” (1 Cor. 10:13)

If you cop out on it then you’ll yield to that temptation. It’s not

God's fault, it's yours. Because He's provided grace to help you lift you over that thing. Or whatever it is. The Word of God can meet those situations but you've got to have it available to do it and to have a balanced mind. It must be filled with truth and the Word of God.

The disciplined mind produces the disciplined lifestyle so you "live sensibly."

Secondly:

2. "righteously"

Whereas "sensibly" is letting me live with myself, I am disciplined inwardly. This word "sensibly" points INWARD to me.

"Righteously" points UPWARD to God. This is how I should act toward Him.

He added His righteousness when I came to know Christ—
Romans 1:17.

Now I begin to manifest His character and my life takes on the qualities of godliness as I manifest it in righteous living.

You know nothing thrills you anymore than when your children begin to walk with God or manifest a little bit of godliness. It's a great encouragement to you as a parent.

I remember here several months ago, we were having a very

difficult time in our family. In fact, we are going through it right now.

We have a 23-year-old daughter who has a very serious case of diabetes. And it is bad enough that she's been hospitalized some and she's home but she's back down again since I have chatted with Pearl earlier just before the class began.

And it's very hard when one of your children really suffer. And have the doctors say that, you know, there's a certain period of time remaining to live if something really drastic doesn't happen.

Well we were one night facing very low time, as a family, during the holidays. And my kids were counseling me as we shared together what we should do. And my oldest son, while we were talking, said "Dad, you've always told us there is safety in a multitude of counselors," quoting from the Psalms of the Proverbs. And I thought to myself, that's fantastic to hear him say that. But then I said "You know son, Becky does not have any insurance. To seek the professional help we need is going to be terribly, terribly expensive." And my youngest son, as though he were on cue, said "Dad, you have always told us that my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. And I think it's time for us to trust Him. He hasn't failed us yet."

And who can say the joy you feel when your kids turn the Word back on you and to begin to manifest and minister to you from the book in the time of your need. You know, that's what God delights in His children. Seeing us claiming the

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promises of the Word that we've agonized over, that we've learned and we begin to manifest it in our lives.

The third word is:

3. “godly in the present (now) age”

Now you know what that's for? Whereas, “sensible” is INWARD, “righteously” is UPWARD, “godly” is OUTWARD. It's to the world around. This is my witness to the world. I am “godly in the present (now) age.”

Go on to verse 13.

v.13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus;

I just put:

Future manifestation of grace—WOW!!

He's coming back to get me!

I mean, that is exciting! You think? He promised that He was going to in John 14.

John 14:1-3

Stop being troubled in your hearts; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you;

I'm going to go prepare a place for you. And then I'm going to come again and receive you unto Myself...

Why does “the blessed hope” relate to godliness?

Simply because if you really believe it, you're going to purify yourself in the godly life because you want to be ready for Him when He comes.

When you're expecting a very special guest, you get everything ready, don't you?

First John 3:3 says that:

1 John 3:3

Everyone who has this hope purifies himself, even as He is pure.

I can remember back in junior high when I was a younger. We went through about 6 or 7 Sunday school teachers on that particular year. And one Sunday morning I floated a little airplane over into the other class and as I let go of it, the teacher just said “Donald! You want to be doing that if the Lord should come?”

You know I've never forgotten that.

Somebody saw a bumper sticker the other day that says “God is back and boy is He mad!”

Very seriously, I would not be surprised if we did not meet next week. I know you might think that's scare tactic but consumed in teaching the book of Revelation, we are living in a time like human history has never known before.

With the birth of the nation Israel, with the convergence on the Middle East, the oil crisis, the things that are happening in our world with regard to our ability to feed the population that is here, the Lord Jesus Christ has promised to come and He in fact is going to come.

Now what is "the blessed hope"?

There are two passages that I'll give you.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ [the Christians] will be raised first. And we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

That's First Thessalonians 4:16 and 17.

Then you can put right alongside that:

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of

an eye...

As quick as you can bat your eye, you could be absent here and present over there.

Everything that needs to be done has been done. That event could happen today and there is nothing standing in the way—prophetically—of that event taking place. That is why it is so urgent to know Jesus Christ in a personal way. So that when that call is made for the church—you never put a label on the church, the Bible doesn't. It is the church universal. The church is made up of those “called-out ones”—those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

When He calls that church home in the batting of an eyelash, then many of the other events are going to take place in the book of Revelation.

But the “blessed hope” of the believer is the glorious “appearing...of our great God and Savior.” Just like that, we leave here and we go there.

Hal Linsey in his book *The Late Great Planet Earth* says:

Jesus said this would indicate that He was at the door, ready to return. Then He said, “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.” (Matthew 24:34) What generation? Obviously, in the context, the generation that would see the signs, chief among them, the rebirth of Israel. A generation in the Bible is something like 40 years. If this is a correct deduction, then within 40 years or

so of 1948 all these things could take place. Many scholars who have studied Bible prophecy all of their lives believe that this is so. (source unknown)

Now I don't put dates on it. But I do as a believer, in scrutinizing the times, believe it's close.

I have shared with my students in the Revelation series that verse in:

1 Chronicles 12:32

the sons of Issachar, discerned the times so they knew what Israel should do...

You know each year we find the coast is buffeted with hurricanes. And what happens oftentimes is that now with all the sophisticated equipment, they can track that hurricane by the wind, by the mileage, and exactly—approximately anyway—where it's going to hit.

Now what are those people on a shore do as they start hearing those warnings? Well they board up their windows, they get food and water, they batten down the hatches, many of them retreat inland. Why? They're getting ready for something that's going to happen.

And as a believer, I'm sharing with you that one of the things that ought to be a powerful motivation to a godly life is this grace manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ coming back to take us to be with Himself.

And what should I be doing? Quit my job and sit around and wait? That's not what the Bible teaches.

I think J. Sidlow Baxter probably illustrated this best. He told of a Scotsman and his two boys that had been out fishing for quite some time in their shrimping boat. And they were coming back to the shore toward home. The youngest boy says "Ah, I can see my young wife. She is so faithful. She's waiting for me right now."

The older boy, always wanting to be one-up on his brother says "Well my wife exceeds yours by far. She's not only waiting for me, but she's watching the boat to come on the horizon."

The dad had been listening to all this and finally he said "Boys, your mother exceeds them both, bless her dear heart." With his old Scottish brogue he said "She's not only waiting and watching, but she's fixing dinner for me."
(source unknown)

She's watching, she's waiting and she's working.

The thing that the "blessed hope" does is what Dwight L. Moody said:

God has not told me to reform the whole world, the world is like a sinking ship which cannot be kept from going down. But God has given me a lifeboat and said "Moody, save everyone off that ship you can. Our chief task is to share the gospel with everyone we can."

(source unknown)

Now notice verse 14 because it just encompasses those three verses.

v.14 who gave Himself on our behalf, in order that He might set us free from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

“who”—Jesus Christ—“gave Himself on our behalf,”—that’s the appearance of grace right there. Why did He come? To give Himself in our behalf.

“in order that”—SECONDLY—“He might set us free from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people”—that’s number two. That is grace training us. Purifying us from every “lawless deed.” “Purifying for Himself a people.”

THIRD—“for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

He wants us for His very own.

In the PAST He “gave Himself.”

In the PRESENT He “sets us free...and purifies us.”

In the FUTURE we are going to be “His own possession” because we’re twice His.

He CREATED US and then He PURCHASED US with His own blood.

Let's scrutinize those a little bit more closely for just a minute if we can.

1. "that He might set us free from every lawless deed"

We were bound under sin:

John 8:32

you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free

Remember that verse in that great old hymn?

*Oh for a thousand tongues to sing,
He breaks the power of cancelled sin.
He sets the prisoner free.*

(source unknown)

The potential for the godly life is in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it starts by coming there, dying in humble repentance, acknowledging our sin, knowing that when we come to know Christ, He breaks the power of that old nature and begins this good work.

2. "purifying for Himself a people for His own possession"

The object of the training process of the grace of God is to purify us.

I put Ephesians 5:25-27 right there where he says:

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word and to present her to Himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless.

What's the third purpose? He is giving these for whom He is giving Himself to set them free and purified them for Himself are to be:

3. “zealous for good deeds.”

You know so many times we fail to look at those three things as what God's trying to do in our lives.

He gave Himself so He could set us free, so He could purify us and then we'd be “zealous of good deeds.”

Much of the emphasis in the church today is to set free and to serve. And we forget the purifying process. And that's why I'm afraid to say we are so ineffective in our witness. We get people set free to serve. Boy, we skip from 1 to 3 without even batting an eye! And realizing that every person must go through a purifying process of becoming godly before he really becomes effective in being zealous in service.

“set free,”

“purifying,”

THEN service.

Not set free to service.

Verse 15.

**v.15 These things be speaking and exhorting and reprov-
ing with all authority. Let no one be looking
down on you.**

“These things be speaking and exhorting and reprov-
ing with all authority.”—And then he ends it—“Let no one be looking
down on you.”

In other words, you be an example to them. Don’t let them
look down on you. You honor the Word of God with your life.
You beautify the teachings of the Word of God with your godly
lifestyle.

Now what are the lessons I got out of that? There are five in
number.

You know I’ll give you a few minutes for questions before we
wrap it up.

Lesson #1, what did I get out of those verses?

[Lesson #1:] Salvation is a free gift offered to all men.

Salvation is a free gift offered to all men.

He came and He brought you a gift. Have you received it?
Have you taken it for your very own?

You can't pay for it. You can't earn it. You can't work for it. No strings attached! He came and He brought you a gift.
Salvation is a free gift offered to all men.

Lesson #2: The grace of God disciplines us in the pursuit of godliness.

The grace of God disciplines us in the pursuit of godliness.

That same unmerited favor that brought salvation to you in answer to your faith is the same unmerited favor that's going to deal with you as a son and a daughter to produce godliness.

He's never going to give up on you. The grace of God disciplines us in the pursuit of godliness.

Lesson #3: The coming of Jesus Christ is a great motivating factor to godliness.

The coming of Jesus Christ is a great motivating factor toward godliness.

Lesson #4: Christ came to earth to give Himself on our behalf.

Christ came to earth to give Himself on our behalf.

And I just put Isaiah 53 over there by that.

Isaiah 53:4-6

He bore our gifts and carried our sorrows...he was wounded for our transgressions, He is bruised for our iniquities...

Christ came to earth to give Himself on our behalf.

Lesson #5: We are a people for His own possession.

We do not belong to ourselves. We are a people for His own possession.

I want to conclude this study with an experience I had the other day with an old fella when he and I were called together for a common funeral. In my ministry at Hide-a-Way Lake and Emerald Bay, a lot of times people have moved to the lake but they still have their ties with their churches back in Dallas and Fort Worth or those cities where they had grown up.

This old gentleman was about 83 or 84 years of age and very hard of hearing. He and I were doing the funeral service together. A dear, elderly Methodist pastor from down on Carthage, Texas, and when we got together he wanted to know about me. And you know, to explain my ministry is the wildest thing for somebody like that. I mean, you realize the first thing they ask is what denomination you are. And of

course, I'm not one.

And then after you get through getting through that, then you've got to convince him that you're not some coo-coo who's gone off the deep end with the People's Temple or the other extreme with the other phenomenon that that proved to be a real threat to old line denominations.

Finally when he realized that I was just a teacher of the Word and I was trusting God to supply my needs and just going wherever there's an opportunity to teach, he really opened up to me. It was beautiful. I'll never forget when he asked those questions so loud, I know everybody—a funeral parlor is a quiet place anyway. Bless his heart, he finally caught ahold of the fact that I was just going around to teach the Bible because people are hungry for the Word.

It's just kind of like, you know, he just welled up with emotion inside. In his old age, he says "I guess we really missed it"—speaking of the church.

He says "They came to us to find Him, wanting, looking for something. And they've had to go somewhere else to find it."

And what he was saying in essence was that lots of folks are shopping for validity, for authenticity, they're testing the Christian message. Does it work? Does it in fact really change lives? And you know, you just have to say "Yes!" with a great big exclamation point.

You know last night I had the neatest thing. This just came to

my mind. I spent the night last night in Bryan with Steve O’Neal. He’s the guy I told you about that holds the NFL punting record of 98 yards in scrimmage when he kicked for the New York Jets against Denver here back in 1969. He said the neatest thing last night and it was so neat this morning at breakfast before I left. He says “Tomorrow I’m going to be two.” And he said “The other day I was 34. But tomorrow I’m going to be two.”

And he remembered two years ago that night when I was invited into his home. And there with his wife as our witness, he opened his heart to Jesus Christ and became a Christian. And he celebrated his new birth—his second birthday.

Do you know what Julie said? When he said that, she said “Boy and has God made a difference—in our home, in our marriage, and relationship to our children.”

I told Pearl that tonight on the phone and I was “Honey, it makes this all worthwhile being out there. Even though I’ve been away from you all just to realize that God is still at work in the lives of people—changing them.”

Now sometimes we don’t understand what He’s doing. And that’s part of the training process of grace. And when you don’t understand, you’ve got to just trust Him, that He’s going to work it all out and it’s going to be alright.

F.B. Meyer made a statement in his book *The Directory of a Devout Life*, and with this I close:

The mother of St. Augustine prayed to God that he would not suffer her beloved son to go to Rome because she dreaded the persecutions which were threatening the city. He went, notwithstanding, and it was in Italy that he found Christ. Referring to this incident in his life in after years he said, “What was it, O my God, that she sought of Thee with many Tears? Was it not that thou wouldest not suffer me to set sail for Rome? But though in thy deep counsels and in listening to the hinge of her desire, didst disregard the thing which she asked for, that you might do in me that which she has ever asking for, the conversion of my soul.” (source unknown)

Who are we to tell God how He answers our prayers? And how He’s going to accomplish it?

And maybe you don’t understand that now. But you will.

Father, we thank You that the Word teaches us that we see through a glass darkly but then face to face. We know only a little bit now, but we’re going to know even as we’re known. Thank You that that veil which stands between us, that goal of physical death that issues in eternal life if we know the Lord Jesus as Savior, that one day we’ll be in Your presence. We thank You too that we’re living in such exciting times to know that it could even be, though we’ll not experience physical death, that we could be those who are alive and remain and caught up together with them who’ve already gone to be with the Lord to meet You in the air. The expectation of that is glorious. Father, we thank You today for the past manifestation of grace, that unmerited favor that provided the gift of the Lord Jesus for our salvation. For some

that might not be past tense because they've not experienced it yet. And then Father, for the present manifestation, knowing that You're training us to deny ungodliness, worldly desires, to learn to live sensibly and righteously and godly in this present age. With an upward look, for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, how we love and adore Him today and how we thank You for providing Him as a means whereby we could have this blessed access right now into Your presence. Lord may Your Spirit speak to hearts and minister to needs. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**A Practical Study of TITUS:
Growth Toward Godliness**

“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – THE PLATFORM OF GODLINESS – TITUS 2:11-15

NOTES

v.11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
v.12 instructing (disciplining) us that denying ungodliness and worldly desires we should live sensibly and righteously and godly in the present (now) age,
v.13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus;
v.14 who gave Himself on our behalf, in order that He might set us free from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
v.15 These things be speaking and exhorting and reproving with all authority. Let no one be looking down on you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Titus 2:11-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What has the grace of God brought, according to verse 11?

3. How are we supposed to live according, to verse 12?

4. What is to be our glorious anticipation, according to verse 13?

5. Outline the three-fold purpose for the giving of Himself upon the cross for us, according to verse 14.

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6. Describe the process of setting us free, purifying us, and motivating us to be zealous for good deeds.

7. Define the words “these things” in verse 15.

8. What four things does Paul ask Titus to do in verse 15?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Salvation is a free gift offered to all men.

LESSON #2: The grace of God disciplines us in the pursuit of godliness.

LESSON #3: The coming of Jesus Christ is a great motivating factor toward godliness.

LESSON #4: Christ came to earth for the purpose of giving Himself on our behalf.

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