

“The Fruit of the Gospel”  
Titus 2:11-12  
(Preached at Trinity, April 16, 2023)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In this chapter Paul has maintained the importance of sound doctrine.  
**Titus 2:1 NAU** - "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."
2. This is of universal importance. Christianity transforms people from every walk of life. To demonstrate this Paul has directed our attention upon several different groups within the church.  
Older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and finally, bondservants or slaves. Each group has particular challenges and particular responsibilities. But each enjoy the transforming grace of the Gospel and each benefit from the benefits of sound doctrine.
3. Having described the reality of God’s transformation in these four groups, Paul summarizes this reality in **Verses 11-12**.  
**Titus 2:11** - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,"
  - A. This isn’t a statement of universalism. All men are not being saved. But it is a statement that describes the extent God’s redeeming grace. He has brought salvation to men of all sorts. This includes older men, younger men, older women and younger women. It also includes men and women from every conceivable station of life. It includes slaves and masters, rich and poor, men from every nation and tongue.
  - B. Paul also taught this principle in 1 Timothy.  
**1 Timothy 2:1-2 NAU** - "I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."  
Again, when Paul uses the words, “for all men,” he is saying we should pray for all sorts of men. This includes kings and others who have authority over us.
  - C. John also used universal language to describe the extent of the Gospel.  
**1 John 2:2 NAU** - "He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world."
    - a. Again, John isn’t saying Jesus provided atonement for all men. He isn’t making a statement of universal salvation.
    - b. He has been writing as one of the Apostles.  
**1 John 1:1 NAU** - "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life--"  
But Jesus did not die for Jews only but for men of all nations.  
“but also for *those of* the whole world."

4. Paul is describing the wonder God's grace.  
**Titus 2:11 NAU** - "For the grace of God has appeared"  
 The word is ἐπιφάινω – literally means "to shine upon"  
 Grace here refers to the entirety of God's work of redemption in Jesus Christ.  
 God has caused His grace to shine upon this world of darkness.  
 The brilliant light of Christ has dawned upon the earth.  
**John 1:4-5 NAU** - "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup> The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."  
**John 1:14 NAU** - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."  
**John 1:16 NAU** - "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace."
5. This grace has shined upon all of God's people, male, female, old and young, rich and poor, bond and free.  
 And of them all, they are instructed to live lives consistent with the consecrated life.  
**Titus 2:12 NAU** - "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age"
6. It cannot be doubted, we are saved by grace, by God's great work of redemption. There is nothing we can do to gain God's favor.  
 But God's grace informs us of His holiness. Grace is our teacher. While God's salvation is apart from our works, we are saved unto holiness.
7. In Verses 11-12 Paul describes the fruit of God's grace. It leads to godliness. God's people live consecrated lives.  
 Paul is saying this grace-training is divided into two categories: things denied, and things lived.

## I. Things Denied

### A. Instructing us to deny ungodliness

1. Ungodliness is the Biblical way to describe our fallen condition  
**Romans 1:18 NAU** - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"
2. It is the ungodly who are under the wrath of God. This characteristic has no place in the lives of God's people.  
 The man whose life is characterized by ungodliness is lost, regardless of what he may claim.
3. The nature of repentance is an intentional repudiation of ungodliness.  
 It is the intentional, intense desire to give up all that is not godlike.  
**Psalms 1:1 NAU** - "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!"

### B. Instructing us to deny worldly desires

1. Paul uses the word ἐπιθυμία which the NASB translates "desires."  
 The typical KJV translation is "lusts" which is also the CSV translation.  
 Paul used the word to describe God's judgment upon fallen man who will not worship God – He has given them over to their degrading passions.  
**Romans 1:24 NAU** - "Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them."

2. Worldliness is the great enemy of the Christian.  
Like ungodliness, worldliness describes the heart of an unbeliever.  
**1 John 2:15 NAU** - "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."  
**James 4:4 NAU** - "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
3. The danger of setting our hearts upon this world is always before us.  
Demas stands as an enduring warning.  
**2 Timothy 4:10 NAU** - "Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me"
4. A worldly desire is anything that draws our affection away from Christ.  
**2 Timothy 3:1-2 NAU** - "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money"  
**2 Timothy 3:4-5 NAU** - "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;"
5. In modern times worldliness includes a preoccupation with sexual lusts, drugs and alcohol intoxication, an excessive yearning for material things, an insatiable lust for pleasure, a prideful lust for power.  
Hendriksen call it an inordinate longing for pleasure, power, and possessions.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Things Lived – the things the Christian keeps before him.

- A. To live sensibly
  1. The word refers to a sound mind.
  2. Christian conversion changes our way of thinking. The Word of God progressively informs.  
**Romans 12:1-2 NAU** - "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."
- B. To live righteously
  1. Genuine faith is never void of the outward fruit of righteousness.  
The Christian life is never a neutral life – the man who is not following hard after righteousness will be overtaken by sin  
In fact, a heart filled with righteousness will be protected from the assaults of Satan.  
It is an important piece of our armor.  
**Eph 6:14** - "and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,"

---

<sup>1</sup> William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker, *Exposition of the Pastoral Epistles*, vol. 4, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 372.

2. It must be that which we lust after – Christian lust.  
**Matthew 5:6 NAU** - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
- a. It is Christian delight. What are the things you delight in?  
**Psalm 1:1-2 NAU** - "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."
- b. Isaiah spoke of the Godly man's attitude towards the Sabbath—a heavenly delight.  
**Isaiah 58:13-14 NAU** - "If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot From doing your *own* pleasure on My holy day, And call the sabbath a delight, the holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And honor it, desisting from your *own* ways, From seeking your *own* pleasure And speaking *your own* word, <sup>14</sup> Then you will take delight in the LORD"
3. The standard is the Word of God and the power comes through the Word of God.  
**2 Timothy 3:16 NAU** - "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness"  
**Psalm 119:9-11 NAU** - "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word. <sup>10</sup> With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. <sup>11</sup> Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."

C. Live Godly

1. It means devout. It means God-like.  
**1 Peter 1:15 NAU** - "but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;"
2. God has transformed us from ungodliness to godliness.  
**Psalm 4:3 NAU** - "But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself;"  
**Psalm 30:4 NAU** - "Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name."
3. Paul says that grace instructs us in how to live.  
 Whatever state God's Providence has placed you the riches of God's grace enables you to excel.
- a. When Paul was plagued by the thorn in the flesh God's message was clear.  
**2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NAU** - "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."
- b. Joseph as Potiphar's servant excelled in excellence.  
 As a prisoner in the dungeon he excelled in excellence.

- c. Daniel as a captive in Babylon excelled in excellence.
- d. William Hendriksen – “grace gently leads and guides. It does not throw things into confusion. It does not suddenly and forcefully upset the social order. For example, it does not abruptly order masters to free their slaves; nor does it unwisely command slaves to rebel forthwith against their masters. On the contrary, it gradually causes masters to see that the encroachment upon the liberty of their fellows is a great wrong, and it convinces slaves that resort to force and vengeance is not the solution to every problem. Grace *trains* by teaching”<sup>2</sup>

Conclusion:

1. Paul adds: “in this present age” - *αἰών*  
 This refers to the age between the advents of Christ.  
 These are troubled times, evil times.
  - a. Jesus described this age as a "wicked and adulterous generation"
  - b. Paul called it an evil age.  
**Galatians 1:4 NAU** - "who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,"
2. It points to the truth that as Christians we keep our eye upon that which is to come. We keep an eye on eternity.  
**Titus 2:13 NAU** - "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,"
3. Godliness is one thing you can actually take with you – it lasts forever. It is an eternal crown of glory.

---

<sup>2</sup> William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker, *Exposition of the Pastoral Epistles*, vol. 4, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 371.