

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

Study 17

Titus

Christian Behaviour (Titus 2:11-3:1-15)

Section A: Titus 2:11-15

Verse 11-15

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

1) a) Reflection question: Redeem (Part I: Saved FROM what)

In verse 14, Christ has ‘redeemed us from all wickedness’. Are we a coupon or voucher to be redeemed? Based on the following definitions of ‘redeem’, reflect on how Christ ‘redeem’ us:

Redeem:

1. compensate for the faults or bad aspects.

Example sentence: "a disappointing debate redeemed only by an outstanding speech"

2. gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment.

Example sentence: "statutes enabled state peasants to redeem their land"

Both definitions show some aspect of how Christ paid for us and our sins.

b) Jesus’ appearance on earth. (Part II: Saved BY what)

Objective question, choose one answer. The word ‘appear’ is found in verses 2:11, 2:13, and 3:4. Which of the following is the correct ‘appearance’ of Jesus?

	2:11	2:13	3:4
A.	Jesus’ first appearance	Jesus’ first appearance	Jesus’ second appearance
B.	Jesus’ first appearance	Jesus’ second appearance	Jesus’ second appearance

C.	Jesus' first appearance	Jesus' second appearance	Jesus' first appearance
D.	Jesus' second appearance	Jesus' first appearance	Jesus' second appearance

c) Purified, eager to do what is good. (Part III: Saved FOR what)

Objective questions, choose one answer. In verse 14, after redeeming, we become 'God's own people', purified, and eager to do good. This means that:

- A. We are free to do whatever we want, even sinning.
- B. We are free to do whatever we want, besides sinning. As long as we avoid sin can already.
- C. We are free to do whatever we want, but we use that freedom to actively let God change us so we can say 'No' to sin and actively pursue doing good.

d) Reflection question: What is our motivation?

As Christians, our motivations to 'say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions' and being 'eager to do what is good' should be based on the gospel as mentioned in verses 11-14.

Have you found yourself being good for other reasons?

Sometimes people might do good for the sake of appearance or their own moral standard, not because of the gospel.

e) Objective question, choose one answer. 'Salvation for all' in verse 14 means:

- A. Salvation for all people without exception (gospel will save every person in the whole world) <not this because there is evidence of difference between believers and non-believers)
- B. Salvation for all people without distinction (option of salvation is available only if the person accepts the gospel)

Section B: Titus 3:1-15

Verse 1-3

Titus 3: 1-3



Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

2) Reflection: Process of Transformation.

In verses 1-3, Paul asked Titus to remind the people to behave in a certain way and

contrasted it with a list of bad behaviours the people used to have. Reflect and share which traits you have gotten better at and which one you are still working on:

 <p>Bad behaviour in the past</p>	 <p>Good behaviours as goals</p>
foolish	be subject to rulers and authorities,
disobedient	be obedient
deceived	be ready to do whatever is good
enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures	slander no one
lived in malice and envy	be peaceable and considerate
being hated and hating one another.	always to be gentle toward everyone.

Verse 4-6

Titus 3: 4-6

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

3) Saved by the bell. (Part II: Saved BY what)

a) Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. What are we saved by?

- A. We are saved by God's kindness and mercy (v.4)
- B. We are saved by righteous things we had done (v.5)
- C. We are saved by God's mercy (v.5)
- D. We are saved by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (v.5)

b) 'Good works' is repeated in Titus 2:14, 3:1, & 3:8. (Part III: Saved FOR what)

Objective question, choose the answer(s), can be more than one. Why do we need to do good works as Christians?

- A. We have a minimum KPI for good works that God will use to judge us.
- B. It is how we respond in gratefulness to what God has done for us on the cross.
- C. It is an outward evidence of our internal faith.

D. So that other people can tell we are Christians.

E. We need to do good works to be saved.

F. We don't need to do good works because the thief who died next to Jesus died without doing any good works. <not this answer because it should not be an excuse to not do good works when there are bible verses encouraging us to do it>



c) Reflection question: Legalism.

What are the consequences of relying on your own works for salvation? Look at the picture and reflect.

-no source of power

-tired/burnout

-cannot sustain very long

- no power to save yourselves

Verse 7-8

Titus 3: 7-15

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those

who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

4) a) Reflection question: (Part III: Saved FOR what)

Verses 7-8 gave two purposes on what we are saved for, in your own words, paraphrase what they mean:

i) 'so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.' (v.7)

ii) 'so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.' (v.8)

b) Open Discussion question: Hope

What's the difference between the Christian 'hope' and how the word 'hope' is normally used? Example sentence: "I hope so."

The Christian hope is placed on a solution confirmed to work (Jesus) and looks forward to a good time, and perfect place and a healthy relationship with the Creator (God) forever and ever.

Christian hope is certain like a booked airline ticket, the word used normally indicates a wishful thinking that may not happen.

Quick Verse Reference

1 Timothy 4:9-10

9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

Verse 9-11

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

5) Explain based on verses 9-10, what is the SOP when we deal with people who argue and quarrel about foolish controversies.

Verse 12-16

Final Remarks

12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

15 Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith.

6) Discussion question: Titus as an example.

i) In verse 13, what did Paul ask Titus to do?

Paul asked Titus to help specific people they know and make sure they had supplies that they needed for travel.

ii) In verse 14, what was the basis on why Paul gave that instruction?

Christians and I suppose especially leaders should do good and lead by example and not live unproductive lives only caring about one's own needs and not the urgent needs of others.