

PASSAGE - “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. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

(Titus 2:11–15 ESV)

THEME STATEMENT - Understanding the first appearance of Christ which has provided our salvation and waiting for His second appearance provides hope and motivation to perform good works.

- I. **INTRO** - The Usual Suspects in 1995 starts with a guy who was arrested for being part of this huge assignation hit. He is a handicapped man who is believed to have just been taking advantage of by this crime lord, Keyser Soze. The movie goes back to the beginning and starts to fill in what happened.
- II. **BACKGROUND** - Come from a letter that Paul wrote but to who and why did he write it?
 - A. To Titus but letters at the time were actually read in a public venue to be heard by those living in the local area not by the person it was addressed to
 - B. Directed to Titus but as seen in Titus 1:1 to increase the faith of God’s people
 - C. Titus is in Crete and the churches being addressed were young and just being established.
 1. Since they are young concerned with providing them a solid foundation for the church to be planted on.
- III. **IMPACTS OF FAITH IN CHRIST** - A life filled with good works is an outward sign of faith in Christ
 - A. Paul places an emphasis on good works but he never changes his theology that a person is saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ
 1. This is an overall theme seen throughout Titus (1:16 unfit for an good work, 2:14 zealous for good works, 3:1 be ready for every good work, 3:8 be careful to devote themselves to good works, 3:14 learn to devote themselves to good works.
 2. Justified by faith in 3:4-5
 3. The “for” is a connection (conjunction) to verses 1-10 that are instructions for good works. V. 10 but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
- IV. **IMPACTS OF THE 1ST APPEARANCE** - Paul focuses on the importance of Jesus Christ and the redemptive history of Christ’s appearances in order to illustrate proper faith
 - A. Paul moves to the reason for why a believer can have faith in Christ through the 1st appearance of Christ
 1. V. 11 training and salvation are dependent on the grace of God
 - a) Grace though comes from the appearance (epephanē)
 - (1) This is the actual appearance of Christ (1st aorist) and should remind the reader of this

- b) Salvation is brought to all people (including Gentiles in Crete) through the grace of God
 - 2. Training that is provided by the grace of God is not a finite list
 - a) Paul provides 2 things to be renounce - horizontal and vertical aspects (cast off)
 - b) 3 things to live by (put on) not definite - oneself, others, and God
 - 3. The live is connected to both the neg. And post. Lists. - must cast off old bad habits before putting on new good habits
 - a) The live is also connected to present age (aeon) - referring to the already but not yet era we are in
- V. **IMPACTS OF THE 2ND APPEARANCE** - Paul moves to motivation in waiting by discussing the 2nd coming of Christ
- A. The waiting for connects to live in v 12 and carries the sense of “looking forward to the fulfillment of our expectation”
 - B. What are we waiting for?
 - 1. Not 1 blessed hope that is our great God and Savior Jesus Christ but instead 2
 - a) Seen really here with the use of kai (and)
 - 2. If 2 what is blessed hope if not our great God?
 - a) Salvation (Titus 1:2 and 3:7)
 - b) Use of epephaneian
 - C. Through these 2 appearances Paul reaffirms what Jesus accomplished for His believers
 - D. Jesus is able to accomplish this because of his deity - God and Savior
 - E. Results in believers being redeemed from lawlessness and purified
 - 1. These believers are zealous for good works
 - 2. They are also God’s treasured possession
 - a) Ex 19:5, Dt 7:6 and 14:2
- VI. **IMPACTS OF THE INCREASED FAITH** - Paul discusses how this life of faith and good works should result in interacting with others
- A. These things are the teaching of sound doctrine that Paul mentions in v 1-10
 - B. They are to declare, exhort, and rebuke with all authority
 - C. Let no one disregard you - unusual command since we can’t control someone else from disregarding us
 - 1. Paul is showing that increasing the believer’s faith by seeing the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ will cause them to be devoted to good works in a way as Titus 2:7-8 mentions that no one will have any ability to disregard them because they know they have faith in Christ.
 - a) The good works provides credence to their underlying faith
 - b) It provides the strong foundation for the church of Crete
- VII. **APPLYING THE WORD**
- A. Thinking about the “good things” you have been doing
 - 1. Mowing your neighbor’s yard
 - 2. Helping out at the work parties for the church
 - 3. Just being here at church today
 - B. Why are you doing these things?

1. Are you doing them just because you have been told to or know they are the right thing to do?
 2. Do you want to run the race, fight the good fight, and push forward the Kingdom?
- C. Let's put it another way
1. You are on the Yale Lax team this past season
 2. You know what we know now and have seen the headlines that Yale is going to win
 3. Are you as a member of that team willing/wanting to be out there on the field?
 - a) Willing to put the time into the practices
 - b) The time in at the gym
 - c) The time on your own studying the playbook
 4. Or are you just wanting to be there for the games sitting on the sideline
 5. You know either way you are going to win the championship this year
 - a) Either way you are going to earn a ring and trophy
 - b) You are going to be part of the team when they rush the field and celebrate their win
 6. Which one are you

VIII. **Communion**

- IX. **Benediction** - May our God who called Abraham when he was but one, And blessed him and made him many, Show you the incomparable riches of his grace, that you might know you are His workmanship, to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.