

Read Titus 2:11–3:7 in your translation. I will print the NET–2 translation.

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. 12 It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He gave himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are truly his, who are eager to do good. 15 So communicate these things with the sort of exhortation or rebuke that carries full authority. Don't let anyone look down on you.

3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. 2 They must not slander anyone, but be peaceable, gentle, showing complete courtesy to all people. 3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, misled, enslaved to various passions and desires, spending our lives in evil and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But “when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us in full measure through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 And so, since we have been justified by his grace, we become heirs with the confident expectation of eternal life.”

COMMENTS:

A better translation of v. 11 is, “For the grace of God has manifested salvation for all people.” The Greek word translated “appeared” by NET–2 and by me as “manifested” is *epephanē*, which is the word which gives us the word “Epiphany.”

This is a significant statement to the Greek Titus. The Jewish people always divided the world into two groups: Jews and Gentiles. One of the struggles of the early Christians was whether Jesus was just for the Jews or were the gentiles also included. Cf. 1 Tim. 2:4 and now Paul says salvation is for all people, a truth we need to remember.

Then he continues that we who know God are to live a life which shows everyone in the world, “to go with God is always the best way.” In v. 13 he expresses the truth that the best is yet to come. The fulfillment of our assured future (hope) will be the return of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He gave himself to create a people faithful to him, who like him, are eager to do good. Such a great message needs to be communicated with authority if you are encouraging or rebuking. Titus is not to let anyone look down on him.

The focus is on the witness of the Christians to the world. They demonstrate their respect for authority and they are always prepared to do good works of any kind. They are to be peaceable and show courtesy to everyone.

Paul now wants them to remember (v. 3:3) what they were before they connected with Jesus. Now their behavior is contrasted with Jesus who showed kindness and love, instead of hate. Salvation came not because of anything they did. It was all by the mercy of God who gave us this gift through the water of baptism and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Those with faith were given the full measure of the Spirit by our Messiah Savior. Since we have been justified by his grace, we are confident heirs of eternal life.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Notice how the character of God is upheld and honored in many different ways in today's reading. Too often we fail to honor God in our conversations. If we

spoke about God as often as we have spoken about covid-19 during the past month, it would have been more profitable for people. Are you watching for every possible opportunity to speak of God and his goodness to us?