

Discussion Guide

Week of May 18, 2014

Titus 2

Passage Overview: For many of us, Paul's letter to Titus is something that we don't study often, and when we do, it's a bit difficult to know how to apply—there's a lot of personal and specific guidance for Titus and his situation is different than ours. However, in another sense, Titus and the church that he pastored on the island of Crete are not so different from us at all. They struggled with immorality and error among church leaders; they strived to live as Christians in a culture hostile to the gospel; they needed encouraging about the basis and motivation of their lives; and they needed detailed teaching about proper Christian living. In other words, though their physical and cultural circumstances were quite different, their spiritual lives are very similar to our own.

Understanding God's Word—Read Titus 2 (focusing on vv.11-14)

- The word “for” links vv.11-14 with the verses before it. What is the significance of this word? In other words, how are vv.11-14 connected to vv.1-10?
- “Salvation” (v.11) is a religious word that simply means “rescue.” It is perhaps stating the obvious, but before someone can be rescued, they need to be in some sort of danger or trouble. Is there any indication in vv.11-14 about what it is we've been rescued from? What is it?
- According to v.11, “the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for *all people*.” This could conceivably mean: (1) the whole of humanity, or (2) all kinds of people. Given the context of this verse (see vv.1-10), which of these two options does Paul mean? What else from the Bible helps you reach this conclusion?
- Looking at vv.11-14, what “appearing” is Paul referring to? Give reasons for your answer.
- How does salvation (v.11) take place? (Try to put it in your own words without religious jargon.) What does it result in?
- The grace of God that has appeared is also said to go on teaching or training us (v.12). It doesn't just save us and then leave us to carry on with life as before. It trains us to live differently. How does this happen?
- As you look at vv.11-14, what might Paul's response be to someone who thinks that the lifestyle spoken of in vv.1-10 is too hard?

Living and Applying God's Word

- What two things does grace train us to do (v.12)? What do each of these look like in your life?
- How does this new way of living affect our relationship with: (1) ourselves, (2) other people, and (3) God?
- Our motives are often hard to untangle, and we should not expect to achieve complete purity of motive in this life. Given this, what different motives do you think are behind the way you live at the moment?
 - Which of these motives do you, by God's grace, need to change?

Prayer: Thank God for his grace coming to us through the person and work of his Son, Jesus Christ. Ask God to keep teaching you by his grace to live in a way that honors him.

Announcements

- Memorial Day Picnic (May 26 from 11am-3pm; at Flat Rock Park)
- Camp in the City 2014 (June 23-27)
- Mid-Week Fellowship (July 9, 16, 23, 30)—Personal Evangelism (Dinner @ 5:45; Teaching @ 7:30)