



Sunday, April 11, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Titus 2:11-3:8**

When we think about the gospel, how often do we think of it as the good news that enables us to live self-controlled lives? Seems a bit anticlimactic, doesn't it? Sure, it's the good news that Jesus reigns over all things. It's the good news that God has forgiven our sins because of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. It's the good news that promises us eternal life and a new heaven and a new earth. It's all of those things, but for Paul, writing to Pastor Titus on the island of Crete, the good news was that God enables us to live self-controlled lives.

One of the greatest temptations we face is simply indulgence. In so many ways, we simply choose to indulge our pride, self-pity, anger, lust, our tongues (whether in gossip or slander or undue criticism), and a host of other sins. On the flip side, being self-controlled is a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:23). To be self-controlled means we can be angry and not sin. We can appreciate beauty without lust. We can use our tongues to build up and not tear down. We can be humble and resist self-pity. Isn't that a much better way to live? What freedom is yielded by self-control!

## **Context**

Paul gives us the necessary historical context for understanding this passage. He recounts his own experience of ministering in Crete, that the people are "always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons" (1:12). Despite the general excesses of the Roman empire on the whole, the Cretans seem to have had a unique reputation for such things. This would have made ministry challenging, and at the same time, enabled the gospel to shine even brighter. Something like Spirit-given self-control may not seem like much in a generally reserved culture. But when people are given to indulgence, it shines like a city on a hill!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Titus 2:11-3:8

“When He Appears”

Appearing – epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Coming: Epiphany of Grace (2.11)

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming: Epiphany of Glory (2.13)

Remind believers

- Submissive to authority
- Ready to do good
- Always be gentle to others

Appearing – He saved us!

- Motive – love and kindness (4)
- Basis – mercy (5)
- Means – Holy Spirit (6)
- Goal – heirs of eternal life (7)

I want you to...

- Teach these things (2.15)
- Stress these things (3.8)

God delights in delivering desperate people!

## **Discuss**

- 1) What are the differences between the two “appearings” mentioned in this passage?
- 2) How is life apart from Christ described in this passage? How closely does that description match your own experience?
- 3) How is life in Christ described in this passage? How closely does that description match your experience?
- 4) How does Paul encourage us in this passage to think about non-Christians in our lives?
- 5) How does Paul encourage us in this passage to think about people in authority over us?