

“THE BLESSED HOPE”

TITUS 2:13-14

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INTRODUCITON

Certainly the first Coming of Christ was absolutely vital for the believer, without which there would be no salvation possible. But the Second Coming of Christ is also vitally important—not only to the consummation of the divine plan of salvation, but also to the present hope, comfort, and motivation of the believer (v. 13). Confidence for the future imparts to the believer “courage, patience, and determination in his present work” (I Cor. 15:50-58). Even the assurance of terrible and just judgments against the wicked leads to growth in grace and motivation to holiness (see II Pet. 3:8-18). The New Testament makes numerous promises and statements concerning the future of believers, among which are:

- 1) Jesus would prepare a place for them and come again to receive them (Jn. 14:1-3).
- 2) He prayed to the Father that He might have His people with Him to behold His glory (Jn. 17:24).
- 3) At His return the saints will meet Him in the air and ever be with Him (I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15: 51-52).
- 4) Believers will be transformed into His likeness at His appearance (I Jn. 3:2).
- 5) This transformation involves our vile bodies being made like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15:47-49).
- 6) When Jesus comes to rule the world believers are manifested in glory with Him (Col. 3:4).

But, Jesus died for us so that He might buy us totally out of the slave market of sin and every lawless deed of self will and selfishness, and that we might be totally pure and clean as His own special people. We are His own unique and special people and owe nothing to this world or to anyone else; “**all for Jesus**” must be our motto.

YOU MUST BE A ZEALOT FOR GOOD WORKS WHILE YOU EAGERLY ANTICIPATE HIS COMING.

- I. GOD’S GRACE IS AN EFFECTIVE PREPARER—“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”
 - A. The Anticipation of the Christian—“Eager and confident expectation”—ready to welcome Him!
 - B. The Event for which the Believer Awaits
 1. The Blessed Hope
 - a. Meaning of “blessed”
 - b. Meaning of “hope”
 - c. Hope here is not merely the inner attitude, it is the object for which we wait.
 2. The Appearing of the Glory of Christ
 - Appearing is not a second item which we anticipate; it is identical to “the Blessed Hope.”
 - “Appearing” often occurred of manifestations of the gods to people.
 - In the NT it refers **only** to the coming of Christ—either His first coming as in v. 11 or more often to His Second Coming as here.
 - It is not “glorious appearing” but rather “appearing of the Glory”; He is in glory and glorious and manifests glory—but all that is hidden to the world. Then it will be visible!
 - C. The Person Who Appears—“**Our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ**”

This passage is one of the most theologically significant in the NT concerning Christ’s deity.

 1. Not two persons—God and Christ.

- The Grammar of the statement **demands that the reference is to only one person.**
 - This verse is similar to II Pet. 1:1 that says the same thing; these two passages are as secure as any in the canon when it comes to identifying Christ as God.
 - “Appearing” [Epiphany] is never used in the NT with reference to the Father.
 - “Great” is not used of the Father in the NT.
 - Heathen idol gods and emperors were given such titles, and Paul evidently intended this statement as a **strong rebuttal and affirmation of faith in Christ.**
 - All of the details of v. 14 refer to Christ—not to the Father and to Christ.
 - This passage harmonizes with others that also teach His deity—Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8.
2. Christ is God.
 3. Christ is Savior.

However, with all the attention to the grammatical significance of this passage, we must not miss the primary point Paul makes in the context: the eager anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ **helps prepare the believer for life with Him in the present and in the future.** Believers will not want to miss participation in the life to come, desiring to “be manifested with him in glory” (Col. 3:4). Joyful and confident expectation in His coming **fill the hearts of believers with gratitude** that in turn prepares their hearts through God’s grace.

II. GOD’S GRACE IS THE THOROUGHGOING PURIFIER.

- A. Christ’s Sacrificial and Substitutionary Death—“Gave [voluntarily] Himself for us” [in our place]
- B. Christ’s Redeeming Death—“That He might redeem us”—“to set free with a purchase price”
Sin enslaves, not liberates! Living for self is enslaving.
Christ’s action of giving Himself as Redeemer was **necessary, objective, voluntary, expiatory, propitiatory, substitutionary, and efficacious”**
- C. Christ’s Purposeful Death
 1. Redeemed and removed from **every lawless deed.** [*Negative purpose*—delivery from **the power** of sin—REDEMPTION]
 2. Cleanses and purifies the believer [*Positive purpose*--SANCTIFICATION]
- D. Christ’s Possessive Death—claiming a “peculiar” people—**uniquely His own possession**
Compare Ex. 19:5; Dt. 7:6; 14:2 etc. Yahweh had a people uniquely His own; now Jesus does also—see I Pet. 2:9.
- E. **Christ’s Productive Death**—“Zealots for Good Works”; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 10:24 etc.

CONCLUSION

In I Thes. 1:9-10 Paul presents the same picture of believers who turned away from a corrupt and sinful past in order to live for God in the present and to simultaneously look forward to their future reward: “You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven.”

God’s Grace is an Effective Preparer; God’s Grace is a Thoroughgoing Purifier

We are His special people—redeemed away from every lawless deed, purified, and are to be zealots for good works.

We have great motivation for our work as we eagerly anticipate the **Blessed Hope and Appearing of His Glory.**
HE IS OUR GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOR!

YOU MUST BE A ZEALOT FOR GOOD WORKS WHILE YOU EAGERLY ANTICIPATE HIS COMING.