

# Saved From and Saved To

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[ 0 : 00 ] All right, well this morning as we come to the Word of God, we are in the book of Titus. We're working our way through this letter from Paul to Titus, and we are now in chapter 2.

So if you have your Bible with you, you can open it up to chapter 2. Now this second chapter of Paul's letter contains two parts. In the first part, verses 1 to 10, Paul tells Titus what he should be teaching various groups of people in the churches, and he divides these groups by age and gender. There are things to teach the older men in verse 2, things to teach the older women, verses 3 to 4, things to teach the younger men, verses 6 to 8, and things to teach slaves, verses 9 and 10.

Then in the second part of this chapter, Paul reminds Titus of the gospel, the good news of Jesus, and how this kind of living, talked about in the first part, flows out of the gospel.

Now normally we would cover these two parts in order, but because it's Communion Sunday today, we're just going to jump ahead to the second part, and then we're going to go back and cover the first part next Sunday.

[ 1 : 23 ] So let me begin by reading the chapter so that we don't miss the flow and connection of these two parts. This is Paul writing to Titus.

Titus.

Oh It's not too much wine, but to teach what is good.

To be kind and to be subject to their husbands so that no one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

in everything set them an example by doing what is good in your teaching show integrity seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything to try to please them not to talk back to them and not to steal from them but to show that they can be fully trusted so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive for the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people it teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age while we wait for the blessed hope the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior

[ 3 : 40 ] Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own eager to do what is good these then are the things you should teach so the first ten verses of this chapter is Paul telling Titus to teach the people in the churches to live a certain way we're going to look at that more next week but the summary of it is that they're to live honorable holy pure self-controlled upright lives fulfilling their various responsibilities within their families and now as we come to verse 11 Paul's going to tell us the why why this kind of life and he begins with this statement in verse 11 he says for the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people so Paul starts by reminding us of the gospel the grace of God has appeared

God's grace is his kindness his favor his generous giving nature that part of who God is has appeared as one pastor has put it God's grace has come to light in a way that was previously unseen not that he wasn't gracious before but that now God's grace is revealed in a new and especially wonderful way Paul is alluding to the gospel as one commentator puts it he is referring to the unique historical appearance of Jesus Christ the one whom God has sent because of his grace Jesus coming and living among us and all that he did and all that he said and all that he said in motion that is how the grace of God has appeared and Paul's just kind of summing up the whole thing here all that God has done and is doing through Christ it's a gift of his generous kindness his grace and through this gift of grace salvation has been brought has been offered to all people so

because God is generous and giving kind he has opened the way to be saved and offered salvation to all the people of the world and Jesus is that way of salvation he himself is the savior as Paul said back up in the introduction of this letter but now all this is not

Paul's main point it's really the prelude to his main point which is still coming for the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people it teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age this is the connection point to all the instructions about how we should live that came before all this God's grace has appeared and it teaches us to live a certain way in this present age so the gospel leads us to a certain kind of living Christ has come from God as a gift of God's grace grace to us not only to forgive us of our sins and to deal with our guilt but also to change the way that we live and it's here that we come face to face with this gospel truth we are not only saved from we are saved to we are saved we are saved for

God because he is a gracious God has a purpose for saving us that's bigger than just getting us off the hook for our sins forgiveness is part of it but it's not the whole story it's not the only thing that God is aiming to do for us by his grace and sadly sometimes we miss this element of the gospel message we are right to focus on forgiveness and the removal of guilt we are right to focus on the wiping of our slate clean but God aims by his grace to do more than that with us he wants to transform us inside and out he wants to change our very lives he wants to take us from living sinfully to now living righteously from living selfishly to now living lives of authentic love from being full of evil deeds to now being full of good works another way to say this sometimes we might be tempted to treat our salvation as if it's kind of like a get out of hell free card as if it's a fire insurance policy and little more but the good news of God's grace is that we are saved from the penalty the punishment our sins deserve and saved to a new life a life that's characterized by holiness righteousness love good deeds grace listen to this in verses 11 and 12

God's grace teaches us to say no literally to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions so there are two things that God's grace leads us to reject and turn away from first ungodliness it means to live a life that does not honor God to live in a way that disregards him a godless life God's grace which came through Jesus Christ teaches us to renounce that kind of life to say no to that kind of life it also teaches us to say no to worldly passions or worldly lusts this means the desires or cravings that our world has that are sinful illicit perverse crooked things like greed and the desire to be rich or immoral sexual desire or the desire for revenge immoderate desires for pleasure like gluttony or the desire for escape like through drunkenness and intoxication desires for power or control over others desires for fame and prestige and popularity or the desire to win at all costs all of these are the kinds of things that worldly passions refers to

[12:08] God's grace which came through Jesus Christ teaches us to renounce those kinds of desires that kind of life to say no to those illicit cravings think back to the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and in his parables he commanded his disciples not to be angry or to seek revenge or to do good things just to be seen and loved by others he taught them not to be greedy not to desire the highest places of honor and authority he taught them not to live for themselves but to live to please God the gospel isn't just the news of what Christ has done for us it's also the news that Christ has a new and better life for us to live and to enter into this life requires us to repent as Jesus declared to renounce the godless life and the worldly passions that word renounce or say no to is also the same word that's used back up in chapter one about the false teachers as we heard last

Sunday they claim to know God chapter one verse 16 but by their actions they deny him they denied God by their living but here Paul says the grace of God teaches us to deny godless living and worldly passions so the grace of God the gospel of God Christ Jesus who came teaches us not to live a life like we've just been talking about but then he flips to the positive side of things the grace of God teaches us to live a life like this it teaches us to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age and I think it's helpful to compare the life described here with the requirements for the elders back up in chapter one especially in verse eight and we should compare the life described here with the way that the

Cretans are known to live in verse 12 of chapter one always liars evil brutes lazy gluttons and we should compare the life described here with the way that the false teachers are living in verse ten and verse sixteen of chapter one do we notice a theme here even the word self-controlled here in verse twelve shows up all over the place here it's a qualification for a church leader in chapter one

verse eight it's what the Cretans lack they're always lazy gluttons it's it's the one thing that Paul tells Titus to teach all the groups of people in chapter two the young and the old male and female and now we see why because this is what it is to be a Christian to belong to Christ we are saved from our sinful life to live lives that are self-controlled don't let the worldly passions rule over God's grace has come through Christ to teach us to lead us to rule over our desires and our appetites and our cravings to be in control of ourselves as we are made to be living upright godly lives good lives devoted to him now we might be tempted at this point to say well God doesn't really expect me to change that much does he at least not till we get to heaven right no the grace of God teaches us to live this way this kind of life in this present age says Paul there's a good many people who want the forgiveness of God the grace of God but not the life that God's grace teaches us to live listen

Christ did not come to wipe the slate clean so that you could fill it up again with more sins Christ didn't come to suffer and die and atone for your sins so that you could keep doing them more and more God in his grace has provided atonement and forgiveness but are we going to try and take that gift and then willfully do more of the stuff that he died to forgive transgress more sin more may it never be for the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people and it teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age in the midst of this Paul reminds us of something which helps to motivate us here because you know we might read this and think oh man you mean as a

[18:31] Christian I have to keep turning away from all this stuff I have to live a self-controlled life upright and godly that sounds hard that sounds unpleasant but Paul reminds us of what's coming to encourage us here listen he says we are waiting for the blessed hope that's coming verse 13 it teaches us to live this way while we wait for the blessed hope the appearing of the glory of our great god and savior Jesus Christ there's a wonderful certain future ahead the grace of God appeared the first time when Jesus came and it's going to appear again when he returns in his glory this is a blessed happy certainty that we can set our hope on until we are to live this way renouncing ungodliness and worldly passions and now living self-controlled upright and godly lives in anticipation of that blessed and happy day that's coming when our king and our savior appears again Jesus now just in case we didn't get it the first time through Paul's gonna take us through it all one more time here in verse 14 we're waiting for the appearing of Jesus Christ verse 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own eager to do what is good let's just go through this quickly Jesus gave himself for us he gave his life for us when he died on the cross why Paul says in order to redeem us he gave himself for us to redeem us to redeem means to set us free so his suffering and death was a price paid on our behalf to set us free free free from what he gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness quite literally from every lawless deed and that word lawless is powerful what are the inhabitants of this island of Crete known for this place is a place of lawlessness the people are all around them are lying cheating stealing swindling they're not working they're given to gluttony and drunkenness and Paul's saying Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us from that all of it from that kind of lawless life and the punishment that we deserve because of it that's why you must teach the people there in the churches on Crete to live good upright self-controlled lives the very gospel itself is that Jesus wants to redeem us from that he gave himself for us not only to redeem us from all wickedness but also to purify for himself a people that are his very own and there are two

wonderful truths here first that Jesus died for us to purify us to cleanse us of that which defiles us and makes us dirty sin does that it defiles us it makes us dirty and Jesus died to remedy that he died to wash us clean so now that we've been cleansed by him should we keep going back to jump in the mud of sin living godlessly living to scratch the itch of worldly lusts that kind of living doesn't fit with what Jesus has done for us he suffered an agonizing death he took our punishment God's wrath upon himself in order to purify us and so we must now seek to live pure lives the second truth here is that Jesus gave himself for us he died for us to make us his special people to purify for himself a people that are his very own so this is not just about eradicating our sin it's about bringing us into a special relationship with him where we are his special treasured possession listen God doesn't just want to fix what's broken with you and in you he wants you he loves you he wants a relationship with you to the extent that he came down from heaven became one of us and died in our place to make it possible Paul brings this long sentence to a close with one more reminder that yes the gospel does lead us teach us to live a holy life we see it at the end of verse 14 there he gave

himself for us to redeem us and to purify us so that we would be a people that are his very own eager to do what is good there it is again not just saved from redeemed from washed pure but saved to redeemed and washed to be a people who do what is good the life that Christ commands us to live self-controlled upright devoted to God it's what we were made for it's what we were saved for and notice

Jesus aim in all this was not to have his people live this way begrudgingly but eagerly eager to do what is good which means that Christ died even to change our hearts our desires and our loves to fit this kind of living this is the good news of Jesus have you embraced this offer of salvation this call of Christ on your life to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live upright godly self-controlled lives if you haven't yet done this I want to urge you do it today and if you have done this let me encourage you to let these words sink in deep and give you the courage and help to continue living the kind of life that God's grace has saved us for let's not give up even though it's hard the other night at youth we were talking about the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray and it's the kind of prayer that we're to pray every day give us this day our daily bread we're also in that prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and ask

God to forgive us our transgressions again literally our lawless deeds forgive us again of those things that we have done and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil living this way isn't easy it's hard enough for us that Christ taught us to pray daily and ask for God's help with it so may we do that and may we not lose heart in our struggle each one of us for personal holiness to the Lord and as we come to the Lord's table this morning here's the good news even though we will fall short and fail and at times give in to temptation and sin even though sometimes we will entertain and even act on worldly passions like we used to do all the time as we look again to our heavenly father each day and as we pray and ask forgive us our debts forgive us our transgressions his grace abounds to us through what

Jesus did on the cross for us he is faithful to forgive us when we confess and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness 1st John 1 verse 9 by God's grace we are saved from our sin and guilt and we are saved to a new upright life of devotion to God and by God's grace we are carried from the start of this new life all the way through to the ultimate attainment of it when Jesus Christ returns in glory and this grace that we need it came to us by Christ and his death on the cross so as we go to the Lord's table this morning the bread that we partake of it represents

[ 29 : 44 ] Jesus body which was broken for us and the cup represents his blood which was shed for us we do this in remembrance of him in remembrance of his grace so if you've embraced Jesus Christ as your savior and as your lord then please eat and drink with us if not please refrain until you have given yourself to him we'll take a few minutes to pray quietly and reflect now and the elders will come forward and serve the bread and the cup and then we'll give thanks and we'll eat and drink all together in unison I do and

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[ 33 : 02 ] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your blood, which was shed on that cross, to wash us clean, to purify us, and to make us a special people for you.

[ 35 : 21 ] Thank you for your unfailing love, Lord, and for your immeasurable grace. In your name we pray.

We give thanks. Amen. Amen. Let's eat and drink together. Thank you. Thank you.