

Titus 2:13 — “The Grace of God Gives Future Hope in the Soon-Coming of Our Divine Savior!”
神的恩典在我們神聖救主即將來臨中所賜予的將來的盼望

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- A life lived *only for the present here & now* is a tragic & wasted life.
- But for the Christian, the believer in Jesus Christ, a recipient of **the grace of God** that has brought salvation to him, he can say: “I have been saved [past, justification]; I am being saved (*sanctification*); **And, I surely WILL be saved** [glorification]
- We have HOPE. 1 Pet 1.13 - we are to fix our hope completely on the grace given at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - We have a FUTURE hope. And the grace of God that brings salvation to sinners like us that transforms us *in the present* and it *cements/solidifies our hope for the future!*
 - Biblical hope is (1) **sourced** in God; (2) **sturdy** (cannot be shaken), (3) **sure** (it will happen), (4) **satisfying** (it comforts your soul) & (5) **strengthening** (withstands trials)

Background to Titus 2:13

- Last time we looked at the powerful transformation that God’s mighty grace works in us.
- God’s grace INSTRUCTS (teaches) us -- (1) to DENY 2 vices and (2) to PURSUE 3 virtues.
 - THIS WEEK - we see the grace of God includes PROMISED ANTICIPATION (future) & and it includes PRECISE affirmation (of the deity of Christ). Our hope *must* be anchored to our Divine Savior! Paul teaches us about this in Titus 2.

THESIS — *what is included in this “Grace of God” in the gospel? Today we’ll see 2 more components!*

1. powerful transformation (12)
2. **promised anticipation (13)**
3. **precise affirmation (13b)**
4. perfect substitution (14a)
5. protected possession (14b)
6. pious ambition (14c)

I. Powerful transformation (v.12)

II. PROMISED ANTICIPATION! (13a)

*One day the trumpet Will sound for His coming,
One day the skies With His glory will shine;
Wonderful day, my beloved One bringing;
Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!*

- A. Rev 22.12 - Behold, I am coming quickly!
- B. 1 Thess 4:13-18 - the Lord will come from heaven with a shout & with the trumpet of God & we will be caught up together with the dead saints in Christ to meet the Lord & be with Him forever!

C. 1 Cor 1.7 - We are to be awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ

D. Looking for the Blessed Hope and the Appearing....

- the coming of Christ is **CERTAIN**
- the coming of Christ is **GLORIOUS**
- the coming of Christ is **IMMINENT**
- the coming of Christ is **URGENT** (evangelization/missions)
- the coming of Christ is **PURIFYING**
- Jesus said: "Be ready" - for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect (Luke 12.40).
- *It's like* -- when I tell my children I'll take them out for *Chinese Buffet* when I get home - there's not a wish, it's a confident expectation & they believe it to be true!

E. The grace of God produces a **longing**, a looking, an expectation, an anticipation.

1. The word **προσδεχόμενοι** speaks of an '**eager longing/anticipation**'. One commentator translated it: "Expectantly looking for" - like Phil 3.20-21! To wait with expectancy -- Jude 21 - 'waiting anxiously' for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ'

a) Yarbrough said this is a: "Dogged confidence in God and his sure promises -- however remote it may seem at times". Rom 8.23 - we groan and wait eagerly for the adoption as sons -- redemption of our bodies! What looking & expecting!

2. HI Ironside said: This should influence our daily lives. It is one thing to **hold** the doctrine of the Lord's return, but quite another to be **held by** that blessed hope.

F. What are we **eagerly looking for?** The blessed hope (the confident & joyful occasion) & appearing of the glory of God.

1. It's probably a general reference to the future return/appearing of Jesus Christ. **This speaks of the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ** -- it comes in 2 phases. (1) a catching up of the saints/rapture *FOR* the Church & (2) a return in divine glory to earth *WITH the saints* to judge the world.
2. Both of these are biblical realities & components of the future "Coming" of Jesus Christ -- in power & glory!

G. The coming of Jesus Christ is often spoken of as a coming of **glory**:

1. Matt 16.27 - the Son of Man is going to come in the **glory** of His father
2. Matt 24.29-30- Jesus will come in the clouds with power and great **glory**
3. Matt 25.31 - he will come in His **glory**

H. This glorious appearing is when Jesus Christ -- the Son of God who now intercedes for us in heaven -- will **COME DOWN** to take us up to our eternal home (John 14). Glory of God descending from heaven -- the fullness of brilliance, brightness, joyfulness, presence & delightfulness! It is an *any-moment, imminent, sudden coming!* Be ready!

Charles Wesley understood this! --

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come,
And take His servants Up to their eternal home.

- E. **So what?** What **effect** should this have? The Coming of Jesus Christ should **affect** us in at least 6 ways...
1. ignite **HOLINESS** [*fight sin; pure, Godly lives*]
 2. enflame **EVANGELISM** [*share the gospel*]
 3. instill **WORSHIP** [*worship, reflect, respond, rejoice!*]
 4. season **CONVERSATIONS** [*encourage one another; 1 Cor 16!*]
 5. strengthen **SUFFERERS** [*1 Peter 4; James 4.7-8*]
 6. produce **EXPECTATION** [Phil 3.20!]
- F. 1 John 2.28 - children, *abide in Him!* So that when he appears we may not shrink back in shame! *What grace of God!* Are you abiding in Christ? [John 15!]

III. PRECISE AFFIRMATION! (13b)

- A. This is a clincher in proving the deity of Jesus Christ. One Greek grammarian said: "Titus 2.13 this is as secure as any verse in the whole Bible when it comes to identifying CHRIST as Theos/God. (Wallace).
- B. Let us take the nail of the deity of Christ & hammer it repeatedly, frequently, joyfully & confidently upon the board of our hearts. ***This is a solid, secure & biblical Truth!***
- Jesus is God!**
- C. From this verse as we exegete and carefully examine *each word* [τοῦ μεγάλου θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ] --- we see that Jesus is glorious, great, God, Savior, Messiah! **Wow!**
1. The grace of God not only gives a great hope -- but our hope is grounded in a *Person*. Our confidence is in our Christ; *not* in our circumstances. **The blessed hope is our blessed Savior!** You must believe this to be a Christian! ***Do You?***
- D. this gospel produces a glorious and high theology of Jesus Christ -- toweringly high CHRISTOLOGY:
- ✓ Consider the ***constellation of divine beauties in Christ.*** >> Jesus Christ is:
- ❖ 1. **Human** (1 Tim 2.5)
 - ❖ 2. **God** (Col 1.15-19)
 - ❖ 3. **Creator** (John 1.1-3)
 - ❖ 4. **Sustainer** (Heb 1.1-3)
 - ❖ 5. **Savior** (Acts 4.12; Titus 2.13)
 - ❖ 6. **Judge** (2 Tim 4.8; Acts 17.30-31)
- E. Since, Jesus *IS* fully divine, **then we should:**
1. Bow low in **worship**, like *Peter* (Luke 5)
 2. **Confess** Him as Lord & God, like *Thomas* (John 20)
 3. Worship Him as Savior from **divine wrath**, like *Paul* (Rom 3)
 4. **Gaze** upon the Lamb seated on heaven's throne, like *John* (Rev 5)
 5. **Trust** Him in all of life's circumstances, like *Jude* (Jude 24-25).

F. What a subject to gaze upon! The coming hope we have in our God-Man---Jesus Christ!

- I. Arius (256–336), a presbyter in Alexandria, began teaching in 313 that the Son was created rather than being the co-equal eternal Son of God. According to Arius and his followers, Jesus was a created being, not ontologically equal to the Father. To help spread this teaching, he even wrote out songs which incorporated his belief about Christ stating, “There was a time when he was not.” ... >> **But**, Athanasius, who was Probably born into a Christian home in Alexandria around the turn of the fourth century—likely no earlier than 299 AD—Athanasius was at the Council of Nicaea in 325. He defended *precisely & powerfully* the FULL Deity of Jesus Christ. He was exiled 5x yet he stood strong on God’s Word & Christ’s full deity & Glory.
a) **Read I John 5:10-13!** You must believe that Jesus Christ IS the Son of God (=equal to God & one with God) to be a Christian! Trust Him & live!

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- ✓What is Paul doing? Titus 2.11-14 is the *mountain-peak* paragraph of the Book. It’s the *fuel* that allows you to live out the duties! This grace gives you a glorious hope & a glorious Savior!