

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Titus 2:11-3:8

- 27, How great Thou art
- Behold the Lamb
- 210, Lo, He comes with clouds descending

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

How should our soon translation affect our living

Titus 2:11-3:8

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

How should our soon translation affect our living

Titus 2:11-3:8

- October 15th, 2023 -

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

How should our soon translation affect our living

Titus 2:11-3:8

The blessed hope of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ's appearing in glory, at the Rapture, also motivates the sensitive Christian to honor God by his or her behavior now. The Greek verb *prosdchomenoi* ("looking for") is in the present tense indicating that this waiting should be our characteristic attitude. We should always be ready to welcome the returning Lord, and to be caught in the act of being ready! We do not want to be involved with activities or ways of thinking or being that cause us to be ashamed when we meet Him face to face (1 John 2:28; 3:3). In the Greek text a single article, translated "the," introduces both blessed hope and glorious appearing. This suggests that Paul was viewing one event as having two aspects [In other words,] the blessed hope is the glorious appearing of our Savior.

Guthrie says here, "In the New Testament hope does not indicate merely what is wished for but what is assured" Henry Theissen wrote, "Paul ... does not ask us to look for the Tribulation, or the Antichrist, or for persecution and martyrdom, or for death, but for the return of Christ. If any of these events must precede the Rapture, then how can we help looking for them rather than the Lord's coming? Such a view of the coming of the Lord can at best only induce a very general interest in the 'blessed hope.'"

Living in ready response to the grace of God shown historically in the gospel of the cross and the future gospel of the rapture of the church!

2:11 Looking back: The gracious historical gospel of the cross – God the Son coming in human flesh to die in our place.

2: 12 Living Now: Living now in view of that look back.

2:13 Looking forward: The future grace of our rapture and translation to immortality, glory and unmeasurable pleasure with Him!

2:14, The "Why" of it all.

2:15, The Centrality and Weight of the doctrine of the imminent rapture of believers!

3:1-3 Not living like we used to live, before we were saved and sanctified in Christ! Nihilistic self-centeredness – that goes nowhere and accomplishes nothing lasting, except frustration and finally judgment.

V4, Kindness and grace appeared – God in the flesh, our savior!

V5 The basis for our salvation is not our own spirituality or good works, even our best ones.

The basis is entirely according to His own mercy towards us in our filthy, sinful state.

By the washing, the cleansing away of our sins through the spiritual washing away of regeneration (*palingenesis* – to be made fresh and new and whole). This is the ministry of God's Holy Spirit who applies these things graciously to the undeserving sinner. In John 3 Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again/afresh.

Jesus' life was poured out graciously for us by the Father in heaven and in that pouring, the richness and God was lavishly granted to us parched and dried out and lifeless sinners as a living and verdant gift from above.

V7, Being justified, that is, being declared and in the position before the judge of heaven as upright and righteous as if we were Jesus Himself, and this justification obtained simply by faith in the Person and Work of the Son on our behalf!

This leads to being made joint-heirs with Jesus Christ of eternal, immortal, glorious life and ruling and reigning in the happy and thrilling kingdom to come!

V8, All of this, this Jesus appearing for us the first and second times: the first in His incarnation to redeem our sinful souls, the imminent (at any moment) second time in the air to redeem and translate our lowly bodies in the rapture, is to be proclaimed confidently!

This is all designed by God to produce a hunger in us for a holy and productive life, filled with good deed! Not so that we will earn heaven, but because heaven has purchased us from worthlessness and put a crown of glory and of Christ-worthiness on our heads.