

## THE REVEALED HOPE

**Text: Titus 2:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

<sup>11</sup> **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,** <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

<sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

### **Background:**

The world of the early church during the first century was not a golden time with full of abundance, resources, and economic rise. It was a time where ordinary people need to work hard, exert much effort and time just to put something on their table. This was a time when they also need to pay high taxes to the Roman government. A time when security was tight, and the politics were full of corrupt people even from the lowest form of their government.

Moreover, those times where equality is some ideals that are alien to them. Jewish people during these days were tired of revolting, riots, and wars. Killing there, killing here. Remember the Good Samaritan story. A person who was robbed and beaten to death. Yep, that kind of headline is just normal to them. Even the priest, a Levite, and others passed by since it is not uncommon for them to witness such event. In short, it feels like the last days and it seems like it is the end of the world. No hope. No purpose. Everything is meaningless. EXCEPT for the faithful Christians.

### **Main Idea:**

Christians—back then—were full of hope. This hope stretches from the fulfilled messianic call of the Old Testament. From Genesis, Adam/ Abraham/ Moses/ David/ and even the prophets. This suffering servant came and fulfilled this promise. The One who fulfilled is the Living Hope of those Christians during the Ancient days. So, the question is, who fulfilled it? Of course, JESUS CHRIST.

**Jesus Christ is the Revealed Hope to the whole world.** Now let us dissect this statement of mine one by one. We will start from the last words up to the first part.

#### **1. The Whole World.**

In verse 11 of our passage, it is clear that *“the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”* To whom? To ALL PEOPLE. Plain, simple, and clear. For everyone. Now reading this verse is not enough since the starting word is “for” –a conjunction. Meaning, it is connected to the prior verses.

Now having these in our mind, we can now clearly understand why Paul included the servants in his instructions. More than just them being part of many households. They are somehow theologically significant in this passage. *Doulos*—the Greek term for bondservant—means that this kind of servant is a life-long committed to his or her master. The bondservant is fully dependent to the master. Whatever the master eats, the bondservant eats. Whatever the master says what he or she needs to do, the bondservant must follow. Simply, the bondservant's will or choice is whatever the will of the master.

However, not all masters are good and kind. Hence, the rebellious retribution of many bondservants against their masters. They steal, talk back, and fight. Now again, laying this backdrop about bondservants, let us now see the relevance of the entire passage.

When Christ came, He became the liberator not just of the social status but the spiritual realities of each person. Paul here was echoing Christ. He is saying to Titus that the bondservants have the same privilege, access, and responsibilities to the Christian faith. This may not be something extravagant nowadays. But during that time where bondservants do not have rights, or any choice. Finally, someone is giving them a significant value in the community. This community is the Christian faith.

A clear example of discrimination is the Judaizers or the circumcision party. They thought that they are higher and better than any other Christians in the church because Christ came from their line. So, they do not care about the others as long as they are first in line. (Remember the Acts 6 issue)

So in here Paul is saying that the Grace of God is for everyone—equally given to all people who will call upon His Name. Paul is surely consistent with this doctrine. Let us look to the book just after the book of Titus. Philemon. Paul here is saying that Philemon—the master—needs to equally treat Onesimus—the bondservant—as brothers in Christ (Philemon 12-17).

The Gospel of Christ is indeed Good News for everyone. Social status, educational attainment, iPhone 6 or iPhone 13 Pro Max, or any family advantage are not significant when it comes to those who can come to Christ. Everyone is given an equal access to come to Christ.

One of my favorite books, Brennan Manning's *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, truly explains that we are all ragamuffins meaning beggars in the eyes of the world. We are all bondservants. But in Christ, who purchased us through His blood just to set us free, we all became His children—adopted—made new.

*Practical Directions:*

LGBTQ++, prejudice towards with tattoos, vices, etc.

We do not determine who can enter Christ's body. The gospel is for everyone.

## **2. The Revealed Hope**

As stated, everyone is given the same offer to embrace such freedom. This freedom, liberty, redemption is the hope of those people in the ancient times. This hope is a revelation. This revelation of hope is a person. This person is Jesus Christ. They know that Christ will return.

God has revealed to the world that there is hope. Tell the person beside you, there is hope and this hope is Jesus Christ. This revealed hope is the blessed hope that was stated in verse 13. Even in verse 11, the term “appeared” implies a revelation. Therefore, Christ is also the personified grace of God.

What I really love in this passage are the words: adorn and wait. Both were translated in those simple English words. But if dug deeper, the “adorn” means “attractive, something beautiful. Not something scary.” This reminds us that the Revealed Hope, Jesus Christ our hope. His return, the coming of Christ is something that we should not fear. Many people nowadays fear that the world will now end. Yet, it is clear that this teaching about Christ is not something scary but attractive. Something beautiful. Something that will make us drop our jaw by simply gazing upon Christ and matters about Christ.

Remember that the Gospel of Christ is beautiful. (Like seeing a beautiful scenery, or nature).

Next word, “waiting” in Greek *Prosdechomai* – eagerness in waiting. We do not simply wait on what will happen. But rather be eager in Christ’s return. This gives us a drive to do more for His glory. And give time to Christ and His ministry.

### **3. Jesus Christ (read verse 13b-14)**

*“For every one look at YOURSELF, take ten looks at CHRIST.” – Robert M. M’cheyne*

Meaning, look to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) and say “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions. But as I shared this last ladies prayer meeting, Wednesday. I told them that this statement is applicable with many circumstances in life. Sufferings, righteousness, goodness, achievements, sin, forgiveness, giving, and more.

Now that we are called to look ten times to Christ, we should yearn a time with Him. Oftentimes we are so busy with our work, ministry, family, games, sports, and other stuff that we already forgot to converse with God.

When we need someone, you immediately call the person you know who can help you. If you want someone to talk to, someone who will listen to you, then open the Bible. The Bible is Christ’s words. “To read it is to hear Christ.”

Now we make it a conversation when you pray. It’s like your telling God the things you want to say, the reading His reply.

Then in moments of suffering, pause—read and pray. Stop rationalizing things. Start reading and praying. Practical wisdom is good, but biblical wisdom is what we need to yearn.

The Bible is God’s speaking to us; prayer is our speaking him. We acknowledge that God is a real person. Someone we can lean on. Do not treat God a tyrant abusive demanding father but rather a loving gracious Father.

### **4. is/ ego eime/ am**

<sup>15</sup> *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* <sup>16</sup> *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.* <sup>17</sup> *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* (Colossians 1:15-17)

<sup>2</sup> *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* (Heb 1:2) Christ even said that He is the same “Great I AM” whom Moses met at the burning bush event. Christ said, “*Before Abraham was, I AM.*” (John 8:58) –that was more than 6, 000 years ago.

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.* (Heb. 13:8) – If Jesus is good before, he is still good today. If he was faithful during the broken times of David, He is still faithful today. If he was gracious to the thief on the cross, He is still gracious today. That is the “is” the “am” be-verb means. Christ was and is and always will be the very Friend, Savior, Redeemer that is.

### **Conclusion:**

The Blessed-Revealed Hope – we are all sojourners of this world. We feel pain, experience problems in life, we grieve but we have hope unlike other people. Why? Because we are not going to stay here in this world permanently. Our home is in the heavenly kingdom of God. We are kingdom citizens.

Embrace the Revealed Hope—Jesus Christ.

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