



2/27/26

I was excited to record this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished because I got to tell you about a woman who has deeply inspired my faith, Amy Carmichael. Her love for the Lord was contagious!!! Don't let the title of the episode scare you. It's called, A Chance to Die. You'll see... it's not too scary. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Titus 2:11-15

Last week, Tim preached on Titus 2:1-10, where Paul gave directions for the "seasoned" believers in how they should teach the younger believers to live according to God's word so that His word would not be reviled. Why is this so important? Psalm 18:30 says, "This God—His way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him." Why does God want me to align myself with His word? It's true. It's flawless. I find in His word that He is my protection... His word leads me to safety in Him. The question is, why WOULDN'T I align myself with His word? Why would I want what is imperfect, flawed, and unsafe?

What IS imperfect, flawed, and unsafe? If I read on in Titus 2, Paul tells me the answer... Ungodliness and worldly passions. God wants to protect me from the devastation that comes in living against Him and for the things that wage war against my soul. God is FOR me... all that is ungodly and worldly is NOT for me... as I will see.

Titus 2:11-15 ~

FOR... the grace of God has appeared. "For" is connecting me to what Paul just said about aligning myself with God's word. What do I find there? The grace of God! What is the grace of God and why is it so important?

The grace of God is God's favor, His pleasure, lavished on His children even though we did nothing to deserve it. I love the definition one scholar used to describe God's grace. He said it

is the "generosity of His love." I think about this as I look at a mom with her baby. That baby did nothing to deserve her mom's love. In fact, given just the details... the baby actually does plenty to push away the mom's love. She cries in the middle of the night and keeps her mom awake. She needs to be fed all the time. She contributes nothing to the home financially and even costs her mom and dad a lot of money. But WHO WOULD LOOK AT A BABY LIKE THAT??? Not any sane human... and not God!!! He looks at us with the same fierce love that a mom has for her baby. In fact, in Isaiah 49:15 God says, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will NOT forget you." That is His GRACE. Love that does not consider whether or not I'm worthy... but that simply says I'm worth loving... to the eyes of the One who loves me.

So... God's grace has appeared... The Greek word for "appear" is "epiphainó". Epiphany... a light that makes things clear. God has given us an epiphany by the generosity of His love. What is the purpose of that epiphany? Salvation! For all! God's salvation is inclusive. ALL who call on the name of Jesus Christ will be saved.

There's a purpose in our salvation that goes beyond giving us a "get of jail free card." Salvation helps us be free of sin and gives us a new purpose to live for. 1 John 3:5 says that Jesus "appeared in order to take away sin," and a few verses later John says "the Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil." 1 Peter 2:24 says that Jesus "bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might DIE to sin and LIVE to righteousness."

So... by God's grace and through His salvation, God is TRAINING us... Why training? Because what He's training us for does not come naturally. He's training us to...

- Renounce ungodliness... To renounce is to deny, disown, or reject. He's training us to disown what once came naturally... ungodliness... living for self... refusing to honor the Lord.
- Renounce worldly passions... Reject the natural passions, desires, and longings of our flesh to align ourselves with what the world says is good... the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). Those things are passing away. God wants to bless us with the eternal... as we align ourselves with Him.
- Live self-controlled, upright, godly lives today in the here and now. Self-controlled could really be called "Spirit" controlled because this is part of the fruit of the Spirit. Upright means righteous, loving what God loves and hating what He hates. Godly means being devoted to the Lord in attitude and actions. This is a high calling. This is why I need to be trained. Living like this does not come naturally.

So that's how I'm called to live in the here and now, the present time. What should my mindset be while I live in this present time? I am "waiting for my blessed hope, the APPEARING of the glory of my great God and Savior Jesus Christ." I am expectantly waiting to welcome what my hope, my confident pleasure, is in... the appearing, the epiphany... when the glory, the splendor, the majesty... of my great, almighty God and Savior, Jesus Christ comes the second time. In

His first coming, He came as a baby... "He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2). But in His second coming, He will appear in all His glory. I will see with my eyes what my faith has believed without sight, that Jesus "gave Himself for me" and He's coming to take me home!!!

Jesus gave Himself for me FOR A PURPOSE... to redeem me, to free me from the sin and death that entered this world through the rebellion of Adam and Eve. He gave Himself to redeem me from ALL, the entirety, of lawlessness. He nailed my debt to the cross... the debt I owed because of my sin. He freed me.

And now He is purifying me. He is cleansing me of all unrighteousness. Why? Because unrighteousness sabotages my soul. He wants me to enjoy the fullness of the freedom I have in His love... just as a baby enjoys her mother's snuggles and smiles and provision for her needs. He has made me His own so that I can be zealous, excited to do the things that please Him... and be repulsed by the things that don't.

Paul told Titus to keep declaring and speaking these truths that align with God's word. I need to be reminded over and over because my natural tendency will be to drift if I'm not intentional in my training with the Lord. Paul said for Titus to exhort and rebuke with all authority. Titus was in a position of authority in the church. Use that authority to exhort... to urgently COMFORT the believers with our blessed hope. He said to use that authority to rebuke... to expose and challenge those who were disregarding their training and drifting to ungodly and empty actions and attitudes... not to condemn, but to rescue.

Finally, Paul said to Titus, "Let no one disregard you." Let no one despise you or look down on you. How does one do that??? I can't control what other people think. I think Paul was saying 2 things. 1. Let your life and loyalty be aligned with God's word regardless of how others respond. 2. Give them no biblical reason to despise you or ignore what you have to say.

O Lord, I pray that I my loyalty will be to You above all others. I pray that I will wait on You and put all my confidence in Your coming, when You will take me home. Let me not be lulled into believing that living for the here and now has any lasting value. Help my purpose and motivation to be anchored in eternity with You. That's what really matters. Let me never forget Your grace, Your salvation, Your redemption, the hope I have in You... my Savior and Deliver. Purify me as You see fit. I pray these two poems from the missionary, Amy Carmichael, will be true for me...

*And shall I pray Thee change Thy will, my Father,
Until it be according to mine?
But, no, Lord, no, that shall never be, rather
I pray Thee blend my human will with Thine.*

*I pray Thee hush, the hurrying, eager longing,
I pray Thee soothe the pains of keen desire ~*

*See in my quiet places, wishes thronging ~
Forbid them, Lord, purge, though it would be with fire.*

O Lord, may it be so!