

## LESSON 5

# Where Godliness Comes From

### Materials

- RBP transparencies 1 and 7
- Lesson 5 case study from resource CD
- Titus 2:13, 14 verse card from resource CD

### Scripture Focus

Titus 2:11—3:3

### Key Verses

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13, 14).

### Overview

Most Christians quickly identify Christ’s death with deliverance from the penalty and punishment of sin. However, fewer Christians are quick to identify Christ’s death with deliverance from the power of or slavery to sin. This lesson stresses that God intends for Christians to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, and that Christ’s death provides both the basis for such living and an incentive to such living.

### Topic

God’s provision for godly living.

### Theme

Christ’s death makes godly living possible and desirable.

### Desired Learner Response

The learner will understand that Christ died so believers could live godly and respond to His sacrifice by doing so.

### Outline

- I. The Basis for Godliness (Titus 2:11)
- II. More Godly Behaviors (Titus 2:12; 3:1–3)
  - A. General behaviors (2:12)
    1. Deny ungodliness
    2. Live
  - B. Specific behaviors (3:1–3)
    1. To the government (v. 1)
    2. To society (vv. 2, 3)
- III. An Incentive for Godliness (Titus 2:13–15)
  - A. Christ’s death (v. 14)



- B. Christ's coming (v. 13)
- C. Strong teaching (v. 15)

## Getting Started

### Lighting Your Fire

Read the following situations and ask the questions that follow them.

- Your alarm clock jars you out of sweet sleep. What would motivate you to spring from bed rather than hit “snooze” several times?
- Your best friend is flying in for a visit and you must be at the airport in an hour. What would motivate you to be there on time?
- It's time for your annual physical. What would motivate you to show up to your appointment?
- The what's-their-names down the street are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. What would motivate you to go to the party?
- Today is the day you pay your bills. What motivates you to get them paid?

Often our motivations rise and fall according to our relationships. **Ask:** How do your relationships normally affect your motivation? Have you ever been suddenly motivated to do something because of a relationship that became part of the picture? (Questions 1, 2)

This lesson stresses the incentive that a relationship with Christ provides to believers to live godly lives.

## Searching the Scriptures

The Christian is a new creation in Christ; old things are passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17). This new creation will show itself in the Christian's attitudes, values, and actions. Likewise, false professors can be identified by their works that deny God.

However, Christianity is not a pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps system. It is not a self-improvement plan based on positive or possibility thinking. The good works required of the Christian are made possible by Jesus Christ and His substitutionary sacrifice on Calvary.

**DISCUSS:** What will you succeed in doing if you try to be more spiritual through a self-improvement plan that is based on personal efforts? (Question 3)

### I. The Basis for Godliness (Titus 2:11)

The Scripture text for this lesson is one of the most significant Biblical summaries of the gospel of Christ and its effect on one's life. It begins with a

Grace is God's desire to give rebels undeserved blessing.

For passages dealing with unlimited atonement, see John 1:29; 3:16, 17; 4:42; Romans 5:6; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 19; 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:2; 4:14.

reminder that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation. God's grace refers to Christ's first coming. God Himself was made flesh (John 1:1, 14), taking upon Himself the form of a man so that He could seek the lost and save them by His death (Phil. 2:6–8). God the Son was motivated by the grace of God to come to earth. While Christ was here, He manifested God's grace in an extraordinary way (John 1:14, 17). Therefore, Paul could quite properly refer to the Person of Christ as "the grace of God."

The words "to all men" probably should not be placed with "appeared" but rather with "bringeth salvation." On the one hand, Christ as a man did not appear to all men in His first advent. On the other hand, Paul clearly stated that God is "the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe" (1 Tim. 4:10). This does not teach universalism, the false concept that everyone will be saved.

God is the Savior of all in two senses. First, salvation was provided for all at Calvary. This teaching is often referred to as unlimited atonement or unlimited redemption. Christ's death was sufficient for all, made provision for all, and is available to all who believe.

Second, Christ's death made possible God's common grace and providential blessing upon all. The rain falls on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). God does not judge an individual with Hell immediately when he sins. Rather, He can be long-suffering, giving the individual time and opportunity to repent (Gen. 15:7, 13–16; Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). In this limited sense of God's gracious, delayed judgment and many earthly blessings, God is the Savior of all.

**ASK:** What do many unbelievers wrongly conclude about God's gracious long-suffering? (Question 4)

The salvation that Christ brought has several facets. This is in keeping with the many-faceted grace of God, which brought salvation (1 Pet. 4:10). His salvation saves from the *penalty* of sin so that all condemnation due to sin is removed (Rom. 8:1). It also saves from the enslaving *power* of sin. Christ taught that unbelievers have sin as their master. Paul gave an extended discussion on this terrible truth in Romans 6. He also made reference to the slavery of sin in Titus 3:3, speaking of serving various lusts and pleasures.

**READ:** John 8:34, 36; Romans 6:12, 14. **ASK:** From what does the Son make one free? **READ:** Romans 6:18, 22. **ASK:** When God frees a person from serving sin, then to what does that person become a servant? (Questions 5, 6)

The salvation of Christ forms the basis for changing one's behavior from sin to godly living. It has made the believer free from the mastery of sin, so that he has no obligation or necessity to obey sin. Salvation has made the believer a servant of God. Therefore the Christian should and can reject the solicitations of sin and have his fruit unto holiness. Christ taught that the fruit of godliness could occur only as a person abides in Him, the Vine. Without Him we can do nothing that God considers good or godly (John 15:4, 5).

**EVALUATE:** I tried to quit committing a particular sin, but I came to the conclusion that I just can't help it. (Question 7)

## II. More Godly Behaviors (Titus 2:12; 3:1-3)

The Christian who studies the book of Titus can never say he was ignorant of how God wanted him to behave. God made His expectations crystal clear.

### A. General behaviors (2:12)

The grace of God, in the Person of Christ, teaches believers (Titus 2:12). You might say that Christians are enrolled in the school of God's grace. Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, trains them as His children. He teaches two principles that are basic to Christian living: deny (don't do) and live (do).

#### 1. Deny ungodliness

Ungodliness and worldly lusts must be denied. Ungodliness, a lack of reverence toward God, is typical of unbelievers and causes the continual display of God's wrath (Rom. 1:18). God's earthly people, Israel, often followed the world in irreverence toward God. Such ungodliness results from forsaking the truth of God and adopting profane and vain babblings of men (Rom. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:16). The believer who meditates continuously in God's Word experiences a growing respect and appreciation for God. As a result, he will deny ungodliness when it seeks a place in his attitudes.

**ASK:** What happens in your life as you decrease your daily intake of God's Word? (Question 8)

Worldly lusts, or desires, pervade this planet. The world system lies in the control of Satan. Unsaved people willingly and unwittingly do the desires of the devil, all the while thinking themselves to be "free" (John 8:32-34). Their desires are really his desires, and such desires are so typical of this world that "worldly desires" is a fitting title. These desires seldom rise above or go beyond temporal circumstances and material possessions. The believer must deny such limited and misdirected desires from lodging in his or her thoughts.

**DISCUSS:** What might you say to someone who doesn't want to become a Christian because he doesn't want someone to tell him what to do? (Question 9)

#### 2. Live

Our denial of ungodliness and worldly lusts creates the atmosphere or situation in which living a Christlike life is possible.

**ASK:** What three words would you use to describe the life God wants us to live? **READ:** Titus 2:12. **ASK:** What three words does Paul use to describe the proper way to live? (Questions 10, 11)

“Soberly” has to do with proper thoughts and having the eternal perspective (1:8 and 2:2, “temperate;” 2:5, “discreet”). “Righteously” has to do with behavior that is right in God’s eyes because it conforms to His righteous standards. “Godly” is just the opposite of the ungodliness earlier in the verse and describes an attitude that holds God in high esteem. These three terms describe godliness in a general sense.

### **B. Specific behaviors (3:1–3)**

Believers are to separate themselves from the sinful practices, attitudes, and values of the world; but at the same time, they are to be very much involved with the lost people of the world for the purpose of outreach (John 17:11, 14).

We sometimes say that the Christian is to be in the world but not of the world, or located in the world but not sourcing attitudes, values, and actions from the world.

In the world one finds many relationships. Paul wrote directions for the Christian in his relationships with the government and with society at large, at the beginning of Titus, chapter 3.

#### **1. To the government (v. 1)**

The Christian should be subject to the government (Titus 3:1). The verb form, “be subject to,” indicates a voluntary submitting of oneself, without being forced to do so by others. The general attitude of the Christian toward government is one of submission.

Specifically, those in authority are to be obeyed. Romans 13:1–7, 1 Timothy 2:2, and 1 Peter 2:13–17 give instructions to pray for governing officials, as well as to obey them. These passages also explain some of the reasons for doing so.

Obedience to human rulers is not absolute, for they sometimes require things that God specifically forbids, or they forbid things that God specifically requires (cf. Acts 1:8; 5:28, 29).

**DISCUSS:** What are some laws that could pass in the near future that would be contrary to what God requires of us as believers? (Question 12)

#### **2. To society (vv. 2, 3)**

The Christian’s responsibilities to society include three items named in Titus 3:1b and 2. First, be ready to do every good work. God created us in Christ for good works (Eph. 2:10).

**READ:** Galatians 6:10. **ASK:** What should you do if you have an opportunity to do good to a person, but you just don’t like the person? (Questions 13)

Second, the Christian is not to speak evil of any man (Titus 3:2). The two words “speak evil” could be translated “blaspheme.” All people have been made in the image of God; and even though that image has been badly marred by

sin, every human being still bears it. Therefore, to blaspheme another human being is to attack the image of God in him. This must not be done (James 3:9–11).

Third, we are not to be brawlers but peaceable (Titus 3:2). The depraved mind frequently looks to physical force or violence as a solution to problems. Both the good guys and the bad guys seem to take care of difficulties with their fists or their guns. When a student in a Christian elementary school was disciplined for repeatedly fighting, his father became irate and declared that he had taught the boy to “let people have it” if they got in his way. But the Christian is not to be a fighter (“brawler”).

The final word contains an alternative to brawling. The believer should display gentleness (v. 2). Fighting it out may seem right to the world, but the wisdom that is from above is gentle (James 3:17). Gentle actions arise from a meek spirit. Jesus Christ displayed meekness by His gentleness (2 Cor. 10:1).

**READ:** Galatians 5:22, 23. **ASK:** What would you say to someone who says that his personality is such that he cannot be gentle? (Question 14)

Treating offensive people with gentleness tries one’s soul. But Christians have good reason to be gentle. We should remember that we formerly behaved offensively, especially toward God (Titus 3:3). And how did God treat us, offenders who are now saved? With kindness and love (v. 4ff.). Therefore, as God’s representatives, we Christians should treat unsaved people as God treated us when we were unsaved.

The seven characteristics of pre-conversion behavior named in Titus 3:3 paint a graphic picture. Seven is often considered the number of perfection; here Paul gives the perfect picture of imperfect behavior.

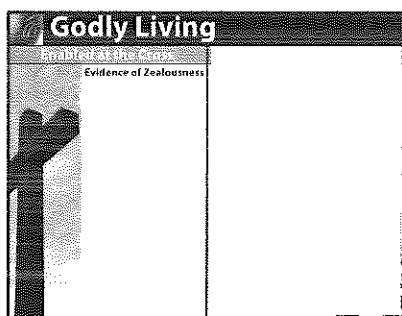
### III. An Incentive for Godliness (Titus 2:13–15)

#### A. Christ’s death (v. 14)

Jesus Christ appeared once in history. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came in the form of a servant and was obedient even to the point of death on the cross. For what purposes was His death intended? Our text mentions two of God’s purposes.

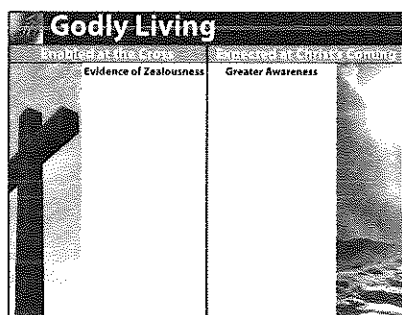
First, Christ died to redeem us from all iniquity (Titus 2:14). The word “iniquity” here means lawlessness or violations of God’s laws. Sin is the transgression of the law. Christ died to pay the penalty of sin for us and thereby purchase us for Himself. After He has bought us, He has plans for us, and those plans are found in the second purpose mentioned in the text.

The second purpose of Christ’s death was to purify unto Himself a people obviously His and zealous of good works (v. 14). The horrible death of Christ was intended to deliver us from Hell and to open Heaven for us. But it also was intended to revolutionize our manner of life here on earth. Christ died to purify or cleanse us unto Himself. The believer demonstrates God’s ownership of him- or herself by being zealous to do what is good in God’s sight.



The grammar indicates that the blessed hope and the glorious appearing are synonymous.

The grammar indicates that “the great God” and “our Savior” are both the same Person.



**TRANSPARENCY:** Display transparency 7 with the right half covered. **ASK:** What are some evidences of being zealous for good works? (Question 15)

### B. Christ's coming (v. 13)

Jesus Christ will appear in the future (Titus 2:13). This future appearing shines as a blessed hope. Certain descriptions are given of Jesus Christ as He will appear. These descriptions emphasize His character as it will be shown in the blessed-hope appearing.

First, He will appear as God (v. 13). He truly is both God and Man; but during His first appearing, His deity seldom shown through the veil of His humanity. Christ's deity clearly radiated forth at the Transfiguration, but that was not typical of His earthly form.

Second, He will appear as our Savior (v. 13). The mention of Savior calls to mind His suffering to the point of death at Calvary (“gave Himself,” v. 14). The text specifies that the Savior Who will appear is the Savior Who saved us from all iniquity and unto Himself that we should be uniquely His possession (“a peculiar people”) and should manifest His character in our lives (“zealous of good works”). So one of God's purposes at Calvary was to save people who would be pure, obviously God's possession, and doing good works with great zeal when Christ returns.

**TRANSPARENCY:** Display transparency 7. **ASK:** How can we increase our awareness of the coming of Christ so that it provides us with a greater incentive for godly living? (Question 16)

The expectation of the Jesus, Who expects sanctified living and Who suffered crucifixion to enable it, naturally motivates a Christian to such living.

### C. Strong teaching (v. 15)

Titus was to be continually speaking this message of godliness, its basis, its description, and its incentive (v. 15). However, merely teaching these things would not be enough. Titus was to urge the Cretans strongly, perhaps in messages and also in personal encounters. He would work with people to help the weak implement godly living.

Some people would need even more than urging. After much exhortation, they would still stray from godly living. Such people Titus was to rebuke, pointing out the error of their ways.

Sad to say, constant teaching, exhortation, and even rebuke would fail to impress some, because they would view Titus's message as merely his own opinions. Therefore, he must teach, exhort, and rebuke with authority. All the authority of the apostle Paul stood behind the message of Titus, and all the authority of Jesus Christ stood behind Paul's message. Therefore, the churches must take Titus quite seriously. He must not allow them to disregard his words. These messages of godliness are urgent messages. The Christians of Crete needed to be impressed with them, and so do we.



## Making It Personal

### Zealous for Good Works

**Ask:** What are you genuinely excited about: your favorite sports team, seeing your children do well, a vacation to your favorite hideaway? How does your zeal for good works compare with the other things you just considered? Spend time each day thinking about a good thing or two God wants you to do, and then save a place on your calendar to get it done in appreciation for the day Christ died for you. (Questions 17, 18)

### Ready and Waiting

**Ask:** What if Christ returned today? What would you want to do to get ready? Do that now, for He may indeed return today. Live every day as if Christ was on His way, for He is! (Questions 19, 20)

### Review Transparency

Use transparency 1 to review the Mark of the Faithful for this lesson: Serves zealously in light of Christ's Return.

### Memory Verses

Distribute copies of the Titus 2:13 and 14 verse card from the resource CD. Encourage the learners to memorize the verses.

### NEXT LESSON

Encourage your learners to complete lesson 6 before the next class.

Use the case study for lesson 5 as desired.

Marks of the Faithful	
1. Forgives others as God forgives.	8.
2. Remembers and shares God's forgiveness.	9.
3. Seeks and supports godly leadership.	10.
4. Lives a genuine, godly life.	11.
5. Serves zealously in light of Christ's Return.	12.
6.	13.
7.	

## LESSON 6

# Godliness in Action

### Materials

- RBP transparencies 1 and 8
- Lesson 6 case study from resource CD
- Titus 3:8 verse card from resource CD
- Lesson 6 extra application idea from resource CD
- Bottle of disinfectant

### Scripture Focus

Titus 3:4–15

### Key Verse

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (Titus 3:8).

### Overview

Paul brings his letter to a close, explaining the greatest good work of all time—God’s work providing salvation and eternal life—and making a vigorous appeal for believers to maintain good works.

### Topic

Good works

### Theme

Believers benefit from being careful to maintain good works.

### Desired Learner Response

The learner will recognize the benefit of maintaining good works and resolve to be diligent in doing them.

### Outline

- I. God’s Actions (Titus 3:4–7)
  - A. Their root (3:4, 5a)
  - B. Their reality (3:5b–7)
- II. Believers’ Actions (Titus 3:8–11)
  - A. Maintain (3:8, 14)
  - B. Avoid (3:9)
  - C. Reject (3:10, 11)
- III. Titus’s Actions (Titus 3:12–15)

## Getting Started

### Blooming for God

Henry Ward Beecher said, “As flowers always wear their own colors and give forth their own fragrance every day alike, so should Christians maintain their character at all times and under all circumstances.”