

Titus 2

11. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Foundations #4 – The Blessed Hope!

Intro:

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3.

We have discussed three critical, unshakable foundations in a world where everything is being shaken and tested.

Foundation #1 – A relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Life and eternity depend on this simple reality.

It is **why Jesus came**. It is **the message we preach**. It will be **all that matters** as we step into forever.

Can you honestly say, I am a child of God because I have trusted Jesus as my personal Savior?

Say it with me if you can - I am a child of God because I have trusted Jesus as my personal Savior!

Foundation #2 – The Word of God.

Do you believe and trust in the Word of God?

Say it with me, “I believe the Bible. I believe and will trust in God’s Word.”

Foundation #3 – Absolutes.

In a world where **everything is questioned, can you say confidently, boldly,**

- **His right is my right.**
- **His wrong is wrong. Period.**
- **I absolutely yield my opinions to God’s inspired revelations and will live life accordingly.**

Say it with me,

“God’s Word is final. If God said it, that settles it.”

- **Parents, your kids need to hear it... and see it...**
- **Kids, your parents and grandparents need to hear it.... And see it...**
- **Children of God, your brothers and sisters as well as lost, broken world need to hear it... And see it...**

Today, we consider another foundation that is being tested in a world whose foundations are trembling. Events this week because events this past week have focused the world – believer and nonbelievers - on this foundational truth.

As usual, Satan is working, speaking, deceiving...

And God is working... we have His Word that will never fail, and foundations to build our lives upon. **So what is going on?**

The news headline that caught my attention was one of many – from the AP –

A DOOMSDAY PREDICTION ABOUT THE RAPTURE IS SPREADING ON TIKTOK. Written by BY LUIS ANDRES HENAO, September 23, 2025

The Rapture is near — at least according to an apocalyptic prophecy by one South African man who **says it will fall on Sept. 23 or 24.** His claim has gone viral, with some believing it will mark the end times and many more mocking it on social media.

Multiple news organizations weighed in,

- Maybe because of **the sensation and intrigue,**
- Maybe because of **the pure magnitude of the response, especially on TIKTOK,**
- Maybe because of the **extreme responses...** People selling their homes, giving away their possessions...

Thursday night, I mentioned it to the young lady who ran AV for Chonda Pierce the concert. She perked up and knew exactly what I was referencing. She would periodically give me updates – “We only have four hours left... Two hours to go...”

But - It didn't happen. Again. Nothing new -

- There have been numerous sensational predictions over the years
- Books have been sold and millions of dollars made
- Denominations and cults have started from them

We are not surprised, are we?! **Any time anyone claims to know when Jesus is coming, they have just revealed that they are misled or wrong.** Jesus said, in Matthew 24:36 -

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

The scoffing and ridicule and skepticism are understandable.

Imagine how the whole idea sounds to someone who doesn't know Jesus!

After they hear the crazies and see the falsehoods, why would they just reject everything, right? The Deceiver is working, isn't he?

Don't be surprised, or discouraged! Peter actually described our days and the world's response when he wrote, in 2 Peter 3,

3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

So, while the world is laughing, again,

- What do **you believe**?
- **Do you scoff?**
- Are you maybe **embarrassed to the point that you just don't want to think or talk about it?** After all, what will **"they"** think of us?

Reminder – The Words of Jesus - Luke 9:26 -

*For **whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words**, of him **shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.***

- **Do you brush it off and treat it as if it doesn't matter?** i.e. - **"I don't have to worry about it - He's not coming today..."**

Jesus cautions numerous times of that very danger! Matthew 24 -

42. **"Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord doth come..."**

43. **"...if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.**

44. **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

45. **Who then is a faithful and wise servant...?**

46. **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

48. **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;**

49. And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Luke 21:34

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time **your hearts** be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

What the world thinks is tragic, but doesn't really matter, does it? What we, children of God, believe and how we live accordingly, does.

Our Foundation for today: In the words of Dr. Luke who recorded Jesus' ascension into heaven in Acts 1:11 -

"...why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Foundational Truth #4: Jesus Is Coming Again. Maybe today...

Let's talk for a bit about

I. Relevance.

2 questions I ask and always taught preachers in Seminary to ask, particularly of their sermons:

- **Is it true?**
- **So what? Why does it matter?**

A. Is It True?

Acts 1 – "This same Jesus..."

Isn't that enough?

The night before Jesus died, John 14 –

3. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, you may be also.

What else do we need?

Paul – 1 Thessalonians 4

16. **For the Lord himself** shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17. Then we which are **alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Our text- Paul to Titus to us:

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Is it true?

- **The New Testament is saturated with reminders that Jesus will come again — over 300 distinct references!**
- That averages out to about **1 in every 13 verses** mentioning, alluding to, or directly promising His return.
- **Jesus Himself repeatedly promised His return**
- **All major NT authors** reference it at some point: Paul, Peter, James, John, the writer of Hebrews, even Jude.

B. So what? Does it Matter?

- **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...” 2 Tim.3:15**
- About one out of every 30 verses in the NT refers to the Second Coming or related events.
- That works out to roughly 8–10% of the New Testament being directly tied to His return (prophecy, teaching, warning, encouragement).
- 23 of the 27 NT books mention the Second Coming explicitly.

This isn't some side issue — it's one of the dominant themes of Scripture.

II. Response.

Why did Jesus and His disciples speak and write so often of His return?

It is never just a matter of knowledge or information. It is a matter of God's truth of what is going to happen one day, maybe today, impacting our lives.

2 Timothy 3:15. *“Profitable for doctrine (truth), reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”*

Titus 2:15. *These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

Every mention of His return to His children carries a caution and encouragement/instruction!

No wonder Satan, who knows his time is short, works so hard to discourage us, or distract us, and even lead us to dismiss it!

Our text: *“the grace of God...”*

A. Living.

12. **Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Negatively:

- Denying the things that are not God – “un-godly” – Absolutes. Attitudes. Actions.
- Denying worldly lusts: Any deceptive way to make our lives “better” outside of God’s will

Positively - “Live!”

- “Soberly”: Serious about the things of life and eternity; not stupid!
- “Righteously” - Not haughty, unproductive “self-righteousness”. The simple effort to live like Him. Right.
- “godly” – Like Him. Bearing the family resemblance!

B. Looking.

13. **Looking for** that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Passionate peering, vigilant watching, intentional watching...

Vine: *“expecting; with the meaning of accepting”*

What: *“the glorious appearing”*

Who: *“the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”*

C. Loving.

14. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

III. Reality (Readiness)

Living in the light of something so unearthly, so unusual, is tough!

Let's see if we can make it real. **Ask yourself,**

If Jesus was to come in 5 minutes... what difference would it make with...

- **My problems and struggles.** Ah, no problem. Just a little longer!
- **My selfishness and sinfulness.** Uh – **WARNING! WARNING!**
- **My unwillingness to...** What?
 - Forgive?
 - Stop.
 - BE nice.
 - What am I holding on to
- **My attitude towards the things that I've been chasing and investing in?**
 - Can you imagine-
 - “Well, that's good, but let me take one more ride in my Ferrari”
 - “Let me look at my portfolio one more time”
 - “After the game, maybe”
 - “I've got my _____” Game? Golf? Trip?
- **My fears and worries! I've been worried about...**
 - That?
 - Them?
 - Five minutes from Him makes *them* fade to nothing!
- **My service and obedience.** Pleasing Him rather than me!

The Bible's message isn't to circle dates but to set our lives. Jesus is coming again. Maybe today!

His return is certain, even immanent. The timing is not!

Be ready. Be steady. Be hopeful – ***It is the blessed hope!***

- Looking...
- Living...
- Loving Him and those for whom He died...