

**Titus 2:11-15 – March 21, 2021**  
***While We Wait For The Rapture***  
**JD Farag**

The first of which is our Bible Prophecy Update, and the second service is our verse-by-verse study through the Word of God. We are currently in the book of Titus in chapter 2 and a passage that we have been looking forward to. Maybe I should speak for myself. I have been looking forward to for quite some time because it is the passage dealing with our blessed hope. I can't wait for what the Lord has for us today.

What we'll do is ask you to stand if you're able; you can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine. The Apostle Paul is writing to Titus and says, verse 11, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, [and here it is, verse 13], while we wait for the blessed hope - - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then [verse 15], are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you." Wow.

Let's pray if you would please join with me. Lord, thank you so much. Lord, thank you for not just our blessed hope but really our only hope. Jesus, you are our only hope in this world that we're living in today in this present age. Lord, we have before us a passage of Scripture here in your Word that is so encouraging. It's instructive too, and as such, we need for you as only you can by the Holy Spirit to get our attention. Once you get our attention, Lord, you need to hold our attention, so our minds don't wander because I don't think there's one of us here in this beautiful church that you've given us that wants to miss anything that you have for us today. So, Lord, will you speak into our lives in and through your Word? We ask in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

We get to talk about my favorite topic, the rapture. It's not just the rapture, but specifically what we're to do and even how we're to do it as we occupy and wait for the return of Jesus Christ in the rapture of the church. In the text that's before us today, the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit, in writing Titus an encouragement to Titus which doubtless provides what I see as a "to-do list" of sorts if I can call it that if you don't mind.

It's a to-do list of things to do until He comes as we occupy; until He comes as we wait. If you are anything like me, and I suspect that you are, you hate to wait. Can I get a witness on that one, please? Thank you. Good. All right. I'm not alone.

I found three; you might find more but three on this to-do list. Again, thankfully, we're not only told what we're to do, but we're also told how we're to do it. How it is that we're able to do that which we're to do as we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing, the rapture of the church in the appearing of Jesus Christ. Well, the first one is in verses 11 and 12, and it's that of "denying ungodly worldliness."

This is interesting because and easily missed at first read because Paul says that it's actually grace that teaches us. Grace is our teacher to deny ungodliness, say no to worldly lusts, and it is grace as the teacher that teaches us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. That's "what" we are to do, and now we have the how we are to do it. It's under the teaching, an instruction of grace that teaches us by the Holy Spirit to be busy in the spirit concerning the things of God as we occupy until He comes.

We've talked about this before. Maybe it's worth noting and mentioning again today, as it will be germane to our understanding. To walk in the Spirit, we're told we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. What does that mean? What does that look like? Here's what it means, and here's what it looks like. If I'm walking in the Spirit, living according to the Holy Spirit, busy in the Spirit I won't have time for the flesh, for the world, the lusts of the flesh, the things of this world because I'm too busy in the Spirit.

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I'm too full. I don't have an appetite. Don't worry. Some of you are looking at me; you're not going to do that food illustration again. No, I'll spare you, but we talk about it all the time. When you're full of the Holy Spirit, you don't have any appetite. There's no room.

Friday was our daughter's 14th birthday. Well, we basically celebrated like the rapture was going to happen. I sure hope it happens because, man, we ate everything. I mean everything, and we were so full. My wife and I are sitting there and just looking at each other going; we hadn't even gotten to the ice cream cake. Ice cream cake, by the way, is going to be in heaven. I just want you to know that. We are so full, and we had eaten so much.

Here's this, I mean. You would normally celebrate, right? I guess I am doing another food illustration, but it's a different one. I mean, normally, you would be salivating, right - from Baskin and Robbins. So, I take my daughter in, and man, we made a note, if we're still here next year for her birthday, we're going to actually go online first because when we went in, it's kind of like all of these decisions. What color do you want the flowers to be? Do you want the petals to be different colors on this flower and... By the time we got out of there, we felt like we had just completed a real estate transaction. We've got this amazing cake, and here we are, and we're so full. I'm not interested. I'm too full, so get this; this is profound. I said no.

That's what Paul is saying. This is the how: are you with me? This is how you say no to ungodliness. This is how you say no to worldly lust. This is how you say no to the flesh when the flesh entices you. You know how it is, right? It speaks to you, whispers your name. Hey, JD. No! Not interested. That's how.

This is Luke's Gospel Chapter 19. You know this well, verses 11-13. "And as they heard these things [he's speaking of Jesus] added and spoke a parable because he was nigh to Jerusalem and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. And he said, 'Therefore [verse 12], a certain noble man went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. And he called his 10 servants and delivered them £10, and he said unto them, 'Occupy until I come.'"

You'll forgive this illustration... again, if you have a better one, please let me know. I'm happy to use it. When you are in a public place and the restrooms, that will say "occupied." Like I said, if you have a better illustration, let me know. They are in there. You can't go in because it's occupied.

That's not what Jesus is saying per se, but you get the point. I'm going to leave, but I'm going to come back, and here's what I want you to do. I want you to occupy. Be busy. Stay busy about the things of God until I return.

Because here's the thing. If you think that, hey, I'm just going to sit here and wait for the Lord to return, run up my credit card because He's coming, and I don't have to pay them back. We have a saying, right? How time flies when you're having fun? Isn't it true too that when you're waiting, time just goes so slow? You're watching the clock. What time is it now? Two minutes later than the last time I checked. That's all? Yeah.

But when you're busy, time evaporates because you're occupied. You're busy with the things of God. Be busy about the things of God. Occupy until I come. That's the how we're able to say no to ungodliness. Worldly lust. I'm too busy. I don't have time. Yeah, but what about? No, too busy. No time. Too busy. I'm occupied. I'm presently occupied. I'm unavailable until He comes.

The second one is in verses 13 and 14, and it's that of being eager to do what is good. Now, I'm keenly aware that verse 13 is this well-known, often quoted very encouraging verse about waiting for our blessed hope. But notice in verse 14, where Paul says that Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us and purify us as a people eager to do what is good wait. Okay, let's back up. I'm still waiting for the blessed hope of the appearing of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church, but he doesn't just stop there.

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He says, yeah, but while you're waiting, while you're occupying, you need to understand that Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us and purify us as a people who are eager to do what is good. You know what that means? Well, here again, that's the how and that's why I emphasize it and point it out. Stay with me. Isn't it true that the people who eagerly wait for the Lord's return are the people who are eager to do what is good? Well, wait a minute, Pastor. Wasn't it Mark Twain that said you could be so heavenly-minded, you're of no earthly good? I couldn't disagree more. I think it's the opposite that's true. I think the more heavenly-minded you are, the more eager you are to do earthly good because you're heavenly-minded. I understand; I get it. Your heads in the... all you can think about it.

What about what Isaiah says? "The one who will keep his mind stayed on thee will be kept in perfect peace." Was there ever a verse that was more apropos than that for the world that we're living in today? That settles me. My mind is stayed on him. Yeah, but do you see what's going on in the world? Yeah, but it's not my final destination, man. I'm just passing through. Yeah, but what about... No, no... Hey, my hopes are not this world. My hope is in Jesus coming to take me out of this world. Oh, that explains why you are the way you are. What do you mean? Well, if I really believe this and I really believe this, and I believe you believe this too. Then wouldn't it stand to reason that our lives are going to be evidence of it? The way we live our lives. The eagerness with which we seek to do that which is right in the sight of the Lord. The eagerness with which we have the urgency with which we have to reach the lost.

There's a parable in Matthew 24, again I know familiar to most. It's one of those parables in the Gospels that has really had an impact on my life in my relationship with the Lord in this regard. In verses 45 through 51, Jesus is going to contrast and compare two servants. The difference between these two servants is that the good and faithful servant lived his life eager to do good. Why? Because he anticipated that his master could return at any time, contrasted with the wicked servant.

Let's begin at verse 45, Jesus is speaking, teaching, "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly, I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But [verse 8] suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time.' No worry, no worry, party on. "And he then begins [verse 49] to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he is not aware of." And then it gets pretty intense here in verse 51, "He will cut him to pieces and assign them a place with the hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Wow.

What's the point of the parable? You have two servants. The good servant lives his life eager to do good. Why? For this reason: He knows that his master could return at any time, and when his master does, he wants to be found faithful doing that which his master called him to do and that which his master entrusted him with. But then you've got this other one. He's like, man, dude. They've been saying the master is going to come for how many... My great, great, great, great grandparents thought Jesus was coming back in their lifetime. Actually, that's many too many greats that would have been before Christ. Well, anyway, you can do the math later. He's not coming! I think about Peter in his second epistle.

In fact, I spent some time there this morning in anticipation of the teaching today. Peter writes that God is not slow concerning His promise to return, as some consider slowness. In fact, actually, in there, he says that it's actually possible to speed His coming. How? Let's get the show on the road! Well, what we understand from Scripture. Well, wait a minute. God is sovereign. How are we going to change His timeline? Well, be careful with that. How many times in Scripture... God is sovereign, but the response from man of their own volition can impact the sovereign timeline and will of God.

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By the way, you can ask; I think it was Hezekiah about that. I'm probably wrong, and you're going to correct me afterward. That's fine. Where he was given an extra 15 years of life because he cried out to God. The prophet went to him and said, you're going to die. Have a nice afternoon. Get your affairs in order basically is what he told him. He cries out to God, pleads with God, begs God, and repents. And God says, okay, I'm going to give you 15 more years.

Well, wait a minute. That seemingly changes God's timeline. I thought God was sovereign. No, God is sovereign. Well, how then is it possible for us to speed His coming as Peter writes? Two ways. Are you ready? Share and prayer. What do you mean? Oh, we know from Scripture that when that last soul gets saved, we're out of here. If you're in this church today and you're that or watching online, by the way? We want to go home, get saved! That last soul is going to get saved. That trump is going to sound, and then we're out of here.

So that's where sharing the gospel comes in. Sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. That's the share part. What about the prayer part? When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, which is interesting in and of itself. Isn't it interesting that the disciples didn't ask Jesus to teach them to preach? Lord, teach us to pray. If I was there, I would have asked him to teach me to preach because I can use all the help I can get. Jesus, teach me to preach. But they didn't ask him that. They asked him, teach me to pray; Teach us to pray.

Do you know why I believe they asked him to teach them how to pray? It's because they saw firsthand the Savior pray all the time, and they saw the impact that His prayer had. They saw the power of prayer where He would go off by himself. How many times in the Gospels do we read of Jesus going off and just praying? Even before He called the disciples, He spent all night praying before He called them. I'll tell you; this is God Incarnate, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, who while here, deemed it so important to pray. How much more should we when it comes to prayer?

So, He teaches them to pray. We know it well. We call it the Lord's Prayer. It's not really the Lord's prayer. It's our prayer. He's teaching us to pray, and when he does so, He says, pray this way, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Do you realize that the Lord is telling us and teaching us to pray for his return for his kingdom to come and his will to be done?"

I'm thinking about in Revelation. ...the chapter and verse escape me. But it's something to the effect of, "Even so, Lord, come quickly. Lord, come." That's a good prayer. And you know how it is when you're going through a very difficult time. I pray that all the time, but especially when it's a difficult time, Lord, come.

Before my wife and I married, some 33-4 years ago now. I probably should know that number. I didn't want the Lord to come back. It was kind of like, Lord, don't come back until after we get married. And he didn't, obviously, but then we got married, and it's like, okay, Lord, come back! The same thing with kids. Lord, don't until we have... We couldn't have children 10 years, infertile. We found out that we're pregnant. We're going to have a son, by faith. We didn't know, but we knew, but we didn't know from the doctors. It was kind of like, oh Lord, don't come back until after he is born. We took him home after he was born, and we realized that we would never sleep again. So, it was like, Lord, come quickly. That's a good prayer.

By the way, that's how you speed His coming according to the Apostle Peter. Let's just spend one more minute on this eager to do good based on the expectancy of the Lord's imminent return. The ones who live like that will be the same ones that do good in this, the last hour of human history. And that's the how.

It's this last one that I want to spend the remainder of our time on. It's in verse 15, and it is that of teaching, encouraging, and even rebuking. Now, this verse is specific to Titus teaching those in Crete and not letting anyone despise him for it, as Paul says here at the end of the verse and chapter. But

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this has profound practical application to our lives, and if you'll hear me out and bear with me, I'll try to explain why that is.

Notice in verse 12, where Paul refers to "this present age." Now that applies to us today, stand alone in the sense that we're in this present age, the church age, but we're at the end of the age. Now, how much more should we teach, encourage, and even if need be, rebuke in this present age. Well, what do you mean? How does that apply to waiting for the rapture? Okay. I mentioned this in the prophecy Update today.

Just for the purpose of discussion, let's say that there are two camps if you will. In this camp, you have the older people, kind of my age and thereabouts. We're like, man, the rapture can't come soon enough. Then over here, you have this other camp of young people, and they've got their whole lives ahead of them. So here you are, encouraging one another with these words, as we're going to read here in a moment in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4.

They're looking at you, saying, wait a minute. That's not encouraging. That's actually depressing because I got my whole life ahead of me. I want to get married, and have children, and get an education, and start my career, and... Wait. Did you say you want to have children? Yeah. Oh, that's grandchildren. Yeah. Okay. Let's talk about that for a second. Wait a minute. I want that too.

Well, because I'm the Pastor, I'm going to do my daughter's wedding, if the Lord tarries. I want to walk my daughter down the aisle and see her get married. I want to see my boys grow up and give us grandchildren. That's always the prerequisite. You must give us grandchildren. I want that too. Yeah, but whenever you guys talk about the rapture, and that's your hope, I think, well, I'm kind of hoping to live my life. You guys, of course, at your age, are kind of like, of course, you want the rapture to come. What about us?

I want to address this because I think this is what verse 15 is speaking to. Again, if you'll kindly indulge me, I'll try to communicate this as clearly and as humbly as I possibly can. There are certain assumptions that are made when a young person doesn't hope as much as us for the rapture. It's not really the blessed hope. It's kind of, well, it's the blessed interruption, and I didn't really get a chance to live my life. Well, you're assuming - that you're going to have this blessed life. You're assuming that you're going to get married, have children, give us grandchildren, start your career, and live happily ever after. Okay, first of all, you should say, Lord willing. But you're also making another assumption that we don't share that with you as our children or as a younger person. We want to see you do all that too.

Well, what's the difference? Why, then, do you not feel robbed, and we do? I believe it's this. I believe the onus is on us to teach them the truth about the rapture of the church and encourage them to put their hope in the return of Jesus Christ. Now, again, stay with me. See, it could be, and I'm going to be very generic and not specific when I say this.

It could very well be that we, as adults, as parents, certainly, have modeled for the young people an unhealthy, even unholy attachment to this world and the things of this world that have lent themselves to this. They're making those assumptions based on their model, so their hope is not in the rapture. Their hope is in this world. Now, I'm not fully excusing them. That's on them, not to excuse it, but to, in some way, explain it.

You've got this adult, this parent that has let go completely of this world, especially now, by the way. You'll forgive me, but this whole thing when it started, it's kind of like God had to pry our fingers and our tight grip on those things that we look to and indulge in and even could be guilty of idolatry in this world. I mean, we were holding on so tightly, and then this whole thing hits, and all of a sudden, you're going, ho. Oh, wow. This just doesn't look good. The outlook doesn't look good. That's good. Because when the outlook doesn't look good, try the up-look.

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Oh, wait, let me see if I got this straight. Again, you'll forgive me. I don't mean to be snarky, but I kind of do. So, you're saying that you're hoping that everything returns to normal so you can get your life back. Oh, do you want your life back? Do you want to keep your life? Lose it. And if you're unwilling to lose your life, you won't keep it. How about that? We've talked about this. There's talk of, hey, now we're going to start reopening up. We're going to start loosening some of the restrictions, and you can go to movies again and go back into the theaters.

Listen, maybe I'll just speak for myself. I'm not interested. I'm kind of over it now. I think of that hymn. Again, you'll forgive me if I'm waxing nostalgic here. I think of that timeless classic hymn, "You can have this world, just give me Jesus. Just give me Jesus. You can have it. And then that other hymn, too. "The things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. I'll tell you when you've tasted of the Lord, you're ruined. When you've tasted of the Lord, and you see that He is good. He ruins you for anything else. I mean, it's ruined for me. There's no love lost.

Okay, Pastor, can we just do a "what if" here? Fine. Sure, why not? What if you're wrong? Okay. What if things do go back to normal and you got this whole thing wrong? Well, first of all, I mentioned it in the update. I will humble myself, and I will ask for forgiveness if I got this wrong and things go back to normal, and the pharmaceutical companies have the good of mankind... Sorry, I might have taken that a little bit too far.

Okay, cool. Do you know what that means? Maybe I will do my daughter's wedding. Maybe I will hold my grandchild in my arms. Praise the Lord. Oh, I've got more time to win people to Christ too. Praise the Lord. You know what I'm saying? It's a win-win, either way.

But we still have this problem here because there's also this rebuke. And as God knows my heart, I wish that word wasn't in verse 15. Can I say that? I just did. You don't want it there either, right? I mean, I'm good with teach; I can do that. I'll teach. I'm really good with encourage. I am so cool with encourage. But then why did he have to say rebuke? Whether young or old, sometimes there is a much-needed rebuke in this regard. Yeah, you need to encourage one another concerning the rapture. But there may come a time where you also need to rebuke one another concerning the rapture.

I want to read 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4:16-18. We will close, but I just kind of want to fill in a couple of blanks and connect just a couple more dots as we do. This is what we are to teach. It's the Word of God. As we talked about on Thursday night: What is God's word? I know this is deeply profound. It's God's word. What do you mean? No, God is giving you his word. You know when we say, hey, my word is my bond? I've given you my word.

Okay. I would much rather have God give me his word because, see I know that God will never fail and God can't break his Word. If God has given me his Word, guess what? Done. That's his Word. He has given me his Word. He has promised me. Do you know that one has counted over 3,000 promises in the word of God?

Oh, by the way, spoiler alert; this is one of them. This is a promise. This is the Word of God. The promise of God to you and to me. It's the rapture. For the Lord himself [verse 16, God's Word] will come down from heaven with a loud command with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God and the dead in Christ will rise first."

All those loved ones who went home to be with the Lord. This is the bodily resurrection: To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Whenever I do a memorial service, I am always reminded of this illustration of the body, soul, spirit were made in the image of God. See, when we die, our bodies, dust-to-dust, return to the ground from where they were created. By the way, the 17 elements in the dust are the 17 elements in our flesh, our bodies. We were literally created from the dust, the dust of the earth. That's not hyperbole. That's literally.

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The spirit is absent from the body. If you're born again of the Spirit of God, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit. The spirit leaves the body and goes to be with the Lord, present with the Lord. All those loved ones, their remains are here. Our daughter, Noelle, her remains are here. Her spirit - with the Lord. So, here's the thing. When that trumpet sounds, they get their bodies first. Don't worry. We're not going to have to wait very long because it's going to be instant.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, in the twinkling of an eye, not a blink - twinkling of an eye. We're going to put off these bodies, these corruptible bodies, and put on our glorified incorruptible bodies like that. I mean so fast. I mean really fast! And we're going to meet them in the air.

Here's the illustration: A light bulb. You've got the bulb, you've got the light, and you've got the electricity. The bulb is like the body. When it ceases, you take it out. You put it in the rubbish. It goes back to the ground from where it was created. Electricity is like the spirit. It goes to its source, not Hiko by the way. The Holy Spirit goes to be with the Lord; presence of the Lord. It works both ways, by the way. If you're not born again in the Spirit, when your spirit leaves your body, you go to hell. That's the Word of God.

What about the light that's created when you bring bulb and electricity together? Oh, that's the soul. When we get our new bodies and those who died in Christ when they get their bodies, and they're reunited with their spirit, they are a living soul light for all eternity.

You see that illustration of how that works. That's what happens when you die. The spirit is absent from the body. The body goes into the ground, the light ceases, DC's [discontinues]. Then when the rapture happens, they get their new bodies reunited with their spirit, and they're living light, living soul, for all eternity.

Now, we bypass, I like that part, that's why I like the "we who are alive and remain" part because that means we don't see death. We're going to be changed instantly, in a fraction, of a fraction of a second, by the way. We're going to meet them in the air, verse 17, after that, we... I want to be a we. "...who are still alive, and are left will be caught up." Harpazo, in the Greek, that's where we get our word rapture. It's actually transliterated from the Latin Vulgate.

Notice that nowhere does it say that Jesus comes back to earth? No. We're caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord. Where is the Lord? In the air! I'm sorry. I'm yelling. That's the rapture. I get cynical, and I need to repent. I have a fuzball on my arm. It's a sign I need to repent. When people say but the word rapture isn't in the Bible. Yes, it is. It's not in an English Bible. But if you have a Latin, it's in the Latin.

Oh, how about this one? Just bear with me. I had, actually, somebody ask me this once. Do you really believe in a secret rapture? It stopped me. I had heard those words, but I'd never been asked that question before. I have to confess that I was really taken back when I was asked that question. And, of course, my flesh is right there. I wanted to just ... what do you think we're... But being the godly man that I am, my answer was I believe in the rapture because God's Word says there's going to be a rapture.

Then you start talking about the whole pre-trib thing, which is, by the way, coming under increasing attack, the sound doctrine of the pre-tribulation rapture. That should tell you something right there. Okay, where are you going to put the rapture then? Because at some point, we're going to be caught up together with them who died in Christ first. And we're going to meet the Lord... Not in New York City! You'll forgive the sanctified sarcasm. We're not going to meet him in Jerusalem. We're going to meet him in the air - in the rapture of the church. There's going to be a rapture! "And so, we will be with the Lord forever."

Therefore..." and this is where I want to wrap it up. "Encourage one another with these words." Again, we're cool with that, right? How encouraging is that, right? I can do that. Where do I sign?

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Encourage one another. I can do that. I can even teach one another. I can do that. Where do I sign for that? What if we saw it as Paul writing to Titus, therefore, rebuke one another with these words? Oh, come on. I'm not going to do that. They'll unfriend me on social media if I do that.

Well, I'm going to close with a proverb that goes like this. "The wounds of a friend are faithful and can be trusted. But an enemy multiplies kisses." Here's what I'm learning. Initially, you speak the truth in love because you love and you rebuke. I mean, think about it. If you didn't care, why bother? Yeah, go ahead. We used to say that to our kids all the time. We discipline you because we love you, to which they would respond, stop loving us so much. We would say things like, you know, if we didn't care, we would say, yeah, go ahead juggle knives on the H-3; I don't care. Again, if you have a better illustration, just let me know. That's my story, and I'm sticking with it. You get the point, right?

Why do we rebuke somebody? Because we love them enough. We care enough about them to speak the truth to them, even though we know we're jeopardizing our friendship. Oh, by the way, to not do that is self-love. Hey, let me use this illustration. You go into the doctor's office, and the doctor realizes that you've got cancer. But he doesn't want to tell you because he wants you to still like him, so he doesn't speak the truth to you. That's an ugly doctor. I'm not talking ugly in the physical sense. That's an unloving man.

Well, let's take and superimpose that into the spiritual sense. So, somebody's got sin cancer. Somebody's got something in their life that's destroying them or, at best, a hindrance to them. Because we just got done learning that it's the people that are eager to do good are the ones that are eager for his return, which is why they're eager to do good. So maybe this explains why they're still holding on too tightly and attached to the things of this world, and they need to be rebuked in love because you love them.

Initially, they're going to resent it. They're going to hate you. They might even have some choice words for you. But the Proverbs, the Word of God again, promises you that there will come a day where they will appreciate it. Initially, they'll resent it, but eventually, they'll appreciate it. And it works the other way around, too. When you just tell somebody and flatter them with what they want to hear. Oh, they'll appreciate it initially, but here's the problem eventually, they will resent you for it. Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me? Had I known? Yeah, but even if I told you, you wouldn't have believed it. Hey, you didn't even tell me! That's on you. Whether I receive it or not, accept it or not, believe it or not, that's on me. But you didn't even tell me. That's on you.

That's the warning to the watchman in Ezekiel. Your blood, Mr. Watchman. Their blood is on your hands because you don't even warn them. You didn't even tell them the truth: What's coming? Because you didn't want to ruffle any feathers. I don't want to rock the boat. No, rock the boat! Ruffle the feathers! Yeah, I don't want to... I'm not real confrontational. No, you need to confront them! Because Jesus is coming! And that's our only hope. We call it the Blessed Hope. Fine! It's not just our blessed hope. Actually, I'll say it this way. It's our blessed hope because it's our only hope! That's their only hope! Are you kidding me? What's going on in the world right now? This is our only hope. Our only hope is Jesus! Jesus is coming! Now! I mean, like, right now! Encourage and, if need be, rebuke.

I say this lastly in love, and we'll close. In fact, let's have you stand. We'll have the worship team come up. Maybe there's someone in your life that needs to, in love, be rebuked and reminded that there will be no one in heaven, after the rapture, that will ever say anything like, man, I sure wish the Lord didn't come back when he did. I sure wish I could have had more time down there to get married and pay bills, deal with termites and cockroaches. I mean, I'm being silly again, but you get the point, right? Nobody in heaven after the rapture, young or old, will ever say, man, thank you for telling me because this changed how I lived my life in light of eternity, knowing just how close we were to the rapture of the church.



**Titus 2:11-15 – March 21, 2021**  
***While We Wait For The Rapture***  
**JD Farag**

Yeah, I've got my whole life ahead of me but do you know what's even cooler? I've got my whole eternal life ahead of me. Okay, so you've got your whole life. What are you going to live to, 70? Okay, 70 is the new 50 now, I guess so 80? Fine, we'll give you 80 years. That's it! I'm talking about eternal life. Let's just put this into perspective, okay? 80 years? There's no time in eternity but let's just for the purpose of discussion—my final closing, last thing, right now.

Let's just put this into perspective. 80 years in light of eternity. Are you kidding me? Well, first of all, we have the Millennium 1000 years, the Kingdom Age. But think about this: The new heavens and the new earth forever and ever. Do you know how long forever is? Again, deeply, profound, right? Forever.

Okay, this is the last, last thing. No, I'm serious. No, this is worth it. I think, I hope. You know when you're going in for a job interview, and they'll ask you questions in the interview like, where do you see yourself five years from now? Yeah, you got it, right? By your response, I got it. Five years, let's see, 5 years? I haven't even checked out my mansion yet because I don't know how long it's going to... Worthy is the lamb that was slain. I mean, oh, 1000 years went by? Worthy is the lamb that was... That's where I see myself forever. In Jesus' name.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you. Lord, I pray that my offbeat humor and silliness doesn't in any way detract from or take away from the power of this truth here in your Word. Lord, I pray for anyone here or watching online that is really discouraged and hanging on by a thread. Would you, Lord, as only you can just remind them of our blessed hope. Just how close the rapture really truly actually is. For those who are not looking forward to it, thinking about it, anticipating it, Lord, I pray that the Holy Spirit would reach those who are in that mindset, and if need be, there be that much-needed rebuke concerning this in Jesus' name. Amen.