



***"Preach the Gospel  
at all times and  
when necessary  
use words."***

***Francis of Assisi***

Last week, Trevor helped us see that if all we do is live a good life, the gospel we “preach” is one of good works.

-- We need to use words to tell the gospel truths that we need a Savior, Who is Jesus.

-- But, that does not mean we swing to the other extreme and imagine that since we are all hypocrites that we should just forget about good works and hit people with the gospel truths.

Our lives, our good works, are biblically mandated. Consider the letter from the Apostle Paul to Pastor Titus . . .

**Titus 2:9-10**

**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.****

*ESV*

The lifestyle of bondservants, which certainly has application to our work worlds today, were to be everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

-- READ SLIDE

TR: A few verses later we read . . .

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.**

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

- Jesus gave Himself, not so that we could remain unchanged but to buy us back out of the slavery
- He gave Himself to purify for Himself a people, His people, who are zealous for good works.
- Biblical Christians can't just say, "Well, that's just the way I am . . . but don't worry, I'll present th

TR: Even as the first 8 verses of Titus 2 dealt with practical lifestyle changes, so chapter 3 hits the sa

**Titus 3:1-2**

**Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Then verse 8 rounds out the discussion of good works . . .**

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be **careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- It is clear that we must live changed lives. We must be zealous for good works, devoting ourselves
- We must be submissive to rulers, show perfect courtesy toward all people.
- BUT, how do we not end up being overwhelmed by our mindfulness about our good works?
- How do we not give in to the fear of man? Always doing the right thing, the things expected of us would they think if we didn't?"

TR: I think the answer is not to give into the fear of man, but to develop the . . .



... fear of God.

TR: a powerful insight that can really help us make this transition, as people who are seeking to have gospel INfluence, is that ...

# **People of INfluence are mindful of what others think ... about God.**

## **READ SLIDE**

- What others think IS important. But not what they think about us.
- What matters is what they think about God.
- Even bondservants were challenged to remember that the way they did their work was “to adorn the doctrine of God.”
- Our good works are not supposed to be glittery signs of our own righteousness and goodness . . . “holier than thou” is not a preferred fragrance in the church.
- **EX: Roma Revivals:** In the mountains of Romania, for example, four different Roma villages experienced such a revival that every bar in the area closed and local social workers came to see why the incidence of wife beating and crime fell to almost zero.
- Such stories have led to the founding and growth of [Roma Networks](#), which includes representatives from 30 countries in Europe and three outside of Europe (including the United States). This network facilitates the free exchange of resources, training and encouragement for continued growth of Roma churches.

**TR: Why should we care what others think, we read in 2:11 . . .**

For the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation for all people,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodly-  
ness and worldly passions, and to  
live self-controlled, upright, and  
godly lives in the present age,

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

- What appeared? Grace of God.
- What did this grace bring? Salvation for all people.
- Why do we care about others, because God's grace has appeared bringing salvation.
- This grace trains us. How so?
- To renounce and to live IN THE PRESENT AGE.

TR: And all of that is with our eye to our ultimate hope . . .



**Titus 2:13-14**

**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.**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: As we think about the Gospel, centered on the redeeming work of Jesus through His cross and that we look to the past, the present age, and . . .**



. . . the hope of the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

TR: The logic of this passage can be explained as follows . . .

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.

ESV

We adorn the doctrine of God . . . FOR the grace of God HAS APPEARED . . . AND we are waiting for APPEARING of Jesus glory.

-- The grace of God came in Jesus' first coming.

-- The glory of God will come in His second coming.

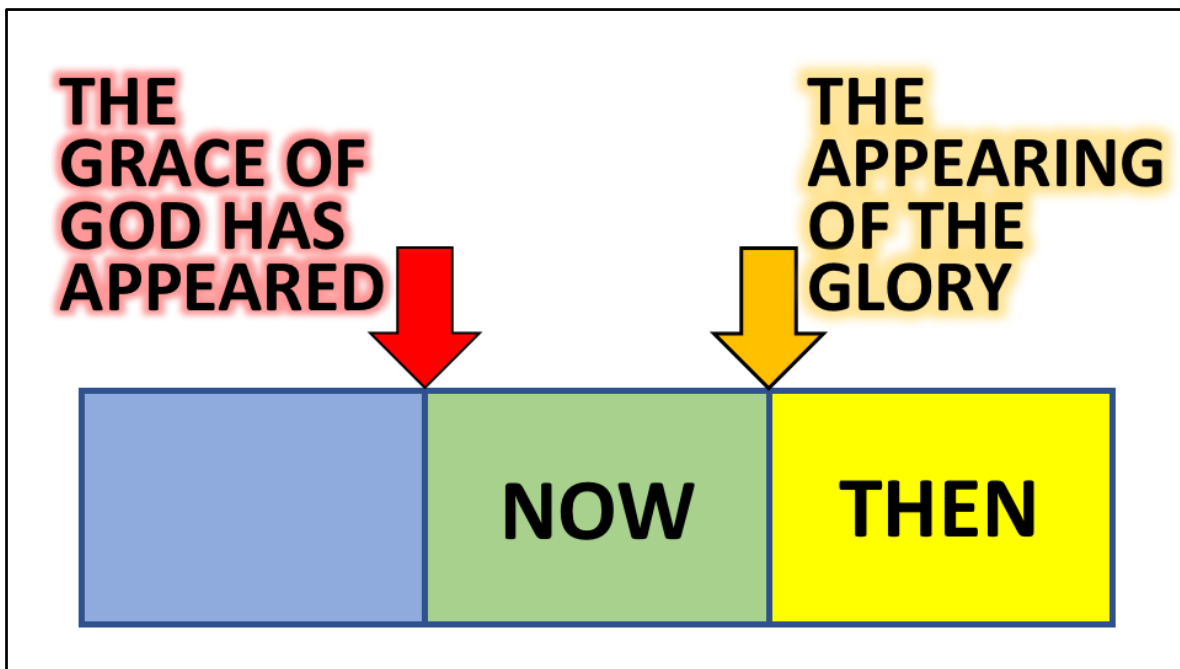
TR: People of influence adorn the doctrine of God because . . .

*We adorn the doctrine of God because . . .*

**THE GRACE OF GOD  
HAS APPEARED,  
SHOWING US  
HOW TO LIVE NOW  
IN LIGHT OF THEN.**

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: To choose to live the Christian life doesn't make any sense if there is no appearing of Jesus on the scene.**



He appeared when God the Son took on human flesh and dwelt among us, as a helpless infant and poor carpenter's son.

-- He appeared when He taught and healed, and then was crucified as a common criminal on a cursed cross.

-- He appeared when He rose again and verified that He really is Who He claimed to be.

-- Jesus shows us how to live NOW.

-- But, even that example makes little sense if there is not a THEN.

-- cf. "Best world to prepare us for the best world." But, if there is no BEST! world then what are we preparing for.

-- cf. question yesterday . . . preparing us for what? Today we can learn so much about God that we will not learn about in heaven. We will worship Him then for those attributes, but we will not learn about them in the same way as we can now.

TR: Our text in Titus has a similar thought flow repeated . . .

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

<sup>3</sup>**For** we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

<sup>4</sup>**But** when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>7</sup>**so that** being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

ESV

Chapter 3 tells us to think about how we act, being ready for every good work and in our relationships show courtesy toward ALL people.

- Why should we do this? Verse 3 starts with the word "FOR" that gives us the ground of such a command.
- Then, verses 4-6 tell us of another APPEARING . . . of the goodness and loving kindness of God.
- Finally, verse 7 gives us the SO THAT or purpose of God's salvation.

TR: Let's go through that a bit more slowly . . .

**Titus 3:3**

**For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.**

*ESV*

Why do we care about how we live? Why are we zealous for good works? Why do we think about others, even those who might be using their position of authority to make our lives hard?

-- FOR . . . READ SLIDE

-- People of influence remember their pre-Christ pasts, remembering our enslavement to sin, addictions, own pleasures, and struggling in our relationships with others.

TR: Then, verse 4 presents a huge contrast . . . the person of gospel influence doesn't merely remember, BUT . . .

Titus 3:4-5

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

ESV

READ SLIDE

- This is the third instance of an “appearing” in this context.
- With all the emphasis we’ve seen on good works, you might think Paul is suggesting we are saved
- . . . BUT it is clear that is NOT the case. We are saved according to God’s mercy.
- We are saved by the work of the Holy Spirit to bring new birth, washing, and renewal.

TR: This Holy Spirit is the One, as verse 6 continues . . .



**Titus 3:6-7**

**. . . whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

- The result is that we are justified . . . declared right with God . . . by His grace, not according to our
- And, as those who are justified, we become heirs of the “big H” Hope of eternal life.

**TR: Paul is reminding Pastor Titus to help his church be gospel fluent. And that fluency is to be in w**

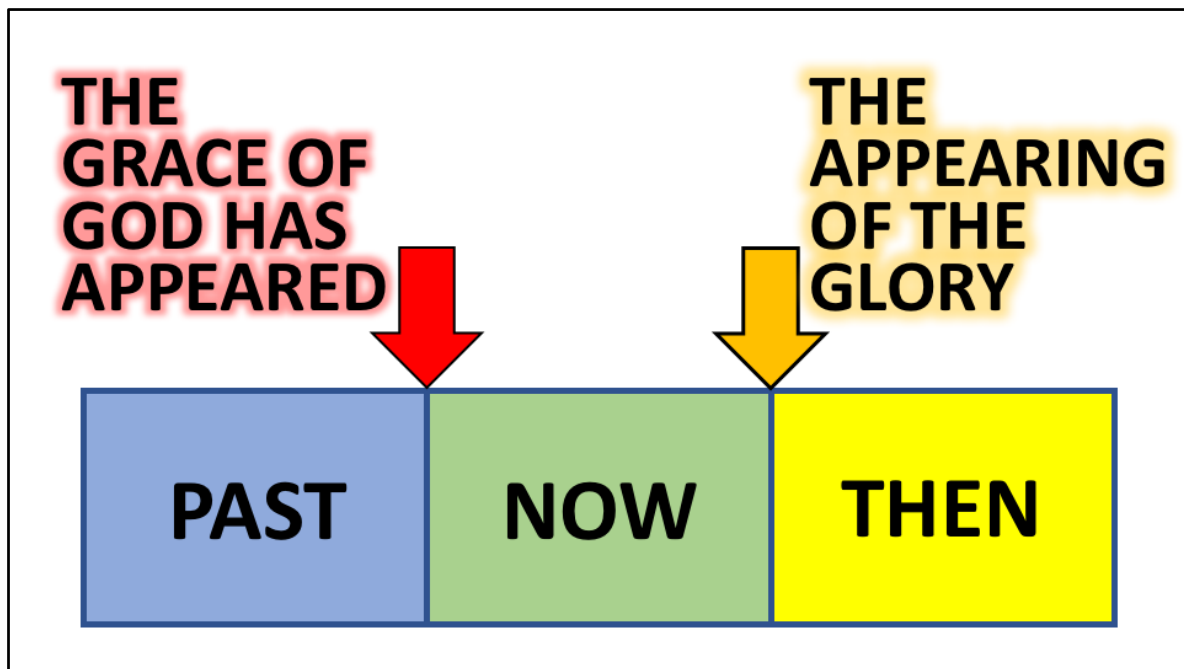
*We adorn the doctrine of God because . . .*

**WHEN THE  
GOODNESS AND LOVINGKINDNESS  
OF GOD APPEARED,  
WE SAW HOW OUR PAST  
DOES NOT HAVE TO BE OUR NOW  
OR DETERMINE OUR THEN.**

We are to . . . READ SLIDE

- Our past = foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves, hated and hating.
- Our now = saved, washed, born again, renewed, justified.
- Our then = heir of eternal life.

TR: In a sense, Paul let's us complete our simple chart . . .



As Paul repeats and builds on the thoughts of the difference the appearing of God's grace has made,

-- and the difference the appearing of Jesus' glory in the future will make . . .

-- he adds a backwards look to our pasts

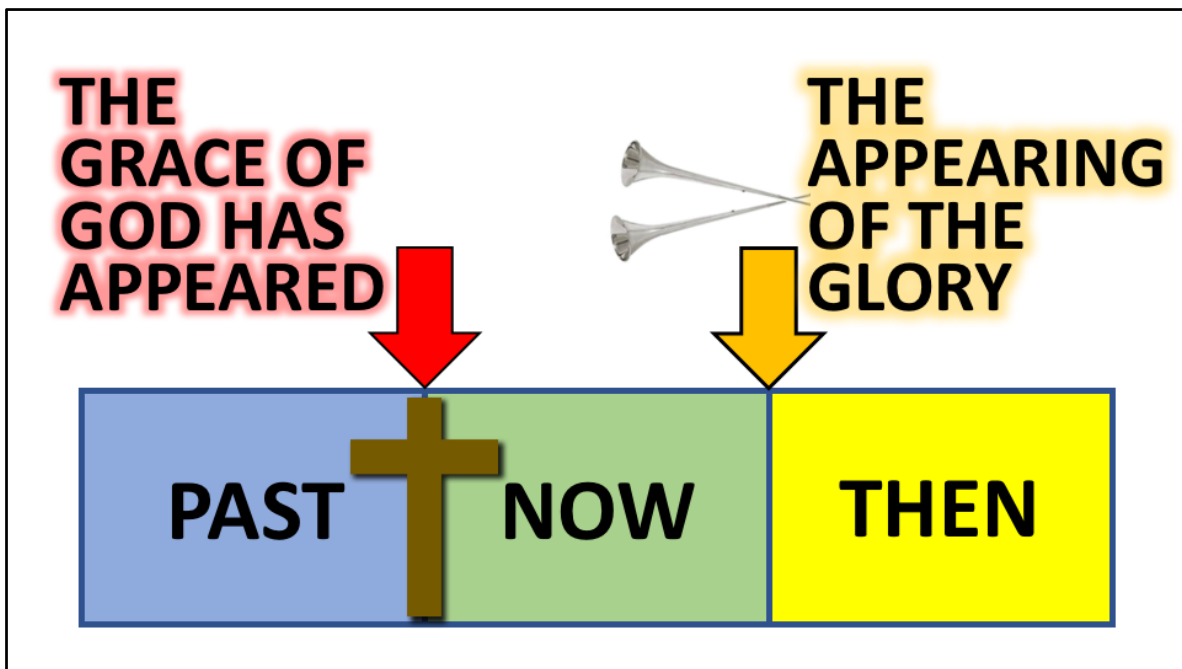
TR: Years ago I found this image in a children's book. A picture of mighty Sampson, one of the judges of Israel in the OT, with eyes gouged out . . .



**. . . and enslaved in chains.**

**-- Unfortunately, this is how a lot of Christians live. Because they disregard the gospel's influence.**

**TR: We too easily become people of small minds, who think only of today.**



Rather than people of biblical minds, who look at the few moments of today in light of our pasts, before the grace of God appeared in our lives.

-- Whose minds are renewed with the truth that they have been washed, born again and renewed by the Holy Spirit . . . because of grace . . . when the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior appeared.

-- Whose vision is stayed on the appearing of the glory of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

TR: We need this reminder because it is very difficult to stay with our three year vision . . .



**READ SLIDE**

-- It is easy to imagine that we have strength and are doing a great job making the most of every opportunity.

-- It is easy to imagine that we are intentional, generous, courageous and that our relationships within the body are now TOGETHER and not hating and being hated.

TR: But, we are likely to be making a MESS, not the MOST, of the opportunities if we forget . . .

**WE MUST FIRST BE  
GOSPEL IN*fluenced***

. . .

**TO BE  
A GOSPEL IN***fluence*

**READ SLIDE**

- How sad to hear a the SGL rally, though with no names, that some have resisted learning the tools presented this Fall.
- This is to resist learning how to teach God's Word,
- AND how to do pastoral counseling.

**TR: At the heart of a changed life that impacts others is . . .**



. . . a life that has its eyes opened to the APPEARING of the grace, goodness, and lovingkindness of God . . .

-- with the HOPE of the appearing of our God and Savior's glory.

-- A life that has humbly received the washing, rebirth, and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

-- God's story has changed our story . . . we had a problem with our past, Jesus through the Spirit has given us a solution for our now, and we have the hope of our forever then.

-- EX: Screening: "more or less likely to come to TF if know they are an elder or deacon there?"

TR: But, if this gospel has NOT changed the way we do our work, relate to our families, deal with other people . . . then perhaps it is just a story we KNOW ABOUT and do not KNOW.



**Titus 2:15, 3:8**

**Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**

**The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.**

*ESV*

These are strong words . . . but I am prodded on by Paul's words to Titus . . . READ SLIDE

-- If you review the last year of your life . . . what is the fruit of your life. If it is enslavement, hating

..

-- THEN don't imagine you can be a gospel influence on others . . . because it is doubtful that the gc influenced you.

-- EX: Dead in our trespasses . . . regeneration . . . give evidence of LIFE.

-- Adorn the doctrine of God our Savior – NOT like Pharisee who looked down at the tax collector (c seeking, asked if he was still a very holy man . . . key is definition of "holy."

-- EX: ADORN – our name, our alma mater, our heritage, our gender . . . beautiful or a "drolejte on z

Warnings about communion. Avoid both extremes . . . Gospel is about works or cheap grace that c