

## March 25

**Titus 2:12-14 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Sylvia had been in foster care for as long as she could remember. She had never slept in her own bed, wore her own clothes, snacked on her own time, or lived with her own family. She had reached the age where the possibility of adoption was remote, so she accepted the fact that she would have to take care of herself. Therefore, she became quite good at commandeering whatever she felt she needed. Then, one day, a couple came to visit and after several more visits, decided they wanted to adopt her. No one had ever asked her what she had wanted before so she agreed. When they arrived at her new home, Sylvia had her own room, clothes, amenities, etc. Nevertheless, she hesitated to wear the clothes, decorate her room, or use her gifts. She still hoarded food so she could sneak a snack when she got hungry. Finally, the couple lovingly told her that this was her home now. She was their daughter. She had just as much right to call this place home as they did. They wanted her to live that life.

The Bible tells us that we are forgiven, are sanctified, made righteous, and are to be holy. However, none of those fit with the lifestyles we lived before we were adopted into God’s household. We were orphans and enemies of God and are now to live holy lives that bring glory to the Father. We may feel like Sylvia did. We find ourselves in a new “home,” but the old ways continue to direct our actions. Also, like Sylvia, we are not trespassers in God’s kingdom. We are not visitors. We are His children and co-heirs with Jesus Christ. Yet, living a holy, righteous life seems an impossible task until we realize that through God’s grace and the blood of the Lamb, we have been given the ability to do just that. Not only do we find ourselves in the house of God but also we find that He is given us His Spirit Who enables us to live a life that honors and glorifies Him. Once Sylvia realized that it truly was her home, she relaxed and began living her new life. She never took advantage of her new life; instead, she continually gave thanks for her parents who chose her. We are to do the same.