

Let's begin with our review of last week's Lesson Six, "Adorn the Doctrine of God", Titus 2:5-12. In it Paul completes his list of the godly characteristics the aged women should teach the younger women. He follows this with instructions for godly behavior in young men and servants/employees. Lesson Six concludes by declaring that it is the grace of God that brings salvation and has appeared to all men. Grace teaches us all how to deny ungodliness and live godly. Paul told Titus that:

- A. **Aged women** should teach the younger women to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good and obedient to their husbands.
 - a. **To be discreet** is to be reserved, wise in selecting the best way to accomplish a purpose. Pharaoh saw that **Joseph** could be trusted to plan for, prepare, and guide Egypt through 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine because he was discreet.
 - b. **To be chaste** is to avoid fornication and to be faithful to their **husbands**. They use wholesome words and they don't use crude expressions. A chaste woman realizes that how she dresses **communicates** her values and her attitude.
 - c. **To be a keeper at home**. She sets the tone for her home. She has been entrusted by **God** with this important responsibility.
 - d. **Be good**. They do **good** things for others and have compassion for those in need.
 - e. **To be obedient to their own husbands**. She is not commanded to obey other men. It is God's will that she **submit** to her own husband because he is her **head** in the marriage. The woman was created to be a **helper** for the man.
- B. **Young men should be sober minded**. They are to be **sensible** and cautious
- C. **Servants (employees) "adorn the doctrine of God" by their godly work habits**. Servants (employees) should never **steal** from their master or employer. They should do their work as instructed. Behavior such as this honors God.
- D. **God's grace brings salvation and has appeared to all men**. We are **saved** by grace: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). The gospel of grace that God gave to our apostle Paul gives salvation to all men, Jew and Gentile, on the same level.
- E. **Grace is our teacher**. Grace teaches us through the **word** of God.
 - a. **1Thessalonians 2:13** "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

In Lesson Seven, "That Blessed Hope", Titus 2:13-15, we studied one of our favorite teachings: our resurrection at the Rapture; when we will see our great God and Savior. To do this, we looked at the differences between Prophecy and Mystery. Prophecy is for Israel and God's promises to them. Mystery is for the Church the Body of Christ and God's promises to us. We'll review the Rapture and the 2nd Coming of Christ so we will clearly see how they are different. We'll finish by looking at Paul's closure of Chapter Two.

The Word of the Week is: _____ Let's begin by reading Titus 2:13-15 together, which is our passage of Scripture for this lesson.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

The Rapture: part of the Mystery for the Body of Christ.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1Corinthians 15:51-53).

"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: 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" (1Thessalonians 4:16-17).

1. Who is resurrected at the Rapture?

- A. The Rapture is **only** for those who are in the Body of Christ; both those saints who have already died **BEFORE** the rapture, and those saints still alive **AT** the rapture.
 - a. It does not include those saints saved **prior** to Paul's gospel of grace. Those saints will be resurrected at Christ's 2nd Coming to the earth.

2. Who will see Christ when he returns?

- A. **Only** those who meet the Lord in the air will see Christ. No one on earth will see Christ.

3. In what way does Christ return?

- A. Christ returns suddenly, in **secret**. Christ's return is unnoticed by everyone **except** those in the Body of Christ.
- B. Everything happens so **quickly** in the Rapture that the people remaining on earth will not see it.

4. Describe the order of the resurrection at the Rapture & the location where Christ returns:

- A. Those who are dead are raised **first**. They are raised with their glorified incorruptible bodies.
- B. **Next**, those who are alive are "raised"; meaning that their bodies are **changed** into their glorified incorruptible bodies.
- C. Our bodies are changed "in the **twinkling of an eye**".
 - a. To understand how fast the twinkling of the eye is, first we need to understand how fast the eye **blinks**, because the twinkling of the eye is much **faster**.
 - b. The human **eye blinks** 3x per **second**. Each blink of the eye takes only a **tenth** of a second which is 100 milliseconds. To put it into perspective, the **tick** of a clock lasts 1 second, making it possible to blink **3** times during a **single** tick of a clock.
 - c. The **twinkling of an eye** is even faster. It is defined as the time it takes from the moment light hits the **front** of the eye to reach the **back** of the eye and is **reflected** back. Light travels at around 186,000 miles per second, making the twinkling of the eye so fast it's considered impossible to accurately measure. Estimates are 1 **billionth** of a **second**.

- D. Together we **meet** the Lord in the clouds, in the **air**. Christ stays in the clouds, in the air. He doesn't descend to the earth. Since he is in the air and in the clouds, and this is where we meet him, this event will **not** be seen by those remaining on the earth.

Recall from Acts 9 that **suddenly** a bright light from heaven appeared and shown around Saul as he was traveling to Damascus. The risen Jesus spoke to him and at that moment Saul believed and was saved. **Suddenly**, the Body of Christ began with Saul's conversion. Saul became Paul. Just as the Body of Christ began **suddenly**, the Body of Christ will leave **suddenly**.

5. We will receive **glorious bodies at the Rapture.**

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:20-21).

- A. **Our earthy bodies are **now corruptible (mortal)**.**
- They are made of flesh and **blood**. They are not equipped to live in **heaven**.
 - Think about today: astronauts must wear space suits equipped with oxygen to enter into outer space. Our bodies of flesh and blood cannot survive in outer space.
- B. **Our earthy bodies are **raised (changed/resurrected) in incorruption (immortal)**.**
- They are raised a spiritual body able to **function** in the **heavenly** places.
 - They are eternal. They are incorruptible.
 - Our spiritual/heavenly bodies will not be **flesh and blood**. They won't need **blood**.
 - We will have a body similar to Jesus. It will bear his **image**.
 - Our spiritual/heavenly bodies will be **flesh and bones** because we bear the image of Jesus.
 - A spirit has no form and can't be seen; whereas a spiritual body has form and can be seen. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (1Corinthians 15:44).

The risen Jesus describes in Luke 24:39 "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; **for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**"

Paul describes in 1Corinthians 15:50: "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

- f. If we're physically like him in all ways **we will be able to transport from place to place**.
Following the resurrection:

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when **the doors were shut** where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, **came Jesus and stood in the midst**, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you" (John 20:19).

- g. He was clearly seen by the disciples present when Thomas touched him. So **his body has substance**. You can touch and handle his body.
Jesus speaking to Thomas:

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God" (John 20:27-28).

h. **We will keep our identity.** The "raise up us" shows we keep our **individual** identities.

"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power" (1Cor 6:14).

i. **We will be able to eat.** The risen Jesus **ate** a broiled fish and a honeycomb in Luke 24:42-43. Following the resurrection, Jesus speaking to his disciples:

And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them 'Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them' (Luke 24:41-43).

6. Does the Rapture happen **before or after the **wrath** of the 7 year tribulation?**

A. His return for the Body of Christ happens **BEFORE** the wrath of the 7 year tribulation because we are **not** appointed to endure wrath.

"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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1Thessalonians 4:17-18).

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thessalonians 5:9).

- B. These words bring us **comfort**. It is a comfort knowing that we will not have to live through the wrath of the 7 year tribulation period. It is also a comfort knowing that we will then see our loved ones who died in Christ.
- C. The **salvation** mentioned is being saved from going **through** that 7 year period of wrath. We have already been saved from the penalty of our sins by His grace that is how we are included in the Rapture.
- D. Christ has **already** endured the wrath poured out upon Him for our sins. On the cross when Jesus said "It is finished" (John 19:30) we know that he had completely paid the penalty for all sin and no longer would he suffer wrath because of sin. It is finished and his body will not suffer from wrath again. Christ has made US his body and he is our Head. He **isn't** going to allow His Body today to suffer wrath. We are saved by his grace and are the **objects** of his grace.

7. What is the **timing of the Rapture? Are there signs that must precede the Rapture?**

- A. There are **no** events that must be fulfilled before the Rapture or are there any signs. The Body of Christ is not a "sign people" because: "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2Corinthians 5:7).
- B. Because the Rapture could happen at any time the timing of it is **imminent**. This is why we're told to be "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). We look for **HIM** not for a SIGN.

- C. Even though the Rapture requires no signs prior to it, the 2nd Coming of Christ does. So as we observe world events we can see how God is aligning the nations to stand against Israel, along with the fact that Israel was gathered into a nation in 1948, so we suspect that the end of the dispensation of grace may be at hand. Before God turns his attention back to Israel, and fulfilling prophecy for Israel, He will remove the Body of Christ from the earth. However, we must remember that our departure, the Rapture, requires NO signs.

8. At the Rapture we will experience both the sound and the power of the Lord's voice!

- A. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a **shout**..." (1Thessalonians 4:16).
- His voice sounds like thunder, like many waters, it is **powerful** and full of majesty (Psalm 29:3-4).
 - His voice spoke light into **existence** (Ge 1:3).
 - His voice **raised** Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43).
 - His voice **raises** the dead in Christ with a shout at the Rapture (1Th 4:16).

9. The future home for the Body of Christ is...

- A. **HEAVEN** is the future home of the Body of Christ. Christ will redeem the heavens from Satan. At the middle of the 7 year Tribulation the Archangel Michael and God's holy angels will fight against Satan and his angels. Satan loses and afterward he and his angels are cast out of heaven and sent down to the earth (Revelation 12:7-12). The Body of Christ will replace the positions of authority vacated by Satan and his angels. We will take their places in the 2nd heaven under our Head, Christ Jesus.
- All of our spiritual blessings which we have in Christ are already **waiting** on us in heavenly places. **These are real places**, not something spiritual, but real **places**.

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."

- The Body of Christ is sitting together in the heavenly places already**. This is our position in Christ today. In the ages to come Christ is going to **display** the riches of his grace toward us.

Ephesians 2:6-7 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

- We are citizens of heaven**: "conversation" is also translated "citizenship". We belong in heaven which is why we look for the Saviour. We need a heavenly body **so we can live with him in heaven**.

Philippians 3:20-21 "For our conversation is in heaven: from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

- Our hope is waiting for us in heaven**. **Our new life is waiting on us to arrive!**

Colossians 1:5 "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."

Let's review what we've covered so far before we go onto the 2nd Coming (the Revelation of Christ):

1. At the **rapture** we will receive our immortal bodies (flesh & bone) fashioned like Christ Jesus.
2. Our bodies will have substance and will be able to **eat** food. Our bodies can **function** in heaven.
3. The rapture occurs before the 7 year tribulation period. There are **no signs** required before it happens. The rapture is **only** for those saved into the Body of Christ.
4. We keep our individual **identities**. Our **home** is in heaven.

The 2nd Coming (the **Revelation**) of Christ: part of the Prophecy for Israel.

10. Who is resurrected at the 2nd Coming of Christ? (described as the first resurrection)

- A. The **first resurrection** includes:
- a. Those saints who were saved **PRIOR** to the Body of Christ, which began in Acts 9 with the salvation of Paul.
 - b. Those who were saved **during** the 7 year tribulation. Those saints saved during the 7 year tribulation period are described in Revelation 20:4-6.
 - c. All the saints resurrected at the first resurrection will **reign** with Christ during his 1000 year Kingdom of heaven on earth.
- B. The **order of the first resurrection** is described in 1Corinthians Chapter 15. It is known as the "Resurrection Chapter" by many. In the first part of Chapter 15, Paul gives the order of the resurrection according to **Prophecy**:
- a. Christ is the first fruits, so he resurrects **first**.
 - b. **Followed** by those saints whom he resurrects at his 2nd Coming. When he physically returns to the earth.

1Corinthians 15:23 "But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming".

NOTE: Paul doesn't discuss the Rapture, which is part of the Mystery, here. He will do so later in Chapter 15 beginning in verse 51. The Rapture was **never** mentioned in Prophecy because it was a mystery **hid** in God and revealed first to Paul.

- C. The **first resurrection** happens when **Christ returns to the earth**.

The first part of this verse in Daniel is fulfilled at the 2nd Coming of Christ: "...to everlasting life".

Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- D. The **White Throne Judgment** is **ONLY for the Lost** from all the ages. This is the **second resurrection, or the second death**. The second part of this verse in Daniel is fulfilled at the END of the 1000 year reign of Christ at the White Throne Judgment: "...and everlasting contempt".

Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- a. The remaining dead; the ones who never believed by faith in the gospel given to them, are not resurrected until the **END** of the 1000 year Kingdom reign of Christ. They will be **judged** at the White Throne. This is only for the **Lost**.

John describes the **White Throne Judgment for the Lost**. The **second** resurrection.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-15). This is considered the **SECOND** resurrection. The second death.

NOTE: Everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected in one of three resurrections: The Rapture, Christ's 2nd Coming to earth, and the Great White Throne Judgment.

11. Who will see Christ at his 2nd Coming?

A. **Every** single person on the earth will see him.

a. Daniel saw Christ physically returning to the earth and receiving dominion over the earth.

Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

b. John tells us that **everyone** will see him return to the **EARTH**

Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

12. Is Christ's 2nd coming before or after the wrath of the 7 year tribulation?

A. His return to the earth happens **AFTER** the wrath of the 7 year tribulation period. Christ will then save Israel and will destroy all her enemies before he establishes his earthly **Kingdom**.

Revelation 19:1-2 "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God. For true and righteous are his judgment: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

13. In what way does Christ return at his 2nd Coming? Where does He return to?

A. Christ will return with all his holy **angels** and he will wage **war** upon Israel's enemies. After he has defeated them at Jerusalem, he will then sit upon the earthly throne of his Kingdom.

a. Christ returns to the **mount of Olives** and saves Jerusalem from her enemies.

Christ returns with such power that when he steps upon the mount of Olives there is a great **earthquake**.

Zechariah 14:2-4 "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

b. After his victory Christ will establish his Kingdom and will sit upon his throne in **Jerusalem**.

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

14. Are there signs foretelling the 2nd Coming of Christ? What are they?

- A. Yes there are signs. Israel is a **sign** people. "For the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom" (1Corinthians 1:22). Christ will give Israel many signs to herald his 2nd Coming.
- B. The signs are: There will be **wars**, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, men claiming to be Christ who will deceive many; but these are just the beginning of sorrows. Then persecution **increases** against Israel and all nations will **hate** Israel. False prophets will increase and lawlessness will increase. Love will grow cold. The gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all the world before the end comes. The abomination of desolation will happen when **Antichrist** declares himself to be God in the temple. There will be great signs and wonders, and **great** tribulation such as has never happened before. The sun and the moon shall grow **dark** and there will be **changes** in the **heavens**. Then the Son of man will appear coming in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 24:3-30).

15. What kind of resurrected bodies do those saints receive at Christ's 2nd Coming?

A. Job anticipates having a body suited to live on the **earth**.

Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at that latter day upon the earth: And though after by skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me."

B. They will be **eternal** and will be **without** sin; although they will be dependent upon the fruit of the Tree of Life.

It's important to note that the **curse** is lifted during Christ's **1000** year reign on earth. At the end of the 1000 year reign and following the Great White Throne judgment, there will be a **new** heaven and a new earth. The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven and in it is the Tree of Life:

Revelation 22:2-5 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever."

16. The future home for Israel – Prophecy is...

- A. **EARTH** is the future home for Israel. They have been promised a time when Christ will restore Israel and reign from his **throne** in Jerusalem.
- B. From Isaiah we learn that righteously the Lord will **judge** the earth and destroy the wicked. His reign will be one of **peace** which will be shown even in the animal Kingdom. A child shall be safe even around a snake. The curse will be **lifted**. No one will hurt or destroy for the earth will have full knowledge about the **LORD** everywhere (Isaiah 11:1-10).
- C. From Ezekiel we learn that God will **gather** the children of Israel from among the heathen. He will make them one **nation** in the land of Israel. They will live in the land given to Jacob. David will be their King and prince. God will **dwell** with them (Ezekiel 37:21-28).
- D. From Matthew we learn that Jesus told Peter that the **12** apostles will sit upon **12** thrones judging the **12** tribes of Israel when He is sitting on the throne of his glory. All that have forsaken family or lands for Christ shall receive a hundredfold **reward** and inherit everlasting life (Matthew 19:26-29).
- E. In Revelation we learn that the **new** Jerusalem comes down out of heaven. God is with men and he will live with them and he shall be their God (Revelation 21:2-3).

Summary of the Major Differences between the Rapture & Christ's 2nd Coming

RAPTURE	CHRIST'S 2ND COMING/REVELATION
Christ returns in the air /clouds	Christ returns to the earth
Body of Christ only (Mystery)	Israel (Prophecy) & saints prior to Israel
Returns in secret - no one will see Christ (AIR)	Every eye will see Christ's return (EARTH)
HEAVEN is our home	EARTH is their home
Returns PRIOR to the 7 year tribulation	Returns AFTER the 7 year tribulation

"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 2:14).

17. Christ **gave** himself for two reasons:

- A. To **redeem** us from all iniquity.
- B. To **purify** for himself a **peculiar** people eager to do good works.
 - a. Christ desires us to be a **special** and distinctive people and who **belong** just to him.
 - b. A people **eager** (zealous) to do the good works which God hath ordained for us.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

- c. These good works on earth bring him **glory**.
- d. We also have good works planned for us in **heaven**. Our eternal home is in heaven.

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

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

- 18.** Paul urges Titus to use all of his authority to speak these truths **boldly** and to rebuke when he encounters **false** teachers.
- A. Titus is to exhort, urge, the **Cretians** to follow the teachings that Paul has given him.
 - a. To exhort means: "to use words or arguments to incite to good deeds" according to the KJV dictionary. He is to strongly **urge** them to do good deeds. He doesn't cave into their arguments or excuses. He stands firm and **presses** them into doing good deeds and to follow the word of God in their lives.
 - B. Titus is to be strong and confident and use all of his authority as he **disciples** and **leads** the churches on **Crete**.

In closing,

Paul instructs us to be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Those in the Body of Christ should eagerly anticipate this event because it is the fulfillment of our hope. Then, we shall see our Lord and Saviour, receive our glorious and eternal bodies, and be reunited with saved loved ones. Until that time, we should live as the peculiar people He desires, do the good deeds that glorify Him, and urge other saints to do likewise.

GOD'S PROPHETIC PROGRAM

