We have been through the practical teaching of v1-10. To the old, young, male, female and slaves. All levels of the household. Paul has given guidance on how people should live their day to day lives now that they are Christians. We thought about how by doing these things we will adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, that is by our simple day to day actions we can make the gospel attractive to other people. People that have no interest in the doctrines of the bible but they can see the evidence of them in our lives. Doctrines of God our Saviour, a Saviour who is interested in saving and transforming men and women. What was it brought about the transformation of the Cretans – as Paul tells us in chapter 1 a people who were always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. How will you ever change such people who have lived this way for so long? Is it possible? Can they be changed? What kind of power is needed for this? To make people truthful, beautiful, zealous for good works? We are given the answer in v11 as we move into the doctrinal section. If in v1-10 we were given the list of things which can make the gospel attractive, in v11-14 we are given the basis of how it is possible. In v11 we are told:

**Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men**

This is what has made the change in these men and women. The grace of God has appeared, bringing or offering salvation to all men. Paul looks at the grace of God in 3 directions. Past, present and future and what it means to these Cretans.

What was it that had saved these people in the past, was transforming their lives in the present, had given them a hope for the future. It was all due to the grace of God. Undeserved, unmerited grace of God. “wonderful grace that gives what I don’t deserve”. These Cretans just didn’t wake up one day and decide maybe we will tell the truth, instead of immoral life I will live a righteous life. No. The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation.

No doubt Paul rejoiced as he wrote this when he thought of the grace that had reached his own life. What was it transformed him from killing Christians/stop them spreading the gospel to taking up that very message and spreading it further than anyone had done before. This “proclamation” of the word that was committed to him. It was due to the grace of God.

What about ourselves. We have rejoiced this morning that it has appeared. We have looked back to the facts of history: thought of the Lord Jesus who appeared into this dark world who is full of grace and truth, who went to the cross and died for our sins providing salvation for every man. We rejoice that we are saved that we enjoy this salvation. The grace of God will be the theme of our song forever. If you think of the awful, alternative if the grace of God had not appeared, if God had remained silent…. We would still be in our sins, heading for eternal punishment, with no hope for the future.

The grace of God we are told brought salvation in this verse to all men. When Paul came with the message of the gospel it wasn’t just for the Jews, the rich, or just for certain age group. It was for all. Think of the categories we have just thought about in v1-10, the old, young, male, female, slaves. Salvation that was provided for all without distinction. All men. None excluded. God’s grace it reaches out to all as everyone need this salvation which people can come into the good of by faith alone.

This salvation that brings every man down to the same level. The things that are of most value in the worlds estimation are all stripped away. How much money we have, our occupation, education, our age. It strips them all away and we stand before a holy God, condemned, unrighteous only fit for hell and the only thing we can do is cast ourselves on the grace of God.

But not only has the grace of God saved us in the past it also teaches us in the present. What does the grace of God teach us in the present?

**Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

"to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts" - It teaches us to say NO! That is God didn’t save us and then we would go and live whatever way we want and then we will end up in heaven. But rather that just as he hates sin and loves righteousness we would be the same in some measure in our conduct. That we would adorn the doctrine we profess to believe by saying No to ungodliness in my life. By saying No to worldly lusts. Though those desires may be strong I must say No because I realise that God is holy. This is what he has saved me from. This is what cost the Lord Jesus His life. This verse is almost a summary of v1-10 where Paul went through those different categories and told them there is certain things they need to say No to and what to say Yes to. 3 things we are to say Yes to he gives here are "we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world". This is how I am to live my life, live soberly, live righteously, live godly. When are we to do this? This very moment for the rest of my life.

In a sense the moment I got saved and became a disciple of Jesus Christ I started school. I became a pupil in his school that teaches me to view things the way He does. When we got saved we stepped into the light and had a clear view of this world for the first time. Once we rejoiced in sin but we learn that they were the things that Christ suffered and died on the cross for and we gave them up. This is what the cross teaches us. Our emphasis when we view the cross is often that God is love but we should never lose the balance that God is holy and utterly hates sin. We can see that in this verse it doesn’t tell me to love your enemy or your neighbour but to be holy.

In this school, not only does the cross teach us but we saw in v1-10 we can teach each other. We are all at different levels so we can help each other. Paul helped Titus, Titus was now helping the Cretans. He was to be an example to young men, the older woman is to help the young woman and so on. We can even think of the Lord Jesus who gathered those 12 men around Him and taught them for 3 years.

If I want to advance in this school then keep near the cross, keep near spiritual people (if Titus was around today I would keep near him), but also in v13 we have another help. Keep the second coming in view.

**Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

Paul has taken us on a tour of what the grace of God means to us in the past, the present and now to the future. These people who have believed the gospel and learning to say No to what God hates and Yes to what glorifies Him are to be eagerly awaiting the return of the person who is saving them, who had died for them. This appearing in this verse is yet future. The appearing of the “great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ”. One of the few verses in the bible that directly calls the Lord Jesus, God. He has appeared once before at His first coming in humiliation but He will appear again in glory. A blessed hope for us because of who is coming “the great God”, “Saviour”. He is a Great God in contrast to all the false gods of this world, a God who cannot lie who not only makes promises but he can fulfil them. The first promise was fulfilled in history though many years passed we can know with certainty that the promise of his second coming will happen. But not only a great God who controls history but a God who has come near to be our Saviour. Saviour is the emphasis of Titus as this is what he has done. A Saviour who can deliver from sin because of power of His salvation. “A saviour who can save His people from their sins”. As we struggle with sin in the present we know that are salvation will be soon complete when he appears “when we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is”. We can look forward to a new heaven and new earth wherein dwells righteousness.

These 3 views that Paul has given us we have done this morning. We have looked back and we have looked forward in this remembrance meeting.

1Co 11:26  For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Present – we eat the bread and drink the cup

Past – Lords death

Future – till he come

By doing this we show a reverence for God in the present, we obey his word by keeping doing this. We look back to the Lords death but we also look forward as we realise we only have the bread and cup and gather to His name as He is currently absent. But we await His soon return. We sometimes sing at this meeting “with such a blessed hope in view we would more holy be, more like our risen glorious Lord whose face we soon shall see” or as the scripture tells – “he that hath this hope purifieth himself even as He is pure”

Look back to the 1st appearance, look forward to the 2nd appearance, let it have an impact on our lives in the present.

In v11-13 we had the outworking of Gods plan of salvation in people’s lives. The Cretan who were saved, were striving against sin and living in anticipation of the second coming. But in v14 we are given the basis of these 3 things. The past, the present and the future are all possible because of one fact. The great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ “who gave himself for us”.

**Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

“who gave himself for us” – To save us from sin he gave himself for us. This is what the great God did, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He took on humanity and came into this world to give himself for us. Takes our thoughts to the cross again and we think of the sacrifice that he has offered. Given 2 reasons why he did this. Not to save us from hell but

 “**that he might redeem us from all iniquity” –** to redeem us. When we think of redemption its slavery to sin that was our problem. When we take the cup in remembrance we think of the cost of our redemption – it wasn’t silver or gold but by precious blood. But here Paul is thinking of what we have been redeemed from. “from all lawlessness”. Christ died so that there would be a people who would be law abiding, slaves to righteousness.

**“purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” –** Not only a redeemed people but he gave himself so that he would receive a people who would be clean who would be specially for Him. We perhaps don’t think of this aspect very often. I usually think of what I get from the death of Christ but this verse tells me why he did it. What he was looking for. He gave himself to get a people that would be special to Him who would seek to do his will and honour him in all that they do. In his absence now that he is heaven there would be a people on earth that by their lives would reflect Him. We would be a witness for Him on earth. A people that would be zealous of good works. Not just doing good works but these are a people that are committed/eager to do good works as He was. “he went about doing good” while here on earth, He went to the cross and did a work which has delighted the heart of God, a good work which has meant that people that were only ever capable of doing evil can now bring pleasure to the heart of God.

This verse shows me the plan of salvation and the desired result of it. We have thought about the outworking of it in the Cretans in v11-13. If we draw the parallels between the grace of God in the past, present and future.

Past – arrival of salvation to all men – basis of this is “he gave himself for us”

Present – the school we are in teaching us to say No. basis of this is “redeem us from all iniquity”

Future – anticipation of the second coming. basis of this is “gave himself…to get a people specially for Him”. One day He will come for His special people who our dear to Him that He bought with His own blood.

So, that concludes chapter 2 of Titus. Paul has focused on these different groups in the household and wants them to understand their role while here on earth. The two appearing’s that I should keep in my mind which will control my behaviour in the present. The arrival of salvation in the past, the anticipation of the second coming. Let both appearing’s have the impact on my adornment in the present.

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

Paul finished by giving some encouragement to Titus himself. Titus is not only to speak but get alongside the Christians and help them whatever he can. If necessary, he is to rebuke with all authority. There may be opposition to what he is teaching but this is from the apostle Paul so shouldn’t budge or be embarrassed. All Titus can do is speak the truth of God faithfully and be patience with those that might despise him.

**V1-10 : Adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour**

**V11-13 : The grace of God**

* **V11 – Past = Arrival of salvation**
* **V12 – Present = Adornment of doctrine**
* **V13 – Future = Anticipation of second coming**

**V14 : Christ death**

* **Past – Sacrifice (who gave himself for us)**
* **Present – Redemption (from all lawlessness)**
* **Future – Security (special people)**