

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
The grace of God doesn't just save us — it trains us to live differently while we wait for Jesus to return.	The Bible Project Guide: Titus 

Read the Text
In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Head: Grasping the Text
<i>Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.</i>

1. Paul uses the word appeared (v.11) to describe how grace arrived in history -- it showed up. What does that language tell us about the nature of grace? Is salvation something we work toward, or something that came to us? What is the difference between works FOR salvation and works FROM salvation?
2. According to verse 12, grace trains us in two directions at once: it teaches us to renounce godlessness and worldly passions (negative), and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly (positive). Why is grace doing both at the same time? And why does Paul say this training happens in the present age -- in real life, not a spiritual bubble or ideal Christian society?
3. Verse 13 introduces the phrase the 'blessed hope.' How does biblical hope as a fixed, certain, future reality -- differ from how we use the word hope in everyday conversations? What does it mean for the church to live in this posture as we wait between two arrivals of grace: the first at Christ's incarnation (v.11) and the second at His return (v.13)?
4. In verses 14-15, Paul says Jesus gave Himself -- a willing, voluntary sacrifice -- to redeem us from lawlessness and cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession. What is the connection between the cost of grace (the cross) and the call to be eager to do good works? Why does Paul root the call to good works in what Jesus has already done, rather than in trying harder or following the right programs?

Heart: Assessing Your Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

5. The sermon described three postures of waiting: passive, anxious and active (fully invested in the present because of a certain future). What's the posture you tend to have in life as wait for the blessed hope? How would you like to change the posture of your waiting?

When life feels hard, empty, or disappointing -- what do you typically reach for that moves you toward ungodliness and/or worldly passions? What are practical ways you can learn to renounce those cravings?

3. A 2017 Pew Research study found that about half of U.S. Protestants believe both good deeds and faith are needed to get to heaven. In your own heart, do you ever slip into relating to God through performance -- managing guilt, earning approval, or living in fear of falling short? How does the truth of verse 14, "He gave Himself for us," speak directly into the reality that it's all by grace.

Hands: Taking Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

4. The sermon described zeal for good works flowing into the everyday corners of life: the way you treat your spouse on a Tuesday, how you show up for a struggling coworker, how you parent/grandparent when it's hard, how you handle money, how you love an actual neighbor, etc. Identify one specific area where you sense God's training grace calling you to show up differently this week. Be as concrete and realistic possible.

5. Titus 2:1-10 paints a picture of an intergenerational community where older believers pour into younger ones and the whole church adorns the gospel together. We are not being purified in isolation -- we are being purified together (2:14). What is one way or step you can take to allow God to cleanse and refine your group together? (Example: incorporate a time of confession when you pray together, commit to honest conversations about where you are struggling, or ask an older believer in your life to speak into a specific area you are working on.)

This week's prayer focus: Ask God to show you where His training grace is at work in your life right now -- and where you may be resisting it. Pray for a deeper grasp of what it cost Jesus so that your good works overflow from gratitude, not obligation.