

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2022

Saturday, 12/24 at 4:00

Christmas Eve



Text: Titus 2:11-14 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: *Merry Christmas!*

Christmas has two levels – *the secular* and *the spiritual*.

A **secular** Christmas can be enjoyable:

- Tree and lights.
- Family gathering.
- Presents and food.

But a **spiritual** Christmas is SO MUCH better:

- All the secular items – PLUS
- Admission of sins.
- Godly sorrow.
- Trust in Christ for eternal life.
- Assurance of forgiveness.
- Unspeakable peace and joy!

Christmas is all about the Christ!

A Merry Christmas is nice, *but God wants to gift us with a **Merry Eternity***. So, He gave 100% to save us from our sins through Jesus. And what is our proper response? Jesus told us: **“AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH”** (Mark 12:30 NAU).

As we focus now on a few verses in **Titus chapter 2**, let us understand God’s **radical love** and be moved to respond with **radical change**.

1. **Radical Love:** ¹¹ **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, // What is true for all of us?**
We have messed up BIGTIME, **but God still loves ♥ us!**
 - a. God’s grace is His unconditional love: He loves us because of who He is, *not because of what we have done*.
 - b. The appearance of God’s love came in the Person of Jesus: He came to save everyone; His work is now complete; *but this is the question: Have YOU received God’s gift of salvation?* If yes, then your heart will be compelled to follow **verse 12**.

2. **Radical Change:** When God moves us **from** ➡ the path to hell **to** ➡ the path to heaven, *that is radical on God’s part*. Now, in **verse 12**, God is calling for radical changes on our part: ¹² **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, // God is calling us to:**
 - a. Stop the wrong: For example, **ungodliness** – **“disregard for religious belief or practice”** (Friberg, BW)

and **worldly desires** – “unrestrained desire for something forbidden” (Friberg, BW). Christians are different, *and it shows!*

b. Start the right: For example, **live sensibly** – *showing self-control*, **live righteously** – *legally, honestly, fairly*, and **live godly** – *living with respect toward God*.

3. **Radical Hope**: So, while we are trusting in Jesus and living in God-honoring ways, we are: ¹³ **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**, // That is referring to Jesus’ return: He came once, He will come again – *like a thief in the night!* Let us have full confidence in Jesus’ promise to return, *then let us live with readiness and expectation!*

4. **Radical Deeds**: And what has Jesus already done? He: ¹⁴ **...gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds**. // When we were spiritually dead and completely undeserving, *Jesus bought us back from death and hell with His perfect living and sacrificial dying*. **Now**, amazed by God’s love and forgiveness and peace, let us be radical in ☞seeking, ☞knowing, and ☞following the will of God in our lives!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, we TY for sending Your Son; dear Jesus, we TY for Your saving work; and dear HS, we TY for giving us faith to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Now, dear HS, *make us radically different from this day forward!*

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast**: Benefit from the Bible
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor**: RevRLGreen@aol.com
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230