

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE...

5-15-2022 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Titus 2:11-14.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Learned three basic tenses of a verb in school — Past, present and future.
2. Paul deals with Christian's life in same basic three tenses.

DISCUSSION: FROM OUR STUDY WE OBSERVE...

I. PAST: "THE GRACE OF GOD ... HATH APPEARED."

A. Appeared in the person and work of Christ (John 1:14; Luke 19:10).

B. Appeared in the gospel revelation (teaching) of Christ.

1. Gospel and grace (**Acts 20:24; Gal. 1:6**).
2. Gospel revelation complete (**Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19**).

C. Appeared while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8).

1. To make our sins be in past tense (**Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:6; Psalm 103:12**).
2. To keep our sins in the past tense (**Rom. 6:1-4, 12-23**).

D. Appeared to make us a peculiar people (v. 14; Psalm 135:4; 1 Pet. 2:9).

II. PRESENT: "WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY AND GODLY IN THE PRESENT WORLD."

A. Living positively: "Soberly, righteously and godly..."

1. Soberly: self-control; serious minded (**1 Pet. 5:8**).
2. Righteously: proper performance of our duties to our fellow-men (**John 7:24**).
3. Godly: reverence and obedience toward God (**2 Pet. 1:3**).

B. "In this present world."

1. Even when surrounded by "ungodliness and worldly lust" the Christian must remain faithful to the Lord (**Rev. 2:10; John 12:25**).
2. This "present world" is not our home.

III. FUTURE: "LOOKING FOR THE BLESSED HOPE ..."

A. Looking for Jesus to appear (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Tim. 4:8).

B. Looking forward to the promised hope (Titus 1:2).

C. Looking to live with God in heaven forever (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

1. Without any of the defilements of this world (**Rev. 21:27**).
2. Without any of the pain and sorrows of this world (**Rev. 21:4**).

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Thank God for all three of His tenses!

1. What He has done?
2. What He is doing?
3. What He will yet do?

B. Why not make your sinful life in the past tense?