

Scripture Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness or worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age. At the same time, we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

As part of our Atlanta church small group, Sherri and I have been studying the book of Titus. Our guide is a study by Chip Ingram entitled **Doing Good – What Happens When Christians Live Like Christians.** One could think of the book's focus as how we should live as "Christian Citizens" today. Chip uses the following quote from D.L. Moody to bring home the point of "right" Christian living: **"Out of a hundred men, one will read the Bible, and the other 99 will read the Christian."**

As Christians, we are charged to live our lives to honor our Christ Jesus. We are his ambassadors here on earth. This Lenten season, empowered by the Holy Spirit, I am challenging myself to live with a greater sense of gratitude for God's blessings, both past, and present; not to grumble, which is contagious and toxic to both fellow Christians and non-Christians; to avoid foolish controversies (Titus 3:9); to be self-controlled, especially under pressure; to be more winsome and forbearing, and to show myself as humble to my fellow "citizens" and to consider others better than myself. (Philippians 2:3)

Prayer: Dear Lord, we praise and thank you for providing the perfect model for how we should live as Christians in the world today. We celebrate your incredible gift of eternal life this Easter season to all believers, yet we know this came at a tremendous sacrifice. May this inspire us not just to "blend in" but to "stand out" as "Christian Citizens" in our daily lives.

~Submitted by Glenn Austin for the Twenty-Seventh Reading of Lent