



Daily Reflections

November 8, 2016

Scripture

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

Beloved:

You must say what is consistent with sound doctrine, namely, that older men should be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, love, and endurance.

Similarly, older women should be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to drink, teaching what is good, so that they may train younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good homemakers, under the control of their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.

Urge the younger men, similarly, to control themselves, showing yourself as a model of good deeds in every respect, with integrity in your teaching, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be criticized,

so that the opponent will be put to shame without anything bad to say about us. For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

Our Scripture Reflection

Why does Paul place such an emphasis on behavior and appearances while instructing Titus's community? The Christians of Crete are surrounded by Gentiles (pagans) who worship many gods and carry out some rather bizarre behavior. Paul wants the Christian to witness, to show the world that life in Christ Jesus makes a huge difference. What about us? Have we succumbed to the gentile culture of our society? What do people see when they watch us or hear us? A sign reads: "If they arrested you and put you on trial for being a Christian, would they find enough evidence to convict you?"

Food for your Journey

Philip Yancey is the author of many best-selling Christian books. His books have garnered 13 Gold Medallion Awards from Christian publishers and booksellers. He currently has more than 15 million books in print, published in 35 languages worldwide. Yancey was once asked if he could define grace.

He said, "I don't even try. Jesus talked a lot about grace, but mainly through stories. I remember once getting stuck in Los Angeles traffic and arriving 58 minutes late at the Hertz rental desk. I walked up in kind of a bad mood, put the keys down and said, 'How much do I owe?'

"The woman says, 'Nothing. You're all clear.'

"I said I was late and she smiled, 'Yes, but there's a one-hour grace period.'

"So I asked, 'Oh really, what is grace?'

"And she said, 'I don't know.' (They must not cover that in Hertz training classes.)

"I guess what it means is that even though you're supposed to pay, you don't have to." That's a good start to a definition.

--"Grace," philipyancey.com. Retrieved June 5. 2016.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please fill my heart with Your love so that in all I say and do this day, people will see, not me, but You. Amen.