



Every Day Discipleship

Titus 2:11-15 - Small Groups

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introduction

In what ways does our society encourage us to 'live for today' or 'live for the moment'? In what ways do we think and act like this?

What impact does this 'instant' culture have on us - for good and bad?

In Romans 12:1-2 last week, we saw that the way we are going to be 'transformed' is by the 'renewing of our minds'. This week we are given a similar idea in Titus and we start to see how this principle works out in practice.

Into God's Word - Read Titus 2:11-15

1. In this passage it is the two appearances of Jesus that will 'teach us' to live transformed lives. What different aspects of the first coming of Jesus does Paul call to mind in verses 11 and 14? (Spend a little time making sure everyone is clear what each of the aspects mean. Don't take them for granted?)
2. How might each of these different aspects, if we grasped them more deeply, be able to change us to say "no to ungodliness" and move us to live "upright and godly lives"?
3. Now consider the second appearing of Christ. How is this described in verse 13?
4. How might the second appearing of Jesus, if we grasped it more deeply, be able to change us to say "no to ungodliness" and move us to live "upright and godly lives"?
5. Last Sunday we quoted J.I. Packer from his book 'Laid-back Religion'. The quote is at the end of these notes? In what ways does Packer's observation encourage or challenge you?

Application

How do these 'two appearances' of Jesus give us perspective in our Christian lives? How should they change our perspective?

What are some of your attitudes that are based on the perspective of this present world alone?

What one thing might you, or your group, need to now do in the light of God's word this week?

Turning to Prayer

Spend some time praying for one another and our church family given all we have seen this week.

J.I. Packer - 'Laid-back Religion'.

For today, by and large, Christians no longer live for heaven, and therefore no longer understand, let alone practice, detachment from the world... Does the world around us seek pleasure, profit and privilege? So do we. We have no readiness or strength to renounce these objectives, for we have recast Christianity into a mould that stresses happiness above holiness, blessings here above blessings hereafter, health and wealth as God's best gifts, and death, especially early death, not as thankworthy deliverance from the miseries of a sinful world, but as the supreme disaster... Is our Christianity out of shape? Yes, it is, and the basic reason is that we have lost the New Testament's two-world perspective that views the next life as more important than this one and understands life here as essentially preparation and training for life hereafter.