

TICKET PUNCHED. RESULTS OF TICKET PUNCHED.

I. [Titus 2:11-15](#) [Titus 3:1-8](#) [1 John 4:11-13](#)

A. There once was a slave ship captain who found himself in a terrifying storm. In the midst of disaster, he cried out to God who heard him. Besides becoming a pastor for 40 some years, he went on to pen many great hymns. Among his best was *Amazing Grace*. His name was John Newton. Newton said these profound words: "I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be. But I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, *"By the grace of God I am what I am."* (Anyone say *Amen*?)

B. Newton quotes the Apostle Paul from [1 Corinthians 15:10](#) which I'll read from the (AMPC): *10 But by the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not found to be for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God which was with me. (The Amazing Grace that saves us is the same Amazing Grace that transforms and sustains us. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon put it like this: "If He gives you the grace to make you believe, He will give you the grace to live a holy life afterward.")*

C. When ODOT takes on a highway project, they first have to choose what that project is going to be. Once the project's chosen, everybody knows it'll be great upon completion. Artist renditions of the finished work get everyone excited. But then the work begins. Workers arrive in hardhats. Earthmoving equipment rolls in. Orange barrels line the roads. Demolitions, dirt, dust, & detours meander thru those all those orange barrels. As believers in Christ, we too are spiritually under construction. "Orange barrels" are all around us. The Holy Spirit's at work. (*Perhaps there's even angelic flagmen.*) So what do we do? Slow down. Be patient. And we keep moving, having faith it's all gonna be much better later on.

D. Ohio State's landed some stellar players for this next year thru both recruitment and what's called the *transfer portal*. It's being touted as the best batch of players in the nation. Lots of gifted players will soon arrive on campus. But then comes the hard workouts, the weight room, film room, and fierce competitions. Here's the big question: Will their pedigrees on paper & film transfer to the actual gridiron?

E. I get a little nervous when I hear someone say, *"Jesus came and He punched my ticket to heaven."* This is a truthful statement but there's more truth to be told. Certainly our Lord has made such a way for us. But our journey to that eternal destination isn't meant to be a passive, inactive one. It's meant to be one of transformation and fruitfulness. As Paul said, *"His grace to me was not in vain, not without effect."* Likewise, *"God loved us just the way He found us but what...?"*

F. The book of Titus is one of Paul's pastoral letters. Like Timothy, Titus is a man co-laboring in ministry with Paul. Paul charges Titus to serve on the Greek island of Crete, appoint elders there, preach the Gospel, provide sound teaching, correct errors, and care for the flock. *"Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."* Titus is faithful to his calling and Paul's words to him is God's Word to us...

G. Titus 2:11-15 (NLT) are as good for us as they were for that Cretan preacher 2000 years ago: **11** For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **(Ticket punched.)** **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. **(Result of ticket punched.)** We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, **(More results of ticket punched.)** **13** while we look forward with hope to that wonderful Day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **(The destination of where those punched tickets are taking us.)** **14** He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, **(Ticket punched.)** totally committed to doing good deeds. **(Result of ticket punched.)** **15** You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. **(Do what? Good deeds.)** You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

H. Three theological terms are interwoven together: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. Justification: (Justified: *Just-as-if-I'd never sinned!*) I'm saved from sin's penalty. **Sanctification:** I'm being saved from sin's power. **Glorification:** One Day I'll be saved from sin's presence altogether. Let's reread Titus 2:11-15...

I. Titus 2:11-15 (NLT) the reprise: **11** For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **(Justification.)** **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. **(Sanctification.)** We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, **(Sanctification.)** **13** while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **(Glorification.)** **14** He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, **(Justification.)** totally committed to doing good deeds. **(Sanctification.)** **15** You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say. **(Paul's charge to Titus continues in Chapter 3.)**

J. Titus 3:1-8 (NLT) carries on: **1** Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. **2** They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. **(Results of ticket punched--Sanctification)** **3** Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. **(Our B.C. days. When we were guilty, unjustified, dead.)** **4** But--When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, **5** He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. **6** He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. **(REGENERATION!)** **7** Because of His grace He made us right in His sight **(Ticket punched--Justification.)** and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. **(Ultimate destination of ticket punched. Glorification.)** **8** This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. **(Ticket punched results.)** These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

K. You once were a spiritual orphan from the world's gutter, corrupt to the core. But then you were rescued from your life of squaller and abject spiritual poverty. You were adopted by Someone very rich and loving and kind. Passage on a ship to a glorious location was purchased for you. It was costly. You could've never afforded it! You surely

didn't deserve any of this! But now you find yourself on board and under sail. So what kind of person will you be like on this voyage? What will your heart be like towards your Benefactor? How will you treat the Family of your Benefactor? Will you go out of your way to love and serve your fellow passengers? Will gratitude and love be your mood and drive your actions? Will you learn as much as you can about the place where you're going? Or will you be the same old, same old person you were when back in the gutter?

L. Way-back-when we often heard our spiritual mentors say, "*You may be the only Jesus someone will ever see!*" That notion both frightens me and challenges me. Do we all not want for better? *Oh to be more Christlike! Oh to be less carnal and worldly... Oh to not want for what Lord does not want for me... Oh to forgive more freely & swiftly... Oh to give more generously... Oh to speak more wisely, with far less drivel when I run into someone at the Post Office or on the street... Oh to say more with fewer but better words... Oh to be more like salt and light--to make someone thirsty for the One who has quenched my own parched soul; to shine a hopeful beam on someone's dark path...* Does anyone else here want for this and pray for this?! I suspect this is the desire of every single one of you.

M. John Wesley's poetic prayer can be ours too: "Purge me from every sinful blot; My idols all be cast aside: Cleanse me from every evil thought, from all the filth of self and pride. The hatred of the carnal mind, out of my flesh at once remove: Give me a tender heart, resigned, and pure, and full of faith and love."

* **1 John 4:11-13 (NLT)** are really good words to lead us through all the orange barrels and all the way home: **11** *Dear friends, since God loved us that much, (Ticket punched.) we surely ought to love each other. (Result of ticket punched.)* **12** *No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us. (Result of ticket punched.)* **13** *And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. (Oh what God has done! Oh what God is doing as a result of what He has done! And oh what glories lie ahead when we are with Him forever!)*

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Titus 2:11-15 \(NLT\)](#)

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[Titus 3:1-8 \(NLT\)](#)

1 Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. **2** They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. **3** Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. **4** But--When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, **5** He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. **6** He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. **7** Because of His grace He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

1 John 4:11-13 (NLT)

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Quote by John Newton

"I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be. But I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"If He gives you the grace to make you believe, He will give you the grace to live a holy life afterward."

Prose by John Wesley

"Purge me from every sinful blot;
My idols all be cast aside:
Cleanse me from every evil thought,
From all the filth of self and pride.
The hatred of the carnal mind
Out of my flesh at once remove:
Give me a tender heart, resigned,
And pure, and full of faith and love."

- John Wesley, *The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M.*, Volume XI, Third Edition, p. 386.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Aging Peacefully - Melissa Edgington (Your Mom Has A Blog)

<https://yourmomhasablog.com/2024/01/14/aging-peacefully/>

Proverbs 4:18 (ESV)

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Ephesians 4:10 (ESV)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 3:7-14 (ESV)

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **12** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lyrics by William Cowper

To see the law by Christ fulfilled
And hear His pardoning voice,
Transforms a slave into a child,
And duty into choice.

- William Cowper, hymn "*Love Constraining to Obedience*" penned for the *Olney Hymns*, 1772-1773.

Quote by S. Lewis Johnson

"Justification, someone has said, is restoration to life. Sanctification is restoration to health. When a person has Jesus Christ he has not only justification but he also has sanctification. He has justification as his position. He is righteous and satisfies the righteous claims of a holy God in Christ. But also he possesses ideally sanctification. But that sanctification is something that is worked out in a process in his daily life. Justification brings us from the tomb, to use another figure. Sanctification delivers us from the old clothes that characterize the life of the tomb. We think of John chapter 11

and Lazarus' resurrection, and when Lazarus came forth from the tomb at the word of Christ, it reminds us of the fact that we have life and justification through the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. But then it was commanded that others should loose Lazarus from his garments. And so it is necessary for a believer in Jesus Christ to put off the old threads and put on new, set forth in the word of God as that characteristic of the new life in Christ."

- Dr. S. Lewis Johnson, Jr., sermon titled, "*Shall We Continue to Sin?*" <http://sljinstitute.net/pauls-epistles/romans/shall-we-continue-in-sin/>

Quote by John Owen

"The growth of trees and plants takes place so slowly that it is not easily seen. Daily we notice little change. But, in the course of time, we see that a great change has taken place. So it is with grace. Sanctification is a progressive, lifelong work (Prov. 4:18). It is an amazing work of God's grace and it is a work to be prayed for (Rom. 8:27).

- John Owen, *The Holy Spirit: Works of John Owen*, p.p. 108-109.

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"Sin is cosmic treason. Sin is treason against a perfectly pure Sovereign. It is an act of supreme ingratitude toward the One to whom we owe everything, to the One who has given us life itself. Have you ever considered the deeper implications of the slightest sin, of the most minute peccadillo? What are we saying to our Creator when we disobey Him at the slightest point? We are saying no to the righteousness of God. We are saying, 'God, Your law is not good. My judgement is better than Yours. Your authority does not apply to me. I am above and beyond Your jurisdiction. I have the right to do what I want to do, not what You command me to do.'"

- R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*.

Quote by Thomas Goodwin

"It is not enough to hear a sermon, but you must eat it down, take in what it commands, and then it will purge your heart...Take the word and digest it, squeeze the juice of it into thy heart, and it will purge thee from all contrary corruption."

- Thomas Goodwin, *Man's Guiltiness Before God*, p. 73.

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world. The war-time posters told us that *Careless Talk Costs Lives*. It is equally true that *Careless Lives Cost Talk*. Our careless lives set the outer world talking; and we give them grounds for talking in a way that throws doubt on the truth of Christianity itself."

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

Quote by Jonathan Edwards

"Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"If a man gets drunk and goes out and breaks his leg so that it must be amputated, God will forgive him if he asks it, but he will have to hop around on one leg all his life."

Theological Note on Titus 2:14

The ESV Study Bible

Titus 2:11-14 (ESV) *11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.*

2:14: Paul anchors his call for godliness in the fact that one purpose of Jesus' death was to make His people holy. To forsake godliness is to despise the sacrifice of Christ. Paul roots this in the OT with the phrase **to redeem us from all lawlessness**, which in Greek closely resembles the Septuagint of Ps. 130:8. **A people for His own possession** translates an unusual phrase (Gk. *laon periousion*) with intentional echoes from the OT (see esp. Ex. 19:5; Mal. 3:17). It has the sense of "prized, treasured possession." These people are to be **zealous for good works**, so again redemption is tied specifically to living in a godly manner. There is no room for claiming to be redeemed while providing no evidence of practical transformation (see James 2:14-26).

- Theological note on Titus 2:14, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 2350.

Theological Note on Titus 2:14

The NKJV Study Bible

2:14 Redeem means "to purchase." With His death on the Cross, Christ paid the price to release us from the bondage to sin (see Eph. 6:12) to which every unbeliever is a slave (see Rom. 6:6, 7, 17, 20). God's purpose in redeeming us is not only to save us from hell; He also wants to free us from sin so that we can produce good works that glorify Him (see Eph. 2:8-10).

- Theological note on Titus 2:14, *The NKJV Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson, p. 1937.