



CHEERFUL GODLINESS "The Development of Godliness" Titus 2:11-14

No. 4128

Stuart Briscoe

The "twin towers" of salvation history of which Paul wrote are "The Epiphany of Grace" (v. 11) and "The Epiphany of Glory" (v. 13). In between these monumental events we are called "to say 'No' to ungodliness" and to nurture "godly lives in this present age" (v. 12).

I. The Epiphany of Grace. vv. 11-14

- A. The dramatic dimension of the Epiphany.
 - 1. An "epiphany": a dramatic happening; unmistakable; unforgettable.
 - 2. An "epiphany of grace": an intervention based on divine goodness.
 - a. A divine attitude that reaches out to a lost humanity.
 - b. A divine principle that "brings salvation to all men."
 - c. A description of the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
- B. The dynamic dimension of the Epiphany.
 - 1. He gave Himself to "redeem us from all wickedness." v. 14
 - 2. He gave Himself to "purify" us.
 - a. Initial cleansing.
 - b. Continual cleansing.
 - 3. He gave Himself to gain a people who were "His very own."
 - 4. He gave Himself to create people "eager to do what is good."
- C. The didactic dimension of the Epiphany.
 - 1. Knowledge of the Epiphany is designed to teach and train.
 - 2. Training in saying "No" to ungodliness: that which is against God.
 - 3. Training in learning to negate "worldly passions." See 2 John 2:16
 - 4. Training to develop "self-controlled, upright, and godly lives."
 - 5. Training in coping with the difficulties associated with "this present age."

II. The Epiphany of Glory. v. 13

- A. The inevitable return of Christ to establish His eternal kingdom.
- B. The incredible manifestation of glory that will be evident.
- C. The inestimable blessings of the "hope" of His coming.
- D. The inescapable challenge of the certainty of His return.

Points to Ponder: What did I learn? Was I encouraged? Does something need to be changed? See v. 15