

The Christian's Life in Three Tenses

Titus 2:11-14

Introduction:

- A. Learned three basic tenses of a verb in school — Past, present and future.
- B. Paul deals with Christian's life in same basic three tenses:

Discussion:

I. PAST: "The Grace of God ... *Has Appeared.*"

- A. Appeared in the person and work of Christ (Rom. 5:8,9,18-21).
- B. Appeared in the gospel revelation (teaching) of Christ.
 - 1. Gospel and grace (Acts 20:24; Gal. 1:6).
 - 2. Gospel revelation complete (Jude 3).
- C. Appeared while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8)
 - 1. To make our sins be in past tense. (Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38)
 - 2. To keep our sins in the past tense (Rom. 6:1-4, 12-23)
- D. Appeared to make us a special people (v. 14).

II. PRESENT: "We Should Live Soberly, Righteously and Godly in the *Present Age.*"

- A. Living negatively: "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts"
- B. Living positively: "Soberly, righteously and godly"
 - 1. Soberly treating ourselves right.
 - 2. Righteously treating others right.
 - 3. Godly treating God right.

III. FUTURE: "Looking for the blessed hope ..."

- A. Looking for Jesus to appear. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- B. Looking for the dead to be raised (1 Cor. 15:50-58).
- C. Looking to live with God in heaven forever. (1 Pet. 1:3-5).
 - 1. Without any of the defilements of this world (Rev. 21:27)
 - 2. Without any of the pain and sorrows of this world. (Rev. 21:4)

Conclusion

- A. Thank God for all three of His tenses!
 - 1. What He has done?
 - 2. What He is doing?
 - 3. What He will yet do?
- B. Why not make your sinful life in the past tense?