

Zealous for Good Works

There is hardly anything more revealing as to our purpose than Tit 2:11-14,
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 our 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.

“Training us to renounce all that is not like our God” (Gal 5:19-21), but to live in a way that is befitting to His sons and daughters in the Body, the Community — a self-controlled life exhibiting all the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) in this present age, preparing for the next age, to rule with Him when He returns (1 Jn 2:27-28; Col 1:22,23,28).

Tit 2:14 — He died to save us from the lawlessness of false religion, as Mt 7:21-23, and to purify us (1 Jn 3:1-3), His special people for His own possession, who are zealous to do the good works prepared for us to do (Eph 2:10; 4:16).

Tit 2:11-14 — This grace of God has appeared again on earth, to bring salvation for all people, but *trains us* to renounce and forsake all things which are not of God, such as worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright lives befitting to God Himself. This is how His Son lived on earth.

So we are to live this way in this present age and time — the time of the restoration of all things by the Twelve Tribes of Israel in Acts 26:7, to bring about verse 8, the Kingdom in Israel, and the world at large, in the next age. It takes the spiritual nation of Mt 21:43 who bear the fruit of the kingdom in this age as they look forward to that age, waiting with anticipation (2 Tim 4:8), longing for Him to return — all those who are living at the time when His salvation is “ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet 1:5), that is, the last days of this present age.

In *this salvation* (verses 10-12) we greatly rejoice, even though, as verse 6 says, we are greatly tested, for we anticipate the outcome — the salvation of our souls (verses 7-9; Jms 1:21; 5:20). Our spirits are already saved, but not yet our souls. They will not be saved until all aspects are grown up into the Head (Eph 4:15). Every aspect must be whole, one, in unity, together — the intellect, the emotions, and the will act together as one, standing together. Then and only then can we grow up in every aspect of our personality — spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically — to be worthy, comparable to Messiah (1 Pet 1:16 — “wholly” holy).

In 1 Pet 1:7, the genuineness of your faith, as the purity of gold, is brought forth by intense heat, so the reality and purity of our faith are revealed as a result of the fiery trials we will have to go through before He can return for us. He would have no reason to return if there was no one worthy of Him to rule with Him (Rom 8:17; 2 Tim 2:12; Mt 24:13; Acts 14:22). All who do not pass the test, the trial of our faith, are denied the rule in the Kingdom reign of Messiah (Rev 3:21).

1 Pet 1:6-9 — The reward of hearing, “Well done, My good and faithful servant,” the final outcome of our faith, trusting our Father through all of our trials and testings, is the salvation of our souls (1 Pet 1:22).

1 Pet 4:8 — “Above all” obey Jn 13:34 as Jn 14:15 says, as “love” is practically defined in 1 Jn 3:14,16,23.

After betrothal to Messiah we are to keep ourselves as we are instructed by the Word, i.e., Tit 2:12-14, and as Rev 19:7-8 says the bride makes herself ready by good works done in the integrity of motive, as 1 Pet 4:10-11. We are to be zealous for the good works of Eph 2:10 and 4:16 in order to not live in the Community in vain due to having leaders who do not adjust those called to be saints, set apart for the works prepared for them to do.

Woe to the leaders who do not take the time to adjust and re-adjust — “adjust down” the saints for the works our Father has prepared for them to do in the Body. How

else will they be prepared and ready for Messiah's return and for the marriage of the Lamb, except by the works done in righteousness in conjunction with all the saints (Eph 4:16)? Therefore they must be adjusted by the council of Eph 4:11-12 in order to attain to verse 13 by doing the good works especially prepared for them to do according to the gifts and the faith and grace given to employ them in the Body. In this way we make the eternal dwelling for Elohim (Eph 1:22-23; 2:21-22; Rev 21:3,9,12) as each one serves night and day (Acts 26:7; Eph 4:12) by the strength God supplies (1 Pet 4:11).

So now Tit 2:12-14 is the process of purification going on, as Rev 19:7-8, by doing those good works which the leaders in Eph 4:11 place each one into to do the works prepared for him to spend his life in this age doing to build up the Body of Messiah for God's eternal dwelling place. Shepherds watch over the sheep. They are not engaged in any other thing that would distract them from it. So Tit 2:14 says zealous for these good works prepared for them, for each one of them to do in the Body (Eph 2:10; 4:16) until Eph 4:13, a perfect corporate man.

The new man is in the process of being created by the work of the Holy Spirit in each one of our lives — a new united corporate humanity to rule the universe, all the works of His hands (Ps 8:4-6; Eph 2:15), for we altogether are His workmanship, His masterpiece (Eph 2:10), the new man to rule and reign forever and ever (Rev 22:5). Dan 7:27 (RSV, NRS, ESV, NJB) is the corporate man, with Messiah our Head, and we His wife, the Body, the whole Body or dwelling of God in the Spirit (Eph 2:22).

Tit 2:14 says what is going on now, actually just beginning (Mk 9:11-12; Mt 21:43) — “Who gave Himself for us to redeem us” from all the ways in us that are not befitting His sons and daughters, and to purify for Himself a special people for His own possession, as His own Body, His dwelling (Rev 21:3). Together with Him we are the corporate Body in whom Elohim will dwell eternally. God will no longer act outside of this Body. He is creating His own Body for His eternal home, His dwelling place, temple, tabernacle (Rev 21:3,9,12; Eph 2:19-22) — but *Body* is the best word to describe it —

we are His Body. As Yahshua is, we all shall be (Eph 2:22). The corporate Body is us and our Master, both together as the dwelling place of the three persons of the one and only God (1 Cor 15:24-28; Dan 7:18,22,27; 1 Cor 1:2).

So, last but not least, my brother Joseph Bouret (Yowceph) said in his letter to me that he prayed before his baptism in Plymouth that Yahshua would save his soul, and that he knew that he was created to meet the needs of the Body of Yahshua, and not his own needs, and he prayed for grace to do that. What greater revelation can a person have than to know that the works prepared for him were to meet the needs of the Body of Yahshua, as Act 26:7, serving night and day? “May you be continually increasing forevermore, and may you be all our Father wants you to be, and may you now grow up in every aspect of your being as you serve the needs of your brothers and sisters.”