



## **Titus 2:11-15**

**Truth #7** - Salvation bears righteous fruit

**Doctrine #7** - The doctrine of Christology

**Principle #7** - Discipleship involves living uprightly.

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One of the recurring themes through Paul's epistle to Titus is the need to teach and explain how conversion to Christianity transforms a person to be able to do *good works*. Of the nine times that Paul refers to 'good works' in his epistles, eight of them occur in his epistles to Timothy and Titus ('the Pastoral Epistles'). But before anyone became confused about how a person was saved from their sin and adopted by God the Father, Paul explicitly states how people are saved.

1. Read Titus 2:11. What does Paul state is the basis for our salvation?  

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2. Since Paul states in Titus 2:11 that salvation was *for all people*, does that mean that Universalists are correct when they state that all people are saved, they just don't know it yet? Discuss and explain.  

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3. When Christ instituted the last supper, what did He state was the scope of His atoning death? (Refer to Matthew 26:28 and note Matthew 20:28)
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4. When Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans, explaining the gospel and the theology of salvation, what did he state was necessary for people to be saved? (Romans 5:17)
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This highlights that no single verse of Scripture should be taken in isolation. No verse of Scripture should be interpreted in a way that it contradicts the overall message of Scripture.

5. When God's grace was poured into our hearts to bring us to faith and obedience to Christ, what did the Holy Spirit also begin to do in our lives according to Titus 2:12?
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6. How did Paul describe the effect of this same transformation to the Romans? (Rom. 12:2)
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The Holy Spirit takes the gospel and transforms an ungodly life from being *an idolatrous enemy of God* into a *Spirit-filled courageous adopted son or daughter of God* who renounces those inclinations that their Heavenly Father warns are sin. Due to mankind's fall into sin, we are all born with sinful desires that seem very natural to us. There is an ideological movement that promotes the false notion of 'expressive individualism' (see- <https://youtu.be/ioEgtiAT1Sc>) which says that in order to be 'the true you' you have to act on your feelings and desires. But Paul describes the Holy Spirit transforming our desires from sinful into new desires that are godly and holy. Thus, it is not true that just because a person has a strong desire, whether it be sexual or a covetous desire, that it is always a God-given desire — as many Gay activists claim in an effort to justify their moral choices.

## The Doctrine of Christology

7. How does Paul describe Jesus in Titus 2:13 and why was this remarkable?
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Around the end of the third century into the start of the fourth century, a North African church leader, Arius (depicted right), was promoting the idea that Jesus Christ was a created being. This controversy eventually led to a combined church council held in Nicaea (in modern day Turkey). The Council met to discuss the views of Arius. Eventually it was Athanasius who persuaded that Council that if God the Father was eternal and immutable (unchanging) then He must be the *eternal Father*.



If he was, as Athanasius reasoned He was, then He *must* have had an eternal Son. If the Son was eternal, then He could not have been *created* — and by virtue of being eternal He must be divine (since eternality is an exclusive attribute of God). Therefore, Jesus was the co-equal, co-eternal, God.

We should also note that only God can exercise divine prerogatives such as forgiving sins (Luke 5:20-21); creating from nothing (John 1:3); judging all mankind and their eternal destiny (Matt. 25:31-32; John 12:48); receiving worship (Matt. 4:10; 28:9; Heb. 1:6); and invoking divine titles such as Alpha and Omega (Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:8). And if you can't recall these Scriptural proofs for Christ's divinity, just remember John 1:3 and Titus 2:13.

8. When a person encountered the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, what is he/she redeemed (rescued) from and what does he/she become zealous for? (Titus 2:14)
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9. In what way is the Apostle Paul's charge to Titus in Titus 2:15 a charge to all church elders today?
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## The Principle of Discipleship Leading to Upright Living

10. How would you help a new Christian to understand how Paul has described salvation and its consequences in this Titus passage?

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### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, our great God and Saviour,*

*We pray that the grace administered to us by Your Holy Spirit would enable us to live upright, holy, and godly lives. Give us the strength to renounce those desires of the flesh that draw us into undisciplined lives—whether they be lusts, appetites, or addictions—and to exercise self-discipline in our lives especially in those areas where we struggle to deepen our souls. Help us to receive the exhorting and even the rebuking of those shepherds You place over our souls and may we increasingly reflect the beauty of Jesus. In Jesus' Name we pray,*

*Amen.*