

Malachi 2:17-3:5; Titus 3:1-8

Sermon Outline for Congregation

December 20, 2009

*Titus 3:1-2 gives a picture of what it should look like to be a follower of Christ in our world – is the picture appealing?*

1. How we ordinarily live – a contrast (v3): we naturally live like slaves and fill our lives (and world) with hatred
2. How the way we live invites trouble - God is coming to establish justice – Malachi 2:17-3:5 – but who can stand at His appearing? (Mal 3:2)
3. How God brings hope to our lives - the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared (vv4-7)

Titus 3:1-2 is a picture of true freedom and a just world – the way of Christ is “excellent and profitable” (v8)

Questions for reflection:

1. Is it possible to really live as Titus 3:1-2 calls us to (submissive to authorities, speaking evil of no one, showing courtesy towards all people)? Is it desirable?
2. Have you found that various passions and pleasures control you? Do you ever feel like you are not really free?
3. Titus 3:3 says “when the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, he saved us”. Do you think human beings need to be “saved” from anything? If God is a judge and all people will have to give an account for how they have lived (every thought, word and deed), what is your source of confidence in anticipation of that day?
4. Take time on Christmas day to meditate on how the birth of Jesus shows us the goodness and loving kindness of God, and how God has shown Himself to be merciful. Read Luke 1:1-2:40. Consider the specific things mentioned in Titus 3:4-7, along with anything else that comes to mind.