

***“The Gift of Christmas: The Surprising Gift”***

**Titus 2:11–14**

**Canon City EFC**

**12-3-17**

MAIN IDEA: God’s gift of salvation is much more than we can grasp, but offered freely to all who believe

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

Surprising in how it began <sup>11</sup> *the grace of God has appeared*

This baby is the face of God’s salvation (*Mt 1.21, Lk 2.11*)

Substantive – real; personal

didn’t send advice, a ‘how to’ manual to cure our ills; or send a messenger

He came Himself: Eternal 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the triune God became man, entered our world

Not just an explanation – it’s a demonstration – a demonstration of Grace

Surprising in where it leads

Christmas was only the beginning, 13 – He’s more than a helpless child

this little baby is the glorious Lord, coming one day in power to set all things right

2<sup>nd</sup> appearing & final victory, v.13 (*Lk 21:27–28; Rev 19:11, 16; Phil 2:10–11*)

When He returns, He will complete all that He began: His life giving power

Surprising in what it accomplished: Salvation

Saved from ourselves: *to purify for himself a people, 14*

New identity / belonging *a people that are his very own . . . for Himself*

New desires/motivation *eager to do what is good.*

Teaches us to live – very practical, daily, 12-13

1. Trained to say no - much in world is appealing, enticing – some is great; some is deadly

The gospel teaches to say ‘no’ to self because getting what we want often destroys

2. Trained to live, v.12 (cf Jn. 10:10: “abundant life”)

Live well because we’re no longer slaves, 12; we belong, 14; love good & beauty, 14

3. Trained to wait – a very basic skill in life is learning to wait / to not have to have it now

Waiting is not grumbling dissatisfaction – It’s excited, faithful anticipation

Surprising in what it Cost

He had to come to earth, v.11 He “appeared”

The eternal God, now an infant; gave up the glory of heaven – the humility of a manger

He had to die He *gave himself for us, v.14 (cf. Phil.2.7-8)*

Jesus paid the price so we could be free from sin, guilt, free to live

That’s why this is GRACE - He did for us what we could not do, what we do not deserve

This grace is offered *to all*, v.11 says – anyone, everyone who will trust Him

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

Because we know the story of how God provided salvation, it’s hard to back things up and look at it with fresh eyes, but give it a try: Would we have expected the Savior of the world to arrive as He did? Who is this child & why is that amazing? Why was it necessary for God to become fully human?

What did salvation cost Jesus? What did it accomplish, 14?

How does the fact that He will appear again change life today (12-13)?