

Friday, December 29

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11-14 NIV

Text for Today:*while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ....*

Titus 2:13

Since I was the oldest of four children and my youngest sibling was just five years younger than me, my mother was extremely busy when we were small! Therefore, I was often shipped off to Grandma and Grandpa's house and spent lots of time there in my growing-up years. They were devout Christians and I give them much credit for my Christian life today. Going to Sunday school and church every Sunday was as much a part of life as eating and sleeping. In fact, the regimen included services Sunday morning and evening and prayer meeting on Wednesday night. Also, they gave me my first Bible when I was seven years old. Among the Bibles and Christian books in their home, I remember their Sunday school lesson book, The Blessed Hope Quarterly. The title was based on today's text – looking for the blessed hope of Christ's coming.

Just as we are now in the season of Advent and preparing for the commemoration of Jesus' first coming at Christmas, so we must live our lives in a way that expresses the hope of his second coming. This is what Paul was saying in his letter to Titus, who was a pastor in Crete. He wanted Titus to teach the people that God revealed himself in Jesus and made it possible through God's grace to live upright and godly lives "while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." So as we approach this Christmas season, remembering the first coming of our Lord, let us carry in our hearts the hope of eternal life as promised by God before the beginning of time.

Prayer: Loving God, we are surrounded by ungodliness and worldly passions and often the temptation to yield to them is great. Thank you for giving us the strength to resist and the hope of eternal life with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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