

## ARE WE READY?

**Scripture:** Titus 2: 11-14

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Honestly, I had forgotten about this little book until I was asked by Rich Shaffer to write the devotion for today. I had to locate the book, this short pastoral letter, finding it after 2 Timothy and before Philemon. It's a brief letter written to Titus serving in Crete, from Paul probably while in a Roman prison.

Maybe not like you, but I wondered, what does this have to do with Advent? When I don't know or understand, I have to dig deeper, which causes me to learn.

In our reading Paul tells Titus "for the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

Advent is a time of preparation, a time set aside to get ready for the coming of Christ, as a babe in the manger and as Lord and Savior at the Second Coming.

That is what we read here, "for the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men". It came to the shepherds on the night of His birth, it came to the disciples, it came to Paul and it comes to us. That free gift of salvation comes to us when we humble our heart and ask Jesus to dwell within us. We change as we allow the Holy Spirit to have dominion over our lives. This new path is called discipleship. Are you ready and willing? With God's help, I am.

**Prayer:** Thank you Father for sending your Son, Jesus as a ransom for my sin. Allow the Holy Spirit to continue a work in me to further your kingdom. Amen.

A servant of Christ – Mary C. Bane, Mon Valley Certified Lay Servant [crazymcb1@gmail.com](mailto:crazymcb1@gmail.com)