

The Believer's Charge and Hope

A Companion Bible Study for Mondays With Mark



Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Your Word and through the saving work of Jesus Christ. As we study today, help us understand both the responsibility and the hope that come with following You.

Give us wisdom to clearly explain why we believe in Jesus. Strengthen our faith so that our words and actions reflect Your truth. Teach us to live upright, disciplined lives while we wait for the glorious return of our Savior.

May Your Spirit guide our hearts and deepen our understanding.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Introduction: Answering the Question of Faith

At some point in life, many believers are asked a simple but profound question:

“Why do you believe in Jesus?”

For some, the answer flows naturally. For others, the question can feel intimidating.

Scripture encourages believers to be ready to explain their faith clearly.

1 Peter 3:15

KJV

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.”

NIV

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

The ability to explain our faith does not require complex theology. Often, the Bible provides simple summaries that capture the heart of the gospel.

One powerful example appears in Paul's letter to Titus.

Historical Background: Paul and Titus

The book of Titus is short but deeply practical.

It contains three chapters and forty-six verses, yet it outlines important principles for Christian living and leadership.

Titus himself was a protégé of the Apostle Paul. After coming to faith through Paul's ministry, Titus became a trusted partner in spreading the gospel.

Paul eventually sent Titus to the island of Crete to establish and strengthen churches there.

Crete was known in the ancient world for moral corruption and cultural instability. In that challenging environment, Titus was tasked with helping believers live lives that reflected the transforming power of the gospel.

Within this context, Paul provides a powerful summary of the Christian life.

The Believer's Charge and Hope

Titus 2:11–14 provides a concise explanation of the Christian message.

Titus 2:11–14

KJV

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

NIV

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

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 appearing of the glory 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.”

In just a few sentences, Paul summarizes the entire Christian journey.

The Gospel Outline in Titus

These verses reveal several essential truths:

1. Grace

Salvation begins with the grace of God.

Greek Insight

The word grace comes from the Greek word:

χάρις (charis)

It refers to undeserved favor—God giving salvation not because of human merit but because of His love.

Ephesians 2:8

KJV

“For by grace are ye saved through faith.”

NIV

“For it is by grace you have been saved.”

2. Salvation Through Jesus

Grace leads to salvation through Christ.

Acts 4:12

KJV

“Neither is there salvation in any other.”

NIV

“Salvation is found in no one else.”

Jesus is not merely a teacher or prophet—He is the Savior who redeems humanity.

3. Transformation of Life

The gospel changes how believers live.

Titus describes turning away from:

- ungodliness
- worldly passions

And turning toward:

- self-control
- righteousness
- godliness

Greek Insight: Self-Control

The Greek word σωφρόνως (sophronōs) means disciplined thinking and wise restraint.

It describes a life guided by spiritual maturity rather than impulse.

4. The Blessed Hope

Christian faith is future-oriented.

Believers live with anticipation of Christ's return.

Titus calls this:

“the blessed hope.”

Greek Insight

The word for hope is:

ἐλπίς (elpis)

In Scripture it does not mean wishful thinking. It means confident expectation based on God's promises.

5. Redemption

Jesus gave Himself to redeem humanity.

Greek Insight

The word redeem comes from:

λυτρόω (lytroō)

It refers to paying a ransom to set someone free.

Christ's sacrifice freed believers from sin's power.

6. A People Set Apart

The result of redemption is transformation.

Believers become people who are:

- purified
- devoted to God
- eager to do good

Faith produces action.

Pause & Reflect

- How would you explain why you believe in Jesus?
- Could you summarize your faith using Titus 2:11–14?
- Are the truths in this passage reflected in your daily life?

Living Out the Charge

Paul's words in Titus present not only a message of salvation but also a call to faithful living.

Believers are called to:

- reject ungodliness
- pursue righteousness
- live disciplined lives
- anticipate Christ's return

This responsibility requires spiritual readiness.

Paul emphasizes this readiness in another letter.

2 Timothy 4:2

KJV

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”

NIV

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season.”

Believers should be prepared to explain:

what they believe

and why they believe it.

Practical Application

One helpful approach is to memorize a simple explanation of your faith.

Titus 2:11–14 provides an excellent outline.

Consider:

- Memorizing the passage
- Paraphrasing it in your own words
- Studying the key themes (grace, redemption, hope)
- Reviewing your spiritual life regularly

Some believers even place reminders of Scripture where they will see them daily.

God’s truth shapes our hearts when we encounter it often.

Psalm 119:11

KJV

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart.”

NIV

“I have hidden your word in my heart.”

Pause & Reflect

- Could you clearly explain the gospel in a few sentences?
- Which of the truths in Titus 2:11–14 speaks most strongly to you?
- What step could you take this week to grow in readiness to share your faith?

Final Reflection

The Christian life holds both a charge and a hope.

The charge:

to live disciplined, righteous lives.

The hope:

the return of Jesus Christ.

Grace saves us.

Truth transforms us.

Hope sustains us.

When believers understand this message clearly, they are able to share it with confidence.

Closing Prayer

Lord,

Thank You for the grace that brings salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank You for redeeming us and calling us to live lives that reflect Your goodness.

Help us understand the message of the gospel deeply so that we can explain our faith clearly to others. Give us courage to speak truth with patience and love.

Teach us to live self-controlled and godly lives while we wait with hope for the return of our Savior.

May our lives reflect Your grace.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Sources

Mondays With Mark Devotional Video Series

“Believer’s Charge and Hope”

Holy Bible

King James Version (KJV)

New International Version (NIV)

Lexical Resources

- Strong's Concordance
- Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon
- Bauer-Danker Greek Lexicon (BDAG)