

Sermon Title: “Why is the Church different?”

Primary Text: Titus 2:11-14

You don’t have to look hard in our culture or around the world to find people who are altruistic or do “good” things apart from the Gospel. Some of them may even have a degree of lasting impact, but there is something intrinsically different when you look at the church. As we looked again at **Titus 2**, we saw the two-fold appearance (in the Greek, an “Epiphany”) of Jesus Christ, which is the motivation and the purpose of the Church’s “good works.”

First of all, we saw the appearing of the **Grace** of Christ displayed on the Cross, through which we have been redeemed and justified so that we are able to “train up” ourselves for godly, upright, and self-controlled living. Just as parents constantly train up their children, so too do we as followers of Christ give constant effort to live godly lives – not that it saves us, but because it reflects the change the spirit has wrought in lives!

Second, we look forward to the appearing of **Christ in Glory**. Our future hope in the promised return both fills us with joy and motivates us to be continually looking at how we can bring the gospel to our community. As Pastor Zach said on Sunday, while the appearance of Jesus will be **celebration** for His followers, those who have rejected Christ will be filled with terror. Because of this, we make every effort to have a “zeal for good works,” not for our own legacy but for the glory of the name of Jesus and out of love for those around us. That’s what makes the Church different!

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

1 John 3:1-2

Questions to Consider this week:

- What **motivates** you to live “self-controlled, upright, godly” lives? Think of areas that you may be motivated by something other than the Glory of Jesus Christ. Is that something you need to confess and repent of?
- Pastor Zach charged us to evaluate where our **passions** are. Not including areas of habitual sin, are there areas of your life that are pulling your **passion** away from Jesus? Find three ways this week to submit them to God!
- Throughout the series, we have seen that the church lives in **community** not in **isolation**. How do your *individual* passions fit inside the *collective* passion of Faith Fall Creek?
- There are almost certainly people in your life that you love who are living apart from the church. Think of three people you can be praying for this week, that they may see the Glory of the Gospel reflected in your life. Commit to praying for them each day this week.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing your **Glory** and giving us **Hope**. I confess there are times my view is limited to what is just in front of me or in my near future, help me see your **glorious return** as a motivator to carefully **reflect** the Gospel to my friends, family, and community. Reveal in my life where my **passions** aren’t in line with what you want them to be, and change my heart so that my passions are **your** passions. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship

“I Will Glory in my Redeemer” (Enfield)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-i-PniRohA>