

What Is God Waiting For? 4383

Proclamation: Titus 2:11–14

Why has God tolerated so much evil so long?

What is He planning to get out of human history?

I. A People For Himself (Titus 2:14)

Who will be His temple/dwelling place (2 Cor. 6:16)

A. God's three successive dwelling places:

1. The Tabernacle of Moses
2. The Temple of Solomon
3. The Church of Jesus Christ—the most costly

Because:

- a. The cost: the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18–19)
- b. The material: living (human) stones (1 Pet. 2:4–5)
 - (1) One human soul is worth more than the whole world (Mark 8:36)
 - (2) Man is a unique creation (describe) (Gen. 2:7)
 - (3) He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”
(James 4:5 NAS)

B. For this reason God sent Jesus to earth: to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)

C. Man's No. 1 problem: he does not realize his own value

II. What God Requires From Us

A. Purity—eternal perspective

1. Jesus purifies (Titus 2:14)
2. We must purify ourselves (1 John 3:1–3; compare 1 Pet. 1:22)
 - a. We must cleanse ourselves (2 Cor. 6:16–7:1)
 - b. To focus only on this life makes us miserable (1 Cor. 15:19)

B. To make Jesus central

1. In the midst of the lampstands (= churches) (Rev. 1:12–13)
2. In the midst of the throne (Rev. 5:6)
We (the earth) revolve around the sun (Jesus)

C. The people for whom God is waiting

1. Out of every Tribe, Language, Nation, People (Rev. 5:9)
2. God waits for *every one* whom He has chosen (2 Pet. 3:9)