

THE ONLY PERMANENT, ABSOLUTE STANDARD TO LIVE BY

Titus 2:11-13

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt today's world is one morally mixed-up world. It's just not easy to know what is right or wrong. Satan is quietly seducing in ever increasing ways of lust and temptation and people are pulled in many directions. There are so many "standards" of living now days that it is just impossible for a person to know which one is the right one. Isn't there some absolute, unchanging standard all people can live by?

I. THERE IS BUT ONE ABSOLUTE STANDARD TO LIVE BY

1. Titus 2:11-13

2. There are three "tenses" used:

- The past - (v11) - *"...The grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all..."*
- The present - (v12) - *"...instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world..."*
- The future - (v13) - *"...looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ..."*
- There is nothing we can do about the PAST, but how one lives in the PRESENT is the determining factor of one's FUTURE.

3. The gospel standard of God's grace teaches how one must live:

- God's Grace teaches one to say "NO!"
 - "No" to "ungodliness" - (v12)
 - to deny ungodliness
 - "ungodliness means impiety, ungodly deeds, desires for evil things
 - a disregard for God, His holiness, His greatness, His majesty
 - "No" to "worldly lusts" - (v12)
 - deny worldly lusts
 - 1 Corinthians 10:6--11; Galatians 5:24; 1 John 2:15-17
- God's Grace teaches one to say "YES!"
 - "NO" to some things but "YES" to some things as well:
 - "Yes" to living "soberly" - (v12)
 - sensibly
 - exercising self-restraint that governs passions and desires, enabeling the believer to be conformed to Christ.
 - practice self-control - 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Timothy 3:2
 - "Yes" to living "righteously" - (v12)
 - just, without prejudice or partiality.
 - shows a life that is patterned after the righteousness of God
 - Romans 1:17; 6:13, 16, 18-19; 12:1-2
 - "Yes" to living "godly" - (v12)
 - piously, godly
 - reverent toward God in one's manner of life.
 - 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Peter 1:6

- Only when one says "YES" to living sober, righteous and godly will he/she be truly living by God's standards.
- The gospel of Grace teaches one to live in three different areas:
 - the world WITHIN one - "soberly"
 - the world AROUND one - "righteously"
 - the world ABOVE one - "Godly"

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, remember the three gospel areas:
 - Remember what has happened in the past - what God has done in bringing grace and salvation to YOU and to all who believe and obey His Son.
 - Remember what God expects of YOU in the present - because YOU are instructed by the gospel in how YOU should be living.
 - Remember what awaits in the future - because YOU have the glorious hope of the Lord's coming back someday.
2. Paul reminds every Christian: ***"...let God be found true, but every man a liar..."*** Romans 3:4
 - God is absolute authority, there is none other.
 - Christian, are YOU allowing God to be in absolute control of your life?