

Titus 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts—παιδεύουσα ἡμᾶς (paideuoussa hēmas, disciplining/training us) depicts grace as παιδαγωγός (paidagōgos, tutor/trainer). Grace isn't passive but actively educative. The curriculum has negative and positive: ἀρνησάμενοι (arnēsamenoi, having denied/renounced) τὴν ἀσέβειαν (tēn asebeian, ungodliness—irreverence toward God) καὶ τὰς κοσμικὰς ἐπιθυμίας (kai tas kosmikas epithymias, and worldly desires—this-age-focused cravings).

We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world—three adverbs: σωφρόνως (sophronōs, sensibly/self-controlled), δικαίως (dikaiōs, righteously/justly), εὐσεβῶς (eusebōs, devoutly/reverently). These govern three relationships: self (sobriety), others (righteousness), God (godliness). ἐν τῷ νῦν αἰῶνι (en tō nyn aiōni, in the present age)—not escapist otherworldliness but embodied holiness now.

Historical Context

Pagan religion separated ritual and ethics; one could worship gods while living immorally. Judaism separated ceremonial cleanness from heart transformation. Christianity united justification and sanctification, declaring grace produces holiness. This was revolutionary: salvation isn't merely external status but internal transformation issuing in visible godliness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How is grace "teaching" you—what ungodliness and worldly desires is the Spirit actively helping you renounce?
2. Are you living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, or have you compartmentalized faith from daily life?
3. Which of the three relationships (self-control, justice toward others, devotion to God) most needs grace's discipline?

Interlinear Text

παιδεύουσα	ἡμᾶς	ἵνα	ἀρνησάμενοι	τὴν	ἀσέβειαν	καὶ
Teaching	us	that	denying	G3588	ungodliness	and
G3811	G2248	G2443	G720		G763	G2532
τὰς	κοσμικὰς	ἐπιθυμίας	σωφρόνως	καὶ	δικαίως	καὶ
G3588	worldly	lusts	soberly	and	righteously	and
	G2886	G1939	G4996	G2532	G1346	G2532
εὐσεβῶς	ζήσωμεν	ἐν	τῷ	νῦν	αἰῶνι	
godly	we should live	in	G3588	this present	world	
G2153	G2198	G1722		G3568	G165	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:27 (Parallel theme): And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Matthew 16:24 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Romans 6:19 (Righteousness): I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Psalms 4:3 (References God): But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

2 Peter 2:9 (Righteousness): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 John 2:6 (Parallel theme): He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

2 Timothy 3:12 (References God): Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Revelation 14:12 (References God): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Luke 1:75 (Righteousness): In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (References God): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.