

Titus 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Who gave himself for us—ὅς ἔδωκεν ἐαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν (hos edōken heauton hyper hēmōn)—ὑπέρ (hyper, for/on behalf of/in place of) indicates substitutionary atonement. Christ's self-giving (ἔδωκεν) was voluntary (John 10:18). **That he might redeem us from all iniquity** (ἴνα λυτρώσηται ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀνομίας, hina lytrōsētai hēmas apo pasēs anomias)—λυτρόω (lytroō, redeem/ransom) pictures purchasing slaves' freedom. ἀνομία (anomia, lawlessness) is comprehensive: πάσης (pasēs, from all).

And purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (καὶ καθαρίσῃ ἐαυτῷ λαὸν περιούσιον, ζηλωτὴν καλῶν ἔργων, kai katharisē heautō laon periousion, zēlōtēn kalōn ergōn)—καθαρίζω (katharizō, cleanse/purify) makes holy. λαὸν περιούσιον (laon periousion, a treasured people) echoes Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 7:6—Israel language applied to the church. ζηλωτήν (zēlōtēn, zealous/eager) for good works—redemption produces works, not vice versa.

Historical Context

This verse demolishes antinomianism: Christ died not merely to forgive but to purify and create a people eager for good works. Against cheap grace, Paul insists on costly discipleship. The church inherits Israel's covenant language (1 Peter 2:9-10), but ethnically redefined around Christ—Jews and Gentiles united in Him (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you understand redemption as both pardon (from iniquity) and power (for good works), or only the former?
2. Are you zealous for good works as evidence of genuine redemption, or complacent and fruitless?
3. How does recognizing the church as God's "treasured people" (replacing ethnic Israel) affect your view of the church's identity and mission?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	ἔδωκεν	ἐαυτῷ	ὑπὲρ	ἡμῶν	ἵνα	λυτρώσηται	ἡμᾶς
Who	gave	himself	for	us	that	he might redeem	us
G3739	G1325	G1438	G5228	G2257	G2443	G3084	G2248
ἀπὸ	πάσης	ἀνομίας	καὶ	καθαρίσῃ	ἐαυτῷ	λαὸν	
from	all	iniquity	and	purify	himself	people	
G575	G3956	G458	G2532	G2511	G1438	G2992	
περιούσιον	ζηλωτὴν	καλῶν	ἔργων				
a peculiar	zealous	of good	works				
G4041	G2207	G2570	G2041				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:14 (Parallel theme): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Ephesians 2:10 (Good): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Peter 1:18 (Redemption): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

Titus 3:8 (Good): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Galatians 3:13 (Redemption): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Ezekiel 36:25 (Parallel theme): Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Galatians 2:20 (Parallel theme): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 1:22 (Parallel theme): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

