

Titus 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Analysis

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared—ἀλλά (alla, but) marks glorious contrast. ὅτε δὲ ἡ χρηστότης καὶ ἡ φιланθρωπία ἐπεφάνη (hote de hē chrēstotēs kai hē philanthrōpia epephanē, when the kindness and philanthropy appeared). χρηστότης (chrēstotēs, kindness/goodness) and φιλανθρωπία (philanthrōpia, love for humanity—literally "man-loving") both describe God's character.

ἐπεφάνη (epephanē, appeared/dawned)—the same verb as 2:11, referring to Christ's incarnation. τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν θεοῦ (tou sōtēros hēmōn theou, of God our Savior)—God's saving nature manifested historically in Christ. While we were enslaved (v. 3), God's kindness appeared—grace's initiative, not human seeking.

Historical Context

The Incarnation revealed God's character. Old Testament saints knew God's mercy (Exodus 34:6-7), but Christ's coming provided fullest revelation (John 1:14, 18; Hebrews 1:1-3). God's "philanthropy" countered pagan gods' capriciousness and philosophical deism's cold deity. Yahweh is the God who comes near.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you view God primarily as kindness and love toward humanity, or has caricature (harsh judge, distant deity) distorted your theology?
2. How does God's initiative in salvation (His kindness "appeared" while we were enslaved) humble human pride and silence boasting?
3. In what ways have you personally experienced God's kindness and love—the epiphany of grace in your life?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε	δὲ	ἡ	χρηστότης	καὶ	ἡ	φιλανθρωπία	ἐπεφάνη
after	But	G3588	that the kindness	and	G3588	love	appeared
G3753	G1161		G5544	G2532		G5363	G2014
τοῦ	σωτῆρος	ἡμῶν	θεοῦ				
G3588	Saviour	our	of God				
	G4990	G2257	G2316				

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:10 (Salvation): For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Hebrews 9:26 (Parallel theme): For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Romans 2:4 (References God): Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

2 Timothy 1:10 (Salvation): But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1 Timothy 2:3 (Salvation): For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1 Timothy 1:1 (Salvation): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Titus 1:3 (Salvation): But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

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