

COMMUNITY GROUP - QUESTIONS ONLY

Fall 2024 - Trained By The Gospel - "Titus 1:1-4"

Monday, Nov. 4 - Sunday, Nov. 11 (Week 9)

In this sermon, Pastor McKinney reflects on the significance of hope and discipline in our walk with Jesus. He shares a personal anecdote from his high school days, illustrating how the hope instilled by his father of a future in college football motivated his training and discipline during a lackluster season. He parallels this experience with the hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, emphasizing that this hope instills a present-day training effect in believers' lives. Pastor Mike highlights that unlike personal ambitions, the hope secured through Christ is not reliant on our efforts but is a gift that prompts gratitude and inspires a life of holiness and godliness, underlining the transformative power of this hope. Throughout the sermon, Pastor McKinney delves into the intro of the book of Titus, where the Apostle Paul instructs young Titus on leading a young church amidst a challenging culture. He discusses the pervasive issues in their cultural context and the radical need for godliness and discipline among believers. As the sermon progresses, he turns the focus and attention to God's eternal promises and sovereign control in both eternity future and eternity past. Finally, he emphasizes the importance of preaching as the means through which God's eternal hope is communicated, urging us to look beyond current anxieties and to find peace and strength in Christ, who reigns over all history and offers forgiveness through his sacrifice. This hope not only reassures us but also compels us to live righteously in a world that increasingly turns away from godliness.

QUESTION #1: The sermon emphasized God's control over eternity past and future. How does this understanding of God's sovereignty affect your view of current events or personal challenges?

QUESTION #2: John Calvin's definition of piety, or godliness/holiness, is as follows: *"I call piety that reverence joined with love of God which the knowledge of his benefits induces. The whole of Christians, the whole life of Christians ought to be a sort of practice of godliness, practice of godliness. Piety is a deep sense of awe at the holy majesty of God. He says that reverence, reverence, awe at the holy majesty of God combined with, joined with love of God. It's a deep sense of awe at the holy majesty of God, but also an equally deep sense of love for God."* How do you personally cultivate a sense of awe and love for God in your daily life? What practices help you grow in godliness?

QUESTION #3: The sermon highlighted the importance of having peace with God. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to find peace? How can the group support you in seeking peace through Christ?

QUESTION #4: In what ways do you find it challenging to live with an eternal perspective?