

LIFE OF THE UNBELIEVER

The Sunday prior to Mother's Day, we studied a lesson entitled, Living the Christian Life, taken from Titus 3:1-2.

You may recall that Paul used five present infinitives to outline seven characteristics of living the Christian life on the Island of Crete.

Renaissance of NT made this statement that connected that lesson to this lesson – *“The reason why Christians should exhibit such exemplary deportment is that, but for the grace of God (vs.5-7) we would still be as we were before He saved us, as described in 3:3.” (Vol.16, pg.40)*

This lesson will study five aspects of living the life of an unbeliever on the Island of Crete.

1. In 3:3, Paul used an *imperfect periphrastic series* to outline seven characteristics of living the life of an unbeliever.

The main verb of the periphrastic is (eimi / imperfect active indicative). Eimi is an absolute status quo verb of existence used to describe the perpetual status of the unbeliever life style.

There is a series of four present participles used to make this an imperfect periphrastic structure.

- Deceived (planao / p.p.ptc nplm)
- Enslaved (douleuo / p.a.ptc nplm)
- Spending our life (diago / p.a.ptc nplm)
- Hating (miseo / p.a.ptc nplm)

This imperfect periphrastic series declares a continuous state of existence or life style of the unbelievers living on the Island of Crete.

2. A special phrase is attached to this imperfect periphrastic to explain the hopeless state of the unbeliever apart from salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ – “For we also once (pote / temporal adverb).” (3:3). This phrase explains the status of unbeliever prior to salvation.

The phrase of 3:3 is contrasted to another phrase in 3:4 – “but (de / adversative conjunction / contrast) when (hote / definite temporal clause / *salvation is a defining moment in a person's life*).” This phrase is added to (“He saved us / sozo / a.a.ind.”) and explains the change of status **after salvation** (3:5). It should be noted that 3:4-7 is one Greek sentence or one complete thought.

3. The seven characteristics of the life of an unbeliever living on the island of Crete are listed as nominative plural masculine (nplm).

- Foolish (anoetos / ignorant) – nplm / predicate adjective
- Disobedient (apeithes) – nplm / predicate adjective
- Deceived (above) – nplm / ptc.
- Enslaved (above) – nplm / ptc.
- Spending (above) – nplm / ptc.
- Hateful (stugetos) – nplm / predicate adjective
- Hating (above) – nplm / ptc.

4. We will divide these seven characteristics of the unbeliever's life into three sections for study.

Cosmos diabolicus thinking (2 Cor.4: 3-4)

Deluded (anoetos / without understanding) – Gal.3: 1-3

Disobedient (apeithes / unpersuadable) – Eph.2: 2; Acts 26:18-19

Deceived (planao) – 2 Tim.3:13; Eph.5:6

Sinful nature (OSN) (1 John 1:8)

Enslaved (douleo / bondage / to be a slave to) to various lusts and pleasures – Gal.4: 3-7; 5:1, 13-16;

1 Pet.1: 14

Diabolical behavior (Col.2: 8; 3:5-10)

History - spending our life (diago / living / passing the time of life) in malice and envy – 1 Tim.2: 2

Hateful (stugetos / odious, detested) - only time used in NT

Hating (miseo / MAS) one another – Gal.5: 15-24

5. The only remedy is to be rescued or saved (sozo) by God's mercy and grace through believing that Jesus died for your sins and was buried and raised on the third day to give you eternal life (3:4-5).

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the holy spirit.”

This is also described in Eph.2: 1-5 (Note – **formerly / 2:1-3** verses **But God saved / 2:4-5**).