

# Second Hand Preacher

*Christmas*

December 25, 2016

**Titus 2:11-14**

I love the smell of fresh laundry. All clean and folded, this act of laundering makes everything clean and new. God has the power to launder us. By the sacrament of reconciliation our morals are examined. We have the power to place our sins at the feet of Jesus of Jesus. Jesus has the ultimate power to wipe away our sins in the glory of forgiveness. This makes us whole so we can now do God's work. This is great preparation for Christmas and all year long.

St. Paul writes to Titus about the grace Jesus Christ gives to all of us. Titus is a close companion of Paul. They did several missionary trips together. At the writing of this letter, it is believed that Titus is now the Bishop of the Island of Crete. Titus has the responsibility for catechizing all the Christians in Crete. I believe Paul writes Titus in order to help him with this task. Paul writes about conversion. He wants people to move from godless ways to building virtue. He wants temperance, justice, and devotion. These are marks of an outstanding Christian. These virtues will lead the Christians to hope. This hope will help to bring about the witness to the glory of God. In this way, the people are delivered to God so they can continue doing good. This is a very short letter that Paul offers to Titus to basically continue the work he is doing.

This short passage is read at the Mass during the night for Christmas. We are celebrating the glory of God coming as a child. The Gospel is Luke's account of the nativity. The first reading from Isaiah is a beautiful declaration of the prophecy of the birth of the Savior. Isaiah is giving the Lord titles like Wonderful Councilor and Prince of Peace. I believe Titus is a reminder of what the birth of Jesus inspires us to be. We are to be better people after we celebrate the birth. Made new by the glory of God we should be motivated to take good actions in the world.