

Life Principle Day Nineteen:
Anything you hold too tightly,
you will lose.

Today's Reading
Titus 2:1-15



You have probably heard stories of little children who held a small animal like a kitten or a baby chick in their hands. Some children have been known to be so protective of the little critters that they actually smothered or crushed them. That is a good illustration of today's life principle. You see, it is not only a danger for children who have little sense for what a small animal can endure. For adults it is possible to hold things too tightly and end up losing them.

The heart of Paul's writings guides us today to the path of salvation as much as it did nearly 2000 years ago as he wrote to Titus. Paul writes, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." That grace appeared in the person of Jesus who went to the cross for you. Meanwhile, that same grace "... teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and

to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age." The pagan world where Titus served lacked self-control. People were deceived. They would do anything for dishonest gain. They were holding onto the wrong things.

How is your self-control? What do you idealize more than God? What are you holding on to tightly? All that the world offers will pass away. Meanwhile, in Christ you have "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:4). In fact, Jesus stated it like this, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mk. 8:36)

Embrace eternal things! Don't try to keep a firm grasp on temporal things like money and possessions or titles and positions. They will perish. Use temporary things as a means of laying "up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Tim. 6:19)

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