

The Grace of God That Brings Salvation: Titus 2:11-14

Introduction:

- 1) While *Amazing Grace* is one of the world's best known hymns, I am convinced that God's grace is largely misunderstood.
- 2) This lesson is not intended to clear up every misconception of grace, but will look at grace in **Titus 2:11-14**.

I. THE GRACE OF GOD.

A. Defined.

1. Grace has been defined as good-will, loving kindness, favor.
2. Grace suggests a gift given to one who had no right to expect such.

B. To All Men.

1. This grace is for all men and we can think of several manifestations of God's favor given to all.
 - a. The rain and other blessings of this world. **Mt. 5:45**
 - b. Life itself. **Acts 17:25**
2. But the grace spoken of here is of far greater importance, for it is the grace that brings salvation.
3. This manifestation of God's goodness is not for one nation, race, ethnic, or economic group, but is for all men. Cf. **Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15**.
4. Important that all recognize God's impartiality and seek to emulate God, but that God's saving grace is for all is not just to say that God is impartial (**Acts 10:34**), but is vital because all have sinned. **Rom. 3:23**

C. Has Appeared.

1. God has always manifested grace toward men (creation, marriage, the ark, exodus, etc.), but "has appeared" points to the singular event of Christ's coming to be the Savior of all mankind. **2:14**
2. While we can repent as commanded (**2:12; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30f**), we can't redeem or purify ourselves.
3. Think about it! No matter how many changes we make and how many good deeds we do, we cannot erase the stain of sin, but God by His grace gave us Jesus.
4. Peter also argues for a changed life because of the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus. **1 Pet. 1:17-19**
5. When you think of grace, the first thing you should think of is the Son of God suffering a brutal death as a sacrifice for your sins.

D. Brings Salvation.

1. Saving grace has appeared to all men, but will all be saved?
2. The death was for all. **Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:6**
3. He does not wish that any would perish. **2 Pet. 3:9**
4. Yet, most will be lost. **Mt. 7:13, 14**
5. Why? If grace is for all, why will only some be saved?
 - a. It is not that some will do enough good deeds to erase their mistakes. **Eph. 2:8, 9**
 - b. Some will heed the Lord's invitation and instruction to receive the washing of regeneration. **Titus 3:3-7; cf. Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16.**
 - c. Take note of the fact that grace is teaching, instructing.
 - 1) A response is required, but it is still a reflection of God's grace, for without this teaching, how would we know what is pleasing to God? **Matt. 7:21**

II. GRACE TEACHES.

A. Repentance, Cessation from Sin.

1. By His grace God will wipe away our guilt, but He demands a change in our lives. **2:12**
 - a. **Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30f; 2 Pet. 3:9**
2. Ungodliness and worldly lusts describe both impiety toward God and sinful activities of the body.
 - a. Many have the idea that one can disregard the need for worship, be irreverent and immoral, yet still be saved by the grace of God.
3. Don't ignore the negative teachings of grace.

B. Sober, Righteous, Godly Living.

1. There is a negative aspect to the teachings of grace, but we must do more than "keep our noses clean."
2. We must seek to live good lives that do the right things and maintain piety toward God.

C. In This Present Age.

1. Herein lies one of the difficulties. Our hope is in the future return of Jesus, but we must live in the here and now.
2. And just as the present age was a wicked one for the Cretans (**1:12**), so it is today.
 - a. Moral standards almost seem to have disappeared.
 - b. Scan the headlines on any news site.

3. But as the Cretans could rise above it, so can we.
 - a. I must buy my clothes in this present age, but I can find ones that reflect sobriety, righteousness, and godliness rather than ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - 1) It's not all short, low, skin tight, etc.
 - b. My language may reflect the terminology and even the slang of the present age, while still manifesting the teachings of grace and avoiding lewdness and impiety.
 - c. I must have a certain amount of money to live in this world and am not forbidden to live comfortably, but shouldn't career decisions, expenditures, etc. reflect a looking past this present age to the glorious appearing of Christ?
4. And that suggests....

D. Keep Your Eye on the Prize. 2:13

1. The reason we forego some of the pleasures of this present age is that it is not the final age.
2. Jesus will return and our hope should be set on that. Cf. **1 Thes. 1:9, 10**.
3. Jesus' first appearance was a reflection of God's grace as He came to bring salvation—will His second coming be another reflection of God's grace or an event to be feared? **Heb. 9:26-28**

III. KEEP THE FOCUS ON JESUS.

1. The demands of **v. 12** seem hard at times and the promise of **v. 13** can seem remote, but in the Lord's Supper we have a weekly reminder that He gave Himself for us.
2. He died to save us from sins so we might become His special people (a word signifying His special possession, old meaning of KJV peculiar), a people zealous for good works.
3. If we can keep before us at all times the realization that He gave Himself for us, it will help us give ourselves to Him. **2 Cor. 5:14, 15**
4. With all He has done for us, don't we owe it to Him to strive ever more diligently to be that special people who belong to Him and are devoted to doing good things?

Conclusion:

- 1) The grace of God is truly a marvelous thing.
- 2) Every single one of us has the opportunity to be saved by the first appearance of Christ and can look forward to His return in glory.
- 3) But we must accept His grace. Will we do that? Will you?