

The Grace of God Has Appeared

S.R. Titus 2:11 – 14

1 – 28 - 2024

Introduction

- A. Intro slides to the place (Crete) and letter and person - Titus
- B. Read John 1:16 – 18 slide
 - 1. God's grace is not cheap. The cost to Him and His Son was great.
 - 2. "Grace and mercy understood is holiness desired."
- C. Read Titus 1:1 – 4, 5 – 9, 10 – 2:14

I. Titus 2 is about Doctrine.

- A. What is your first reaction to the word "doctrine?"
- B. Everyone follows some form of doctrine:
- C. Doctrine is teaching:
- D. There is an "Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior."
- E. Remember "Deeds can never be greater than your thoughts. Thoughts can never be greater than your knowledge."
- F. The starting point for becoming a man or woman of integrity is the call to live a life that "accords (fitting, make attractive) with sound doctrine."

II. Cretans were Desperately in Need of True Doctrine

- A. A Cretan knew (stereotypically) what Cretans were.
 - 1. Quoting Epimenedes: "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts (brutes), lazy gluttons." (1:12)
 - 2. Paul added: "This testimony is true." (1:13)
 - 3. Paul went on to describe the unbelievers as "Detestable and disobedient and worthless of any good deed."
 - a. Such was the lifestyle of the *Cretans*.
- B. "Upsetting" – "overthrow, overturn, destroy."
 - 1. What were the Cretans who believed and obeyed God to do in the face of pervasive unsound teaching?
 - 2. Godless living follows godless teaching.
 - 3. And what are we to do in similar circumstances?
- C. The Holy Spirit through Paul told Titus to "Teach things which are fitting for sound doctrine."

1. That's it? Teach God's people how to live according to truth.
 2. That is God's plan. Truth and light overcoming deception and darkness.
- D. The Cretan churches were in desperate need of true teaching that valued right doctrine.
1. When sound teaching is believed and put into practice the body of Christ is displayed with beauty and purity.
 2. It was imperative that the shepherds (1:9) "He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
- E. *Sound* - Gk. *hugiaino* - - "hygiene"
1. This is healthy, wholesome – life – giving teaching.
- F. Are we safe to be around? Survey information:
1. Teens and young adults asked if they had a friend who was a Christian.
 2. Of the roughly 85 % who said they did only 15% saw any lifestyle differences between the Christian and non – Christian friends.

III. Sound Doctrine Changes Us (It is Transformational)

- A. It changes everything about us – God's grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).
1. Grace counsels, Corrects, and Directs as a GPS toward the beauty of God.
 2. Sound doctrine is the foundation of healthy living. (9 times in Tim. and Titus)
- B. Sound teaching is the complete body of truth that explains and defines our faith.
- C. Sound teaching reminds us that:
1. God is sovereign – The Most High Rules in the Kingdoms of Men
 2. Our conflicts at home, at work and in our families are evidence of what sin has done to us.
 3. God's grace instructs us to deny our selfish and godless thinking and actions.
- D. God has chosen, by His grace and mercy. To Redeem and Reconcile Us.
1. We are driven to the realization of our own utter dependence upon Him.
 2. Christ came to do for us and in us what we could not do for ourselves.
- E. What truth and true teaching does is:
1. Reminds us that our "choices" do not trump eternal truth.
- F. Preaching which exposes sin and highlights God's grace are not mutually exclusive, but in God's plan they fit together.
1. God's grace is not so amazing if our sin is not so destructive.