

The Grace of God Has Appeared

S.R. Titus 2:11 – 14

10 – 6 - 2024

Introduction

A. Intro slides to the place (Crete) and letter and person - Titus

Read John 1:16 – 18 slide "For from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

B. God's grace is seen most clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus.

1. God's grace is **not cheap**. The cost to Him and His Son was great. (Germany of the 1930's called Dietrich Bonhoeffer to describe the religious teaching in Germany "cheap grace.")
2. "Grace and mercy understood is holiness desired."

C. What we have learned this year in Titus: If we are zealous for God's Good Works we will:

1. Proclaim truth consistently – Doctrine is vital (1:1- 4)
2. Leadership is critical (1:5 – 16) Never rise above leaders.
3. Teaching the good news (2:1- 10)
4. We can't claim to be the people of God as a church if we fail in any of these areas:

D. As vital as each of these are they are not the most important.

1. Because we are not the most important – God is.
2. What God does is more important than what we do.

I. What is Grace? (Titus 2:11 – 14)

A. Unmerited favor – seems abstract

1. Grace is not merely a concept it is an ACTION.
2. Grace is something God does, not just feels or thinks.
3. God's grace appeared (epiphany) and did something (2:11).
 - a. It brought something immeasurably valuable.
 - b. God did for us what we could not do for ourselves.
 - c. "For the grace of God appeared, bringing salvation for all people" (v. 11)

- d. It was an actual event in space and time.
 - e. Luke 2:25 – 32 READ Simeon waited for it
- B. When did Grace appear? And How?
- 1. Grace (2:14) is connected to the person and Action of Jesus.
 - a. "gave himself for us"
 - 2. "Grace is the self-giving of our God and Savior Jesus Christ for us."
- C. Grace has a face: Not just a baby face but:
- 1. The scarred and bloody and dying face of Jesus.
 - 2. That face agonized on the cross for your sins and mine.
- D. In a small way we can make grace appear in the lives of others.
- a. We can be a conduit of God's grace in others.
 - b. God's grace can be seen in me as it was in Barnabas.
 - c. Barnabas saw God's grace in other believers. (Acts 11:23)
- E. Characteristics of God's grace: (2:14)
- 1. It is **Powerful** - it redeems (ransoms) us from all lawlessness.
 - a. From bondage to sin to freedom to serve (Eph. 4:1)
 - b. Now a Prisoner of the Lord and Slave of Master Jesus
 - c. Stephen – full of "grace and power" (Acts 6:8)
 - 2. Grace is **Purifying – it cleanses, (Katharsis) washes and renews us.**
 - a. We become His purified people
 - b. Titus 3:4 – 7 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing** of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, "
 - 3. God's grace is **Possessive** - His generosity compels us to become enslaved to pleasing our Benefactor.
 - a. When you encounter the Cross of Christ if you choose to believe then the grace of God powerfully purchases and purifies you so that you are **Owned** by Him.
 - b. That is salvation. "I'm Redeemed."
 - c. Grace is costly. It cost God the life of His own son.
 - d. Grace of God compels us to surrender to a new King.
 - 4. God's grace is not once and done. It is constantly available.

5. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies are new every morning" (Lam. 3:22 – 23).
 - a. We like Timothy are strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:1)
 - b. Grace empowers us to perform Good Work for God (2 Cor. 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8)

II. What does Grace Do?

- A. We have learned that it is action- the self – giving sacrifice of God and Jesus.
- B. It is also Powerful, Purifying and Possessive.
- C. When Grace shows up it "Trains us" (teaching – instructing)

2:12

 1. It tells us plainly and bluntly what needs to change inside of us (1:12, 16). Cretans are lazy liars – profess to know God
 2. Example of a doctor and patient: Which kind of doctrine do you want?
 - a. 50 lbs overweight
 - b. Smoking and drinking and BP off the charts
 - c. Coronary issues run throughout the family
 3. Grace tells us the truth about ourselves:
 - a. It tells us that we need to live godly in the present age
 - b. The rest of Titus tells us how grace looks in our life
- D. Life Coach – how we live Life - Grace (Charis) is teaching me:
 1. Titus 2:12 First and critical step - **Deny self** – not things
 - a. Any thought or action that is against the will of God = **ungodliness** (wicked – CEV)
 - b. Deny every desire that places us under the domain of the god of this world – desire that destroys – "my precious" **"worldly passion"**
 - c. Whatever attitudes or actions that undermine God's supremacy and centrality in your life. (Past two weeks?)
 2. Positive – Second step - waiting for the- **return of Christ.**
 - a. Three qualities that permeate my thinking and behavior
 - (i) **Sober – sensible** – no thought or substance that blurs my thinking will be permitted access in mind or body.
 - (ii) Righteously (**Upright**)– determined to imitate King Jesus and do what is the will of my father in heaven.

(iii) **Godly** – Conduct that reflects favorably upon my Father – Remember who you are.

b. "I will live everyday as if it is my last – knowing by God's grace and love that the Savior waits for me beyond the grave." Chuck Colson

3. Eph. 4:17 – 24 READ

E. Discipline – Heb. 12:7 – 11 Read

1. If life seems hard, maybe unbearable, then You may well be in God's basic training camp of grace.
2. 2 Cor. 12:9 "But he said to me, (Paul) "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
3. "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

– **C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity**

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/13641>

III. Titus 2 is about Doctrine.

- A. What is your first reaction to the word "doctrine?"
- B. Doctrine is **teaching**:
 1. It is the content of what we believe -
 2. The understanding of **reality** that shapes our faith.
 3. All of us are at risk of the eroding influence of fake news or false teaching.
- C. There is an **"Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior."** **Ideas have Consequences.**

D. Remember "Deeds can never be greater than your thoughts. Thoughts can never be greater than your knowledge."

E. 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."

IV. Conclusion: The Grace of God... Instructs Us... Titus 2:11

A. 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.

2. Titus 3:3 – 8 "For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. 4 But when the **kindness** of God our Savior and *His love* for mankind appeared, 5 **He saved us**, not on the 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, 6 whom **He poured out upon us richly** through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have **believed God** will be careful to engage in **good deeds**. These things are good and profitable for men."

B. When God's grace and mercy are actively at work in us, Christ is attractive to a watching neighbor and friend.

C. We are children of the King. What teaching are we Wearing and Whom does it reflect?