

The Blessing of God's Grace — 1/14/24

TEXT- Titus 2:11-15 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

INTRO – This text gives us the two appearing's of Jesus. In verse 11, His first appearing. In verse 13, His second appearing. It gives us the beginning of the Christian life, grace. It gives us the end of the Christian life, glory. This passage also gives to us the three tenses of the Christian life. It gives us our past salvation. It gives us our present sanctification. It also gives us our future glorification.

verse 11 refers to the “grace of God.” That phrase, reveals for us the entire heart of God. Of all the phrases in the Bible I don't suppose there is any phrase that so uncovers and exposes to men the heart of a loving God as the phrase, the grace of God.

There was a man named John Newton who was an English preacher in the 1700's. He preached many sermons, but probably you do not know of any of those sermons. He also wrote several books, but probably if I named the titles of those books, you would not be familiar with them. But John Newton was also a hymn writer and along the way he wrote a hymn which goes like this, “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.”

1. God's grace changes our relationship to God and others.

You are loved and accepted by God through the merit of Jesus... Nothing you ever do will cause him to love you any more or any less. He loves you strictly by His grace given to you through Jesus

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Titus 3:7 *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

2. God's grace changes how we fight against sin

Ephesians 1:18-19 *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power*

Romans 6:14-15 *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

3. God's Grace changes our motivation

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. You are loved and accepted by God through the merit of Jesus... Nothing you ever do will cause him to love you any more or any less. He loves you strictly by His grace given to you through Jesus*

Romans 12:2,

The Christian should strive to obey God in response to “the mercies of God” and with the knowledge that “it is God who works in you.

2 Corinthians 12:9 *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

4. God's grace changes how we approach spiritual growth

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

Spiritual disciplines are provided for our good, not for our bondage. They are privileges to be used, not duties to be performed. Spiritual disciplines—chiefly, reading the Bible and praying—are necessary, though they are given for our benefit rather than our bondage. We must seek God in prayer and study, even when we don't feel like doing so; considering this, how does one refrain from seeing themselves as duty-bound to their daily spiritual disciplines? In short, that God would cultivate in us a heart of joyful worship rather than a heart of begrudging obedience.

1 Peter 5:5-6 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

- To the Modern American church, grace says: “all are welcome. Come as you are. The coffee's on us, sit back and relax...and don't worry about changing. We couldn't ask you to do that. We don't want to offend you.”

Grace is costly!

“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake

a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him."

"Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

The grace of God is the answer to the guilt of man.

Illustrations of grace:

Noah - with the impending flood

Genesis 6:8 *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Lot – A backslider - Delivered from Sodom

Jacob – The manipulator

Mephibosheth – Lame on his feet – Helpless – Wrong Family

The prodigal son – Sinful

The thief on the cross

The Apostle Paul – Persecutor of Christians

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

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