

“godly” emphasizes our deliberate holy devotion to God Himself.

It is a mistake to say that God or the Holy Spirit does all these things for us and we effortlessly coast. Not so—at all.

He puts the reins into our hands, and enables us to control and master our unruly tempers and rebellious indwelling sin.

“denying” is a word that is freighted with vigorous conflict—denying access at the goal line; denying like a deliberate barricade against strong pressure.

“A man cannot be godly unless he casts out the ungodliness that cleaves to his nature; nor can he rule himself unless he resists the evil desires that rise up in his mind and heart.”

At times, many times it is hard work for a man to grow in self-mastery, righteousness, and godliness.

Remember that a Christian's sin is a three way disaster:

1. Toward God our father, it is a treasonous scandal of thanklessness.
2. Toward the rest of mankind it is hypocrisy and also a robbery.
3. Toward self, it is a self-defeating overthrow of our own lives.

Samson really blinded his own eyes, before the Philistines grabbed him and literally gouged out his physical eyes once for all. Samson refused to deny ungodly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age.

Be better than Samson. Be strong in grace, stronger than Samson.

In vs. 11 the word “for” is a *bridge* between Christian conduct and Christian creed (doctrines). This passage is calling for a careful uniting of *doctrine* and *deeds*, of *creed* and *conduct*.

In verse 10, *slaves* are told to “adorn the doctrine” ...in all things. “**adorn**” is the Greek word *kosmosin*. We get our word *cosmetics* from it. It communicates the idea of putting things in order, or decorating a room or building.

The sins that God commands the slaves in Crete to refrain from are the kind of actions that slavery makes practically inevitable, almost necessary—on the part of the slave. “**Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to be well pleasing, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be trusted, so that they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.**” NIV

Only a high motive and a supernatural enabling could counteract *the environment of Crete* in general and *the institution of slavery* in particular.

**Proposition:** Christian brother or sister, it is within your power to adorn the gospel or assault the gospel, to beautify the doctrine of God or blaspheme the doctrine of God. So immerse yourself in grace, plunge yourself into the sure mercies that belong to you, then make these commands that we find all through Titus your very own.

Our Sermon: Palaces of Purity in a Spiritual Pigsty: Titus 2:7-14

## I. Grace can produce very godly lives in the most difficult places.

*Crete was a spiritual pigsty* and Roman *slavery was a hopeless futile way of life*: no unions, no retirement; no rights; you could be traded or sold. **The standards in Titus are stunningly high. Some of the Christians in Crete stunned their neighbors with their excellent character.** The Queen of Sheba was stunned and baffled at the adornment of Jerusalem in Solomon's better years. Beholding Solomon's servants, she was astonished. She had servants too, but

not like Solomon's. **Has your excellent character surprised or stunned anyone?**

### What is Grace?

“Grace” said A.W.Tozer, “is the good pleasure of God that inclines Him to bestow benefits upon the undeserving. It is the self-caused principle to pity the wretched, spare the guilty, welcome the outcast, and bring into favor those who were formerly under the deserved sentence of punishment”

Alexander Maclaren says, “And thus Grace is the shorthand word for all the blessings of God **that have their home** in the heart of God.”

A. The happiest and most useful Christians have clear convictions about the grace of God.

It shouldn't be, but it is, easy to forget--

We are *chosen* by grace, we are *called* by grace, and we are *forgiven* by grace.

We are *justified* by grace, we are *strengthened* by grace, and we have *good hope* through grace.

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our father, who has loved us, and given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you:” II Thess. 2:16.

B. You must resist your remaining deeply ingrained legal tendencies.

Some Christians seem to share the same fears as the godless regarding the return of Christ. “Others again, who on the whole are trying to lead Christian lives, nevertheless...share the feelings of the godless, at the thought of Christ's return—the *certainty of which they are fully persuaded*. His return inspires them with fear, not joy. This is especially the case with those who are kept in the right way much more by the fear of Hell than the love of God, or the hope of Heaven. They believe in God's anger and justice more than His love and mercy. He is to them a master to be obeyed more than a God and

father to be loved and served with gladness.

Consequently their work is half-hearted, and their life like that of a miserable slave, *as must always be the case with those whose chief motive is fear of punishment*.

**I. Grace can produce very godly lives in the most difficult places.**  
**II. We must be repeatedly taught and conditioned to live in grace, under grace, and by grace..**

A. God's grace is amazingly displayed in the first appearing of Christ: vs. 14 “who gave Himself”

1. He voluntarily was made a curse for us on an excruciatingly awful Roman cross.
2. There cannot be anymore extreme or extraordinary display of grace than this.
3. “Unto Himself” You are His own personal purchase--”sought me and bought me”-- “a people of His own possession”. 2:14

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.” JN. 14:23

In that way you will become a palace of purity in a spiritual pigsty: Galatians 1:4.

4. He is also our possession: I John 5:11.

**I. Grace can produce very godly lives in the most difficult places.**  
**II. We must be repeatedly taught and conditioned to live in grace, under grace, and by grace..**  
**III. God's training us is just as much part of God's grace as is the forgiveness of sins: 2:11,12.**

“teaching” vs.12 Whom the love loves He *chastens* Hebrews 12:6 I Corinthians 11:32 we are *chastened* of the Lord—strongly corrected

A. Soberly, Righteously, and Godly—present three general categories “soberly” means **self-discipline/ruling our spirit**. “righteously” means obligations we have to our fellow man: **others**.