

Grace that Conquers

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Transition

- Right now as we all sit here today there is a shield of Grace over our heads.
- You cannot see it but my hope today is that you will feel it.
- You will feel the grace of God that has been extended to you
- This morning you and I have experienced a miracle. A miracle of Grace
- We have escaped the wrath of God.
- His fury has been held back.
- And that is a miracle.
- We have not gotten what we deserved.
- If we would have gotten what we deserved we would have been consumed with the fury of God.
- But that is not what has happened and that is a miracle
- The grace of God is a miracle.

Paul writes to the church of Ephesus these words.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

I. Grace is available worldwide.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

- A. Something beautiful has appeared.
 1. I said earlier that you cannot see it but that may be misleading if that is all we say about God’s grace.

Grace**God's favor and good will**

2. Titus tells us that the grace of God has appeared.
 - a. To cause something to be seen or shown.
 - b. To provide illumination
 - c. To become apparent as in making one's presence known
 - d. To show oneself – make an appearance.
3. In other word in one sense you cannot see this grace but in another sense you can see it.

Illustration

- There it is.
- There he is
- The grace of God has appeared in Christ Jesus.

Key Aspects of the Appearance of Grace

1. **It Is Visible and Historic:** Grace "appeared," suggesting a tangible, historical manifestation of God in the person of Jesus.
2. **It Brings Worldwide Salvation:** This grace offers salvation to all people, regardless of background, making it an inclusive, unmerited gift.
3. **It Is Transformative (Training):** The grace of God doesn't just save; it actively trains individuals to deny ungodliness and worldly passions, teaching them to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives.
4. **It Is Redemptive:** Jesus gave Himself to redeem humanity from all lawlessness and to purify a people for His own possession.
5. **It Promotes Hope:** It leads believers to wait for the "blessed hope"—the future return of Jesus Christ

Grace is available worldwide.**II. Grace is our teacher.****Titus 2:12**

It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age

- A. Grace has appeared in and through Jesus Christ but Titus says “**It**” has appeared.

1. In one sense grace is invisible but in another grace is visible.
2. Is there a way for us to see grace.
3. Is there a way to visualize God's favor and God's good will.
4. Is there a picture or a person that embodies that characteristic that we can look to?

Question

What is the proof of God's grace?

5. The proof of God's grace is that Jesus Christ appeared.
 - a. He was born.
 - b. He was born to a virgin.
 - c. He was born in humility
 - d. He was born for us and to us.
 - e. Isaiah 9:6-7

Romans 5:6,8

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- B. The grace of God teaches us.
 1. Jesus teaches us.
 2. How does he teach us?
 3. Jesus teaches us by how he appeared, how he lived and how he died.
- C. So GRACE is our teacher.
 1. Grace teaches us to say NO to SIN
 - a. Specifically Ungodliness and worldly passions.
 - b. Sin is of this world.
 - c. Sin is not of heaven.
 - d. Sin is of this world.
 2. This world can offer me **NOTHING**.
 - a. Therefore sin ultimately can offer me nothing.

Nothing except

Depression, syphilis, poverty, gangrene of the bowels, destruction, lung cancer, unfulfillment, pre-mature aging, renal failure, shortened life span, anxiety, blindness, fibroses of the liver, ulcers and gonorrhea.

- D. Grace teaches us to say no to sin.
 1. How does that work?

Grace Has Appeared

1. Before Paul talks about renouncing ungodliness, he talks about grace:
2. *“The grace of God has appeared . . . training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.*
3. Once, we went to bed every night with our lover, wrapped in the arms of God’s enemies.
4. But now, the grace of God has appeared in the crucified and risen Christ.
5. He has found our address, beat down the door, and like Hosea with Gomer, carried us out of the brothel.

Grace teaches us to say NO

1. When the grace of God appears, he does not merely lift a calm hand and pronounce forgiveness over our adultery.
2. Grace rolls up its sleeves and starts to fight.
3. Grace hunts down every graceless enemy of our souls.
4. Or, as Titus puts it, grace takes us by the hand and begins to *train* us to say “No” to sin.
5. Everyone in Christ knows something of grace’s “No.”
6. After we embraced God’s gift of justification by grace through faith we have then felt a new principle at work within us, training us to renounce ungodliness.

Illustration

- Last week John 19

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷ and, as another scripture says,

“They will look on the one they have pierced.

Do What David Did

Psalm 27:4-6

⁴One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁶Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Application

- **Gaze upon his beauty.**
- **Visualize the crucified Jesus.**
- **It is a horrible yet beautiful thing.**

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes

There he is Crucified hanging on a cross.
Bleeding, pierced, beaten and mocked

Matthew 27:54

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”
But he did not stop there.

Grace is available worldwide.

Grace is our teacher.

III. Glory will appear.

Titus 2:13-14

¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Revelation imagery of Jesus

Grace is available worldwide.

Grace is our teacher.

Glory will appear.