

The Effects of God's Grace

Text: Titus 2:11-15

Topic: Living in the grace of God

- Grace is freedom from sin not freedom to sin
- Grace is our teacher
- 3 time zones of grace- past, present, future!

Introduction:

- Quite often we can observe that God's grace gets polluted from two sides. On one side, the concept of God's grace runs counter to the way the world works so it becomes difficult for us to grasp and get used to it.
- God's grace also gets distorted on another side which mistakes the grace of God for licentiousness, or sloppy living. Jude 4 "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..."
- The classic definition of grace is: The unmerited favor of God. The free favor and good will of God
- Another aspect of grace is: divine enablement. Context: Titus teaching proper conduct in the home! Where we sometimes need grace the most! It takes grace...home, church, impact community

I. **GOD'S GRACE BRINGS SALVATION- V. 11**

- a. Appeared- When Paul writes, "For the grace of God has appeared," he is referring to the embodiment of grace in the person of Jesus Christ, who was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). It is not that God's grace is missing from the Old Testament. No one was saved in the Old Testament apart from God's grace. But as John 1:17 states the contrast, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (fulfilled/realized)

- i. Grace brings salvation. You don't go out and "get" salvation; it comes to you and you have the opportunity to receive it.
 - ii. "At Calvary"- Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary!
- b. Why we need Grace-Romans 8:3-4 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- c. So, we could never bridge the gap and be good enough to earn heaven!
- d. Jesus alone met the holy demands of God's justice, so that we can be saved by grace!
- e. We must realize that we are bankrupt, and need God to step in!
- f. You will never access God's grace until you realize you desperately need it!
- g. All men-
 - i. Context: Paul is reminding Titus that his ministry was to the elderly, the young, man and woman, the master, and the servant.
 - ii. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace- sufficient grace
 - iii. Does not mean universalism-
 - 1. It is revealed and *offered* to man
 - 2. Before you can appreciate God's grace, you need to know that you are justly under His wrath and condemnation.

II. GRACE TEACHES DENYING-V. 12

"Grace is not for speculation only, but for practice and right ordering of life; for it teaches us..."

- a. Teach- Grace trains, disciplines, and instructs us- parent-child (positive and negative reinforcement)
- b. Gives us an obligation- Romans 6:12-15** ¹⁵ "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid"
- c. What to avoid/deny/renounce/have no more to do with
 - i. The reality of our faith can be demonstrated by what we say no to, by what we are willing to deny.

- ii. iii. "The most difficult part of the training of young men is not to put the right thing into them, but to get the wrong thing out of them." (Spurgeon)
(unteach/unlearn sinful habits, etc.)
 - iii. Ephesians 4:22-24- "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
- d. Put away **ungodliness**- not just the openly immoral man, but also the outwardly nice man who lives in unbelief, neglect or disregard of the divine Being, not loving, nor fearing, nor trusting in him, nor obeying him as we should, neglecting his ordinances, slighting his worship, profaning his name or day. Thus we should deny ungodliness- say no to that kind of life!
- e. Worldly lusts- put to death the flesh- Galatians 5 "Those that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
 - i. The desire of wealth, pleasure, honor, sensual indulgence. It refers to such passions as the people of this world are prone to
 - ii. Those of us who have tasted of God's infinite grace have no desire to settle for these finite counterfeits- I John 2:15-16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
 - iii. Grace/liberty does not give us freedom to sin, but gives us freedom from sin

III. GRACE AFFECTS OUR LIVING- V. 12 "WE SHOULD LIVE"

Thus grace first unteaches that which is evil, to abandon sin; and then to make conscience of that which is good

- a. Live soberly- moderation, temperate
- b. Righteously- live up to our position in Christ. Do right at all times- even when it's not convenient!
- c. Godly- paying him internal and external worship and homage,-loving, fearing, and trusting in him, depending on him, and devoting ourselves to him, observing all those

religious duties and ordinances that he has appointed,-praying to him, praising him, and meditating on his word and works.

- d. Grace means we don't have to live right, we get to!
- e. ****Grace living=Godly living****
 - i. Faith and dependence access God's grace
 - ii. Just ask! Ye have not because ye ask not
- f. Grace teaches us how to believe, and how to live!
- g. Romans 5:20- God's grace is enough for anybody and any situation!

Conclusion:

- Living the Christian life isn't hard- it's impossible! We desperately need God's grace to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves!
- Are you living in the grace of God? Have you received salvation and power for godly living?
Access God's grace today!