

The Grace of God

Titus 2:11-14

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Introduction:

A. Many times, the church is accused of not believing in the grace of God. One of the reasons usually is because we teach (and rightly so) that there are things that we must do in order to obtain heaven; others will say that we do not believe in the grace of God. However, we also understand that no amount of works can save a man; we are saved by the grace of God. But, we must be obedient to Him.

B. Notice the definition of “grace:” Grace is “unmerited favor.” Yet grace is not merely unmerited favor; it is favor bestowed on sinners who deserve wrath. Showing kindness to a stranger is “unmerited favor”; doing good to one's enemies is more the spirit of grace (Lk 6:27-36).

Luke 6:27-36- But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

I. God Has Always Been Gracious To His People

A. The grace of God was seen by Israel as they wandered in the wilderness - Exo. 34:6-7; Num. 6:24-26

Exodus 34:6-7 - Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Numbers 6:24-26 - The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

B. The grace of God was seen by Israel as they were taken as captives.

1. Before the captivity, God was gracious to His people.

a. The last thing that God wanted to do was to send His people into a severe captivity - 2 Kgs. 13:22-23

2 Kings 13:22-23 - Now Hazeel king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence until now.

2. God was even gracious to Israel while they were captives.
 - a. In Nehemiah, the Levites, while confessing and repenting of the sins of Israel, acknowledge the grace of God - Neh. 9:17, 31

Nehemiah 9:17 - "They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:31 - "Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, For You are a gracious and compassionate God.

- b. Other prophets also point out the graciousness of God - Joel 2:13

Joel 2:13 - And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

3. The point is God has always been a God of grace.

- C. The Psalmist spoke on numerous occasions about the grace of God - Psa. 86:15; 103:8; 111:4; 116:5; 145:8

Psalms 86:15 - But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Psalms 103:8 - The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Psalms 111:4 - He has made His wonders to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Psalms 116:5 - Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.

Psalms 145:8 - The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

- D. God always looked for opportunities to show His grace to His people.
 1. Many times people picture the God of the Old Testament as a destroyer.
 2. Certainly, to those who are disobedient, God is a God of wrath.
 3. However, throughout the entire Old Testament and New Testament, God was always looking to show His grace to His creation.

II. *Today, God Shows Great Grace Towards Us*

- A. It is the grace of God that brings salvation (2:11)

1. It is only by the grace of God that we can be saved - Acts 15:11; Eph. 2:8

Acts 15:11 - "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

2. Remember the definition of grace.
 - a. Grace is “unmerited (or undeserved) favor.”
 - b. We cannot **earn** salvation, and God does not **owe** us a home in heaven.
 - c. It is only through the grace of God that we can have salvation.

B. The grace of God that brings salvation comes through Christ (2:13-14).

Titus 2:13-14 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1. The grace of God was made known to us through the death of Christ (2:14).
 - a. Christ gave of Himself on the cross so that He could redeem (buy back) us.
 - b. Jesus also gave of Himself on the cross so that He could purify us.
2. Because of the grace of God, we look for the great appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (2:13).
 - a. His return is described as “the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory.”
 - b. It is when He returns that we will be able to have this great home in heaven for eternity.

C. The grace of God that brings salvation is available to all men (2:11).

1. Christ died for all - Heb. 2:9

Hebrews 2:9 - But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

2. When it comes to salvation, God does not show favoritism or partiality.

III. *The Grace Of God Does Not Remove Our Responsibility Of Faithful Living* (2:12).

A. Because of the grace of God, we are to live our life sensibly, righteously and godly

1. We must deny “ungodliness and worldly desires.”
 - a. There is a wrong way to live.
 - b. The grace of God teaches us that we should not live this way
2. Paul sums up the grace of God and our responsibility towards Him - Eph. 2:4-10

Ephesians 2:4-10 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- a. Because of the grace of God, we must be faithful to Him

B. Even though God is extremely gracious towards us, we must continue to be faithful to Him.

1. Remember the example of Noah.
 - a. Gen. 6:8 is the first mention of grace in the Bible (“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD”).
 - b. However, for Noah to be saved, he still had to build the ark.
2. Remember Paul’s question in Rom. 6:1?

Romans 6:1 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

- a. Paul is asking a rhetorical question to get his readers to understand that they must live differently.
- b. Notice the answer - Rom. 6:2-7

Romans 6:2-7 - May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

3. Even with God's tremendous grace, we must be faithful to Him.

Conclusion:

- A. The difference between the grace of God and the wrath of God is our obedience.
- B. God wants to show us His grace. However, if we are not faithful to Him, we will see His wrath.