

## The Grace of God; Titus 2:11-15

- I. Unmerited Favor
  - a. Grace – Unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification, approval, favor. <sup>1</sup>
  - b. Titus 2:11 (ESV); For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
  - c. I would remind you that in many cases throughout the New Testament this Grace is equivalent to Jesus just as the Word is equivalent to Jesus (John 1:1)
  - d. Ephesians 2:5–8 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
  - e. God’s unmerited divine assistance is in the form of His Son, Jesus, the Messiah
  - f. And Jesus’ purpose – to be the living sacrifice for our sins – teaches us several things
- II. Living
  - a. Titus 2:12 (ESV); training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,
  - b. Renounce – refuse to pay any attention to, disregard (BDAG)
    - i. Ungodliness – a lack of reverence for God and His church (BDAG)
      - 1. We must give God Honor and Glory – we must worship Him as the author of life and the redeemer of mankind
      - 2. We must show honor to the church (the people)
      - 3. Romans 12:10 (ESV); Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
    - ii. Worldly passions – a great desire for something, longing, craving (BDAG)
      - 1. In this case, the things of this world – this is a passion, a longing, a craving for anything in this world
      - 2. Jesus uses this very same word but as a craving for the things of God
      - 3. Luke 22:15 (ESV); And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
      - 4. We must disregard any kind of excitement or desire for the things of this world and exchange them for a passion, excitement, a craving for the things of God!
    - iii. Live self-controlled – being prudent (*marked by wisdom or judiciousness*), moderate
      - 1. Having good judgment – not according to the world, but according to God
      - 2. We live in a world marked by “I” – I want, I need, I desire
      - 3. We look out for ‘number 1’ – ourselves

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

4. God's wisdom says different – love God, love your neighbor, all the law and prophets hinge on those two commandments
  5. These two commandments span the dispensations – the patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian
  6. We must have good judgment, marked by God's wisdom and righteousness
- c. We must live a life pleasing to God
  - d. Colossians 1:10 (NIV); so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,
- III. Waiting
- a. Titus 2:13 (ESV); waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
  - b. To look forward to (BDAG)
  - c. I think we are all looking forward to the return of Jesus – meeting him in the air and being carried off to the mansion (room) he has been preparing for us since he ascended to the Father
  - d. We cannot get in a hurry
  - e. Abram and Sarai
    - i. "I will make of you a great nation" Genesis 12:3
    - ii. "To your offspring I will give this land" Genesis 12:7
    - iii. "I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth" Genesis 13:16
    - iv. Genesis 15:5–6 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
    - v. Somewhere between these promises from God and Genesis 16 Sarai has had enough of waiting
    - vi. She gives Abram her Egyptian servant, Hagar, that she may have children by her. Genesis 16:1-2
    - vii. That was not the promise that God gave Abram
  - f. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV); Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- IV. Working
- a. Titus 2:14 (ESV); who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
  - b. We have a purpose, as Christians, not only to spread the Gospel but also to work in the Kingdom
    - i. God has prepared things for us to do – and he has even said that it is our purpose (Ephesians 2:10)
    - ii. God says that these good works that we do will lead others to him (Matthew 5:16)
    - iii. And that they should not be done out of obligation, but out of excitement, desire, passion, and love for God and His saving love for us

- c. We are a working congregation – we always have something going on
- d. There are many opportunities for you to get involved – take a look at our calendar and you can see what we have happening every month
- e. Aside from that, we are always looking for those who can teach classes from children’s worship all the way up to the adult class

V. God’s Grace has Appeared

- a. In the form of His Son, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ
- b. He teaches how live in the Kingdom by renouncing ungodliness
- c. He shows us how to be steadfast and immovable, waiting for His coming
- d. He shows us how to live a life full of good works, glorifying Him and His Father, showing others the Kingdom of God