

## The Grace of God; Titus 2:11-14

### I. Grace

- a. There are many different definitions of grace.
  - i. Unmerited favor.
  - ii. God's riches at Christ's expense.
  - iii. Favor bestowed when wrath was owed.
  - iv. "Unmerited favor at Christ's expense when wrath was owed." Mike Vestal
- b. The Greek-English lexicon struggles to define this word.
  - i. A winning quality or attractiveness that invites a favorable reaction, *graciousness, attractiveness, charm, winsomeness* <sup>1</sup>
  - ii. A beneficent disposition toward someone, *favor, grace, gracious care/help, goodwill* <sup>2</sup>
  - iii. Concerning Titus 2:11, the BDAG says the "beneficent intention of God and of Christ who give (undeserved) gifts to people."
  - iv. Practical application of goodwill, (*a sign of*) *favor, gracious deed/gift, benefaction* <sup>3</sup>
  - v. The Greek word was used as a political favor when the chief priests asked Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem.
  - vi. Acts 25:3 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> asking as a **favor** against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.
  - vii. There are two more definitions for a total of five.
  - viii. Mike's definition is better than any of these.
- c. To truly know our Savior and King, we must understand grace and how it affects us.

### II. Appeared

- a. We might have this vision of grace where we see God with a big pot in His arms with a ladle, and He is dipping the ladle in and splashing His grace on people as He sees fit.
- b. That vision does not fit God's definition.
  - i. Titus 2:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.
  - ii. Grace has appeared on this earth, bringing salvation to all.
  - iii. That can only be one person (not a thing).
  - iv. Jesus appeared bringing salvation; it is not an "it" but a "who." It is not a thing, but a person, Jesus, the Messiah!
  - v. That He appeared is (without considering salvation) something most spectacular and full of grace (Unmerited favor at Christ's expense when wrath was owed).
- c. We have seen His glory.

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1079.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1079.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 1079.

- i. John 1:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- ii. The Old Testament consistently describes God as slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- iii. This love (and compassion) drove Him to manifest Himself in the form of His Son and live as a human (completely) among the people He created.
- iv. Whatever emotions, feelings, and temptations you have had, Jesus has also experienced them.
  - 1. Jesus was mad at the people in the temple selling animals and exchanging currency.
  - 2. Jesus was so sad that He wept at the sorrow of His friends after the death of Lazarus.
  - 3. Jesus loved the young ruler who refused to sell all he had and follow Him.
  - 4. Yet, Jesus did all these things without falling into temptation or sin.
  - 5. Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- d. The Grace of God (Jesus) appeared!

### III. Salvation

- a. He appeared with a purpose.
  - i. There was only one reason He became flesh and dwelt with us.
  - ii. Galatians 3:24–26 (ESV) <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
  - iii. Jesus became flesh so we might become Spirit (sons of God).
  - iv. Our salvation is why he became flesh and experienced all the emotions and all the temptation.
  - v. And He did this because of His grace!
  - vi. There is nothing we could have ever done, and nothing we will ever do that makes us deserve salvation, but he has given it to us. That is grace!
- b. We were rebels.
  - i. We were sinners, lost in our selfish desires, enemies of God.
  - ii. Who would give up their life for an enemy?
  - iii. We find it hard to give up our time for a friend!
  - iv. Romans 5:6–8 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- c. Jesus is the answer to our rebellion.
  - i. 1 John 4:9–10 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is

love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

ii. Propitiation is a fancy word for sacrifice.

1. Jesus' death was the atonement for our sins.
2. He is the sin-offering.
3. The day of the cross (almost 2000 years ago) was our day of atonement when His blood cleansed us of our sins.
4. His death gave us life.

d. It is hard for me not to love a God who would provide such a sacrifice for me.

IV. The Grace of God

- a. Jesus is the Grace of God.
- b. He is the unmerited favor at Christ's expense when wrath was owed.
- c. We can see His love for us clearly.