

Titus 2:11-14

- ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,
and godly in the present age,
¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus
Christ,
¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for
Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

"What Grace Teaches Us" **Titus 2:11-14**

INTRO:

Titus is a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus, a colleague and assistant in the ministry. Earlier in **Titus 2**, Paul gave a charge to several groups of people. First, he addressed the older men and older women then the younger women and then the young men. Then he gave instructions for the Christian slaves.

Those who heard these words may have bristled at the statements and wondered why Paul stuck his nose into their "private affairs." The reason for all this very practical living advice was important. Our text opens with the word "**for**." This is the reason all of this is vital. It is because of a doctrinal reality. We will explore this under three heads.

- I. GRACE APPEARED (v. 11, 14)***
- II. GRACE TEACHES (v. 12)***
- III. GRACE ANTICIPATES (v. 13)***

I. GRACE APPEARED (v. 11, 14)

"For the grace of God that brings salvation to all men has appeared." Titus 2:11

"Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Titus 2:14

A. ***"The grace of God appeared."*** We live the way we should live because the grace of God appeared. What does this mean?

B. The grace of God which brings salvation appeared when the Son of God became incarnate in human flesh. We read of it in **John 1:14**,

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

He was the embodiment of the grace of God. The culmination of His work was His death on the cross of Calvary for our sin and His resurrection from the dead.

C. The rest of this verse can cause us some consternation. The New King James translates it: ***“For the grace of God that brings salvation to all men has appeared.”*** The New American Standard translates it a little differently. ***“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”***

1. We must be careful that we do not make this verse say something the rest of the Scriptures do not say. The salvation that grace brought did not save everyone. It saves all kinds of people. Notice the kinds Paul mentioned in the verses leading to this reason. He brought salvation from sin to men, young men, older women and younger women, even to slaves.

2. The ultimate goal of this appearing was and is **verse 14**.

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

The Lord came to save and to purify a people to bear HIS NAME.

II. GRACE TEACHES (v. 12)

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” Titus 2:12

A. Grace appeared and grace brought salvation. What else did this grace do? It taught them and teaches us.

1. Perhaps to begin we need to remind us what grace has done. It took us who were dead in our trespasses and sin, totally without ability to save ourselves, and it saved us from our sins.

2. If we understand it properly, it also provided for our sanctification after our salvation. From this we should understand there are some things that should change in our lives.

B. First, grace teaches us that we need to reject ***“ungodliness and worldly lust”*** in our lives. The word ***“denying”*** means to ***“say no.”*** We are “to say no” to ungodliness and worldly lust.

1. **Ungodliness** means ***“wickedness, impiety.”*** This is all that does not please God.

We’ve run into this word before in **Romans**. Remember **Romans 1:18-19?**

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown them.”

When the grace that saved us moved into our lives, we had our “want tos” changed.

Where one time all we wanted to do was please ourselves, now we want to please the God who saved us.

2. We also say no to **“worldly lust.”** The word means desire. This is finding an unholy way of fulfilling our desires.

C. Second, grace not only teaches us to avoid sin, it motivates us to positive acts of righteousness. There are three qualities on Paul's short list here.

1. The first quality is soberness of mind. This is the same word we meet in **2 Timothy 1:7,**

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

A sober mind is a mind that is self-controlled and prudent. It seeks the wisdom that is from above. Contrary to what you might have heard, the God pleasing life is not one in which the mind is put in neutral and the heart rules the day. It is a life where the mind is disciplined and focused on the God who saved us and is concerned to be thinking His thoughts!

2. After soberly comes righteously. This is just what it sounds like. It means to live properly, uprightly, justly. It is simply to do right. Not that we can do that perfectly in this life, but the goal of our life should be to be holy as our Father in heaven is holy not only in a negative way, but in a positive way.

3. Finally, as almost a summary statement at the end of this list, Paul added, grace teaches us to live godly. This word is the opposite of the word **“ungodly.”** We need to abound in all that pleases God!

III. GRACE ANTICIPATES (v. 13)

“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

A. Grace appeared, grace brought, and grace taught. Finally, grace waits. To look forward to **“the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”** Our great motivation is our love for the Lord Jesus who saved us. Yet, our greatest motivation is to live in anticipation of the glorious appearing of **“our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”**

B. We live in a day in which the present blessings of our walking in the light with Christ is emphasized. Paul never lost sight of the end of the way, when in fullness of time Christ will once more burst again into time.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

C. In 1 John 2:28-3:3, the Apostle John put it in different words.

“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you

know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

May God help us live in the way that the grace of God teaches us to live.

Do we live the way we live because we know by experience that grace appeared and brought salvation in our Lord Jesus? Second, have we learned what grace taught us about how we should live? Finally, are we waiting like grace taught us? *“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

Hymn #237 We Shall Behold Him