

Titus 2:11-14 Sermon

Concluded our series on the 10 commandments. Beginning we had an intro sermon – John 15. All about loving Jesus. John 15:9 **As the Father has loved Me I have loved you, abide in My love. If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may remain in you, and your joy may be full.**

Central. Children, times when you disobey your mom and dad, and you feel bad don't you. You are convinced they are just mad at you. Can't always be sure they love you! Abide in the love of Jesus by obeying His commands. Goal of obedience was to know God's love, to know Christ, and to have joy in Him.

End of the series on the law, and we want to do something similar. Obedience is about knowing God's love – but its more. It's the whole goal of God's grace.

Goal of grace is the glory of God – true! But that glory comes as His grace transforms. Makes us holy. It is to God's glory to make a pure people, and the goal of the gospel is not merely to give you forgiveness of sins, and wash you whiter than snow – the goal of the grace of God is to change us, to shape us – that we might know God's love and we might be like Christ.

The Goal of Grace is to Make You Holy

- 1. What is this grace?**
- 2. What it teaches today**
- 3. What it teaches about tomorrow**
- 4. What it teaches about the past**

1. What is this grace?

Grace – what is it? Undeserved kindness. Talk about grace today, very specific grace – the grace of God. God showing undeserved kindness to us.

Talking about a powerful grace. Not just a little kindness. The **grace of God that brings salvation**.

Talking about a revealed grace. **The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared**. Cross/resurrection/Spirit. Others: could refer to the gospel coming to Crete – preaching of the Gospel. When it appeared *to you*.

Talking about a BROAD grace – **the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men**. Free offer of the Gospel, breadth of the Gospel. God's intent is never just for one local people and never just for one kind of people. Like what one writer had to say on this, "The gospel is for Mary the virgin, and for Mary the prostitute. The leper, the demon possessed, the cheat, the self-righteous Pharisee, the grieving mother, the pleading servant, the prodigal son and the son in the father's house" – **the grace of God that brings salvation appears to all**.

Verse 11 begins with a **FOR**. All that came before was teaching on how we should live. How young women and young men should live. How older men and women should live. How husbands and wives should live, how masters and slaves should live. Verse 11 – **FOR BECAUSE** – why should you live honestly, with integrity? Because the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared. It has appeared to you.

IF its not moving you from ungodliness to holiness, from love of self and selfishness to love of God and sacrificial service then something is wrong. You are quenching the Holy Spirit. You are a hearer but not a doer – you are under a greater condemnation. Because grace has appeared, but it has had no fruit.

Gospel. This is what the Gospel does.

Story from the life of Gladys Aylward – missionary to China who became well respected by the Mandarin – the governor of an area. She knew God called Christians to visit those who were in prison, so she asked the Mandarin permission to go into a men's prison with the Gospel. He tried to dissuade her, because it was a place of constant riots, and was very dangerous. She went, and over time, the prison was transformed. The riots stopped, the murders stopped, not everyone became a Christian but many did and the entire prison was transformed.

This is what the Gospel does. Simeon “Wherever Christianity has been professed the standard of morality has been raised. This is the very CHARACTER of the Gospel.”

Doctrine matters, but if you think you can have doctrine without lifestyle you are out to lunch.

This is what we are talking about today. All the ideas of God’s commands, all the ideas of living a holy life – it is all there because this is what the GOSPEL does. If the work of Christ isn’t changing you, making you more holy, you’ve missed the point! It is there to grow us in the image and likeness of Jesus.

How? Teaches.

2. What it teaches in the present

Immediate effect. When the Gospel appears, it teaches. Teaches us in “2 directions.” First, to **deny ungodliness and worldly lusts**.

Do you know what it is to deny something? When I was younger we played a lot of street hockey in our neighbourhood. Like usual, we had a guy who played net pretty well – best on the street. You’d get a breakaway, be coming up on the net, shoot – out goes the glove, down goes the blocker – shot is saved. Kids would yell – DENIED! Denied!

Deny – turn it down – reject it.

Grace teaches us to DENY – REJECT **ungodliness and worldly lust**. That which goes against God. A lifestyle that acts as if God does not exist. Worldly lust – a hunger, a constant desire for things in this world as if this world were all there is. Need more money, need more clothes, more experience, more popularity, more followers, more house, more satisfaction, more more more. Worldly lust.

In our entertainment – deny ungodliness. In our life goals – deny worldly lust.

We live in a narcissistic society. Do you know what a narcissist is? The word comes from Greek mythology where there was the son of a Greek river god named Narcissus. He was an exceptionally good looking guy and he loved his own appearance and strength. All about himself, and so he would spend much of his time looking at his own reflection in the water. Time came, and a water nymph fell in love with him. But the story ends tragically, the nymph pined away because he would never look away from himself to see the water nymph, and Narcissus pined away because every time he tried to reach out and touch his own reflection in the water he would disturb the water and his reflection would disappear.

Narcissist is someone who loves themselves and lives for self. That's our society. Gospel teaches something contrary. **DENIED.** Denied. Ungodliness, worldliness – pursuit of things in this life. NO MORE.

Instead **live soberly – self controlled – righteously (or upright) and godly in the present age.**

Soberly – self Controlled. Rather than pursuing gratification here, we control ourselves and wait for a glory that is to come. First call – how we control ourselves, our own thoughts, our own actions.

Righteously – uprightly – can mean righteous behaviour before God, but in this list probably refers to living an upright life – being upstanding in your dealings with others. Self controlled – about how you control your own anger, lust, desire, dreams, thoughts. Upright – how you behave with others. Kind, honest, etc.

Godly – how you behave toward God. Reverent. Respectful. You come to church and you remember this isn't a holiday. You come to worship the holy God. You quiet your heart to do so. When you pray you quiet your heart to pray – you are speaking to the sovereign Lord.

Point – GRACE TEACHES US THIS. When you see Jesus, you are taught what it means to deny sin. When you see Jesus you are taught what it means to be sober, and righteous, and godly.

The idea of studying God's law is not to create self-righteousness, but to learn what grace teaches. And if we aren't growing in holiness, we need

to ask why not. Has grace appeared to us? Are we choking out the teaching of Jesus? Quenching the Spirit of God?

3. Future teaching

We live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

ESV – Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grace appeared in verse 11, we wait for the glory of God to appear at the second coming. **God and Saviour Jesus Christ** – clear sign of Christ's divinity.