

## **God's Grace a Teacher (Titus 2:11—3:2)**

### **Introduction**

Statements like these help us tie things together. They help us see how one thing relates to another: Christ's death to our life, God's grace to our works, and so on. These things do tie together and must tie together. But it seems to me that many people who don't know the Lord simply cannot see how God's grace teaches us to do good works.

If I'm certain that I possess the title deed, I'll do all I can to make my property what it ought to be, all that it can be. And it's exactly the same in the Christian life.

### **1. Grace teaches godliness (v. 12)**

The crocodile illustration: Could the boy treat his father so callously after such a display, and go back to the crocodiles? In the story, any boy would pour contempt on his great foolishness and abhor himself for his evil wishes which cost his father his life to save him.

In the same way, beloved, Jesus Christ has been set before us as crucified. He rescued us from our ungodliness and worldly lusts by the sacrifice of himself to save us. If we have seen the grace of God come to us at such an awful cost, if we have set before us Jesus Christ and him crucified, that sight teaches "us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Tit 2:12).

### **2. Grace teaches hope (v. 13)**

"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" (1Jo 3:2-3, compare Heb 9:28).

### **3. Grace teaches good works (v. 14)**

M'Cheyne: Christ is most to be loved for sanctification, for this is the true end and goal of Christ's redeeming work.

### **4. Grace teaches submission to authority (3:1-2)**

And in general, it's not easy to be submissive to people whose view of life and of morals you are now convinced is profoundly evil. But because God has been so gracious toward us, because he has so humbled himself for our salvation, Christians likewise are to be gracious and humble toward others. God's grace therefore teaches this humble submission.

### **Conclusion:**

Mutiny on the *Bounty*, an illustration of the power of God's grace.