



**Grace Life Church**  
*of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

## **Titus 2:11-15**

# **The Grace of God-Saving and Sanctifying**

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## **Titus 2:11-15**

*11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 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. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*

# *11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people*

- Grace-God's unmerited favor (to those deserving His just wrath)
- The good news of the gospel is that God is gracious:
  - *For the grace of God has appeared*: visible, known (Jesus Christ)
  - The message of gospel is what differentiates Biblical Christianity from all other faith (Message of grace)
  - The grace Paul speaks of in our salvation is a sufficient grace: *the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation*
  - How did Jesus Christ bring us salvation? *V14 gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness*
  - Our salvation is to be a praise to His glorious grace (Eph 1)
  - In salvation, Jesus Christ deals with the penalty of sin (atonement) and the power of sin (redemption)

***(Grace) training us to renounce ungodliness & worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age***

- What is Paul talking about in v12? Sanctification
  - If you have experienced the saving grace of v11, you have been born again by God's grace. This birth from above brings spiritual life, a new heart, new desires and a new way of life. (Ezk 36:22-31)
  - This new way of life (described in v12) is the evidence you have been saved, it is NOT the means of your salvation.
- The grace of God that brought salvation v11, is what trains/teaches us in our sanctification v12
  - In other words, grace (when rightly taught and understood) produces holiness
  - Most of us do not associate grace with holiness in sanctification
  - In fact, for many of us, there is a fear that if we mention grace too much it will steer people away from holiness
  - It is true, there can be a wrong view of grace that leads people away from personal holiness (Rom 6) but according to our text, grace (rightly understood) trains us to renounce ungodliness & worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives

*(Grace) training us to renounce ungodliness & worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age*

What is training you today in sanctification?

- I typically see two things training/driving people in sanctification (other than grace) Pride (Self-Righteousness) or Guilt
- And both of them are contrary to grace training/teaching/instructing

**Pride (Self-Righteousness):** This person has forgotten about grace and they find their acceptance before God based on their performance, not grace. (Grace got them in the door and now it's up to them)

- They typically have a high view of themselves, a low view of God's grace
- When they struggle, they look to themselves to earn their way back to God through greater discipline and more stringent self-abasement (often going extra Biblical)
- The fruit they typically bear (but are often blind to in their life) is self-righteousness, legalism, impatience with others, criticalness towards others
- They tend to look down on other Christians & lack grace towards them, because they have forgotten that it is grace that gives them a right standing with God

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**Guilt:** The ones being trained by guilt are those who see their sins, see their struggles in their spiritual disciplines, and they struggle to believe God would accept them because of their short-comings (sin).

- The guilt driven ones also find their ultimate acceptance based on their performance rather than on grace.
- They have a high view of their sin and a low view of God's grace
- When they sin, guilt is there to catch because guilt is teaching them

**Let's compare these two with grace trained sanctification:**

- Training: to train a child (teaching, instruction, discipline)
- Grace driven sanctification daily begins with the understanding that you are accepted and right with God because of the finished work of Jesus Christ (and this is the basis on which everything else is built upon)
- Grace teaches us to look at ourselves to see what needs to be renounced, but at the same time it never allows us to take our eyes off of Christ

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- Grace doesn't guilt us into obedience by just giving us lists of do's and don'ts, but grace magnifies Christ as the greater treasure over sin and temptation by reminding us of who He is and what He's accomplished.
- Grace reminds me of the future (v13) and compares the current temptations of the world to the eternal treasures in Jesus Christ
- When we fall short and sin, grace is there to catch us, and lead us to confession, because a right understanding of grace means I don't have to minimize my sin or my struggles
- Grace empowers us to continue by compelling us by the love of Christ
- Grace reminds me of Christ's accomplishments: "I am no longer a slave to sin", "I am a child of God the Father, and He is for me.", "He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can handle."
- When we are growing in godliness, grace says along with Paul "yet not I but the grace of God"
- Grace reminds me that the Father in His providence is continually teaching me not to rely upon myself but upon Him who raises the dead.
- Grace is continually reminding me that "His grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in weakness"
- Grace reminds me that "nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ"

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What is training/instructing you in godliness today? Grace, Pride, Guilt?

- Grace driven sanctification in no way removes responsibility from us in our sanctification, but rather it enables our responsibility
- God has chosen means of sanctification: Word, Prayer, Church, Trials/Suffering but a right view of grace will help us approach all of these rightly

The grace of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only enduring motivation in our pursuit of godliness

Many have called this “Preaching the gospel to yourself daily”

- You won’t be reminded of the gospel without exposing yourself to it daily (Word)
- But when grace is training you, you approach the Word to know more about this God of grace, rather than approaching the Word so God will be gracious to you
- As you go through the Word and you see the reminders of grace, write them down and go back to them so grace can teach, train, and discipline you