

# What Grace Can Do

Titus 2:11 – 15

## I. Intro

- A. When we speak of grace of God, what are we really talking about?
- B. We attempt to define “grace” in various ways: Unmerited favor, God’s riches at Christ’s expense, receiving something that we don’t deserve, etc.
- C. But, grace of God isn’t just limited to favor and blessing, it is because of God’s grace that salvation is available to all people through His Son, Jesus Christ – God’s grace IS Jesus Christ; **READ v. 11**
- D. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus, reaches down to those who have rejected God who are doing their own thing, living any way they want to; it reaches down to those who give God very little attention, if any – and give basically no attention to what God says
- E. The point is this: no person deserves to be a recipient of God’s grace – no person deserves Jesus, and salvation through Him is something that certainly can’t be worked for or earned
- F. 3 reasons why we don’t deserve God’s grace:
  - i. **1) All human beings, because of our sinful nature, fall short of God’s standard for perfection and holiness; Romans 3:23 (NIV)**  
<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ; **all human beings are incapable of achieving that standard through their own efforts and abilities**
  - ii. **2) Because of falling short of God’s standard because of sin our end is death – all are initially destined to die both physically and spiritually; we come up short when it comes to God’s eternal glory – because of our sin nature we will not live forever, we will die; Romans 6:23 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>  
For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - iii. **3) We have violated the laws of God because of our sinfulness, therefore violated the laws of heaven and we deserve eternal judgment not grace; Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)** <sup>27</sup> ... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
- G. **Question:** What more does grace do besides bring bring salvation? **READ Titus 2:12 – 15**

## II. Grace Teaches Us (v. 12, 13)

- A. **Question:** What exactly does grace teach us? It teaches us how to live
- B. **v 12:** Tells us 3 specific things that God’s grace teaches us

- i. **1) Teaches us to say NO to anything ungodly and worldly; teaches us how to reject, deny, have nothing to do with ungodliness or worldliness; **Question:** What is ungodliness? Simply, anything that is not like God, unholy, anything that doesn't honor God; **Question:** What is worldliness? Any desires, passions of this world that we would not/could not bring before God; List found in Galatians 5:19 – 21**
  - ii. **2) Teaches us to live self-controlled, righteous, and godly lives; self-controlled meaning disciplined lives restrained from earthly desires, passions, lusts – goes for sexual lusts, lusts for food, lusts for material possessions; List found in Galatians 5:22 – 23**
  - iii. **3) Teaches us to look for with great anticipation the return of Christ; this *blessed hope – glorious appearing* is filled with all the happiness imaginable and more, all the prosperity imaginable and more, all the richness imaginable and more, all the blessings of God's presence imaginable and more**
- C. **Describe in more detail this glorious return of Christ and what that means:**
- i. **It means a glorious union – a perfect union and joining as one in a perfect relationship with Him**
  - ii. **It means a glorious reunion – those in Christ who have already died will be raised up from the grave first and those who are still alive will be reunited with loved and friends forever who are also in Christ; not only that but reunited with all the saints throughout all history**
  - iii. **It means a glorious transformation of our bodies – the corruptible becoming incorruptible, the mortal becoming immortal**
  - iv. **It means a glorious life of perfect joy, freedom from trials, struggles, pain, sickness, and death**
  - v. **It means a glorious new heaven and new earth – perfect creation all in perfect harmony with itself and with God**
  - vi. **It means a glorious reward - 2 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**
- D. **So grace not only brings us salvation, but it teaches us to say NO to all that is ungodly, unholy – it teaches us to live lives that are godly and righteous – it teaches us to look with great anticipation to the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**
- E. **The next things grace does is ...**

### III. **Made Evident in Christ's Death (v. 14)**

- A. **Christ's death is the very demonstration of God's grace; Christ's death was not for Himself, not for those already counted righteous, but it was for the sinner – sinners like you and me**
- B. **When Christ died He took our sins upon Himself – not only ours but the sins of the whole world; He took our guilt, our condemnation, our punishment upon Himself**
- C. **Romans 5:8 (NIV) <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- D. **v. 14: Christ died for us for 3 very critical reasons:**
  - i. **1) To redeem us from all the consequences of sin; He paid the ransom for us with His life so that we by putting our faith and trust in Him and His death would have life; He set us free from being controlled and ultimately destroyed by a life of sin**
  - ii. **2) He died so that He might have for Himself a very special people as His own possession – so we are His treasured possessions**
  - iii. **3) He died to stir us to do good works in His name; Question: If someone does something good for you, does it not make you want to do something good for them in return?; Those good works are doing all we can to serve Christ, serve His body – the church, to serve others especially by sharing with them this message of grace and salvation**

#### IV. Close

- A. **Because of how grace makes available to all people the free gift of God in salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ ... because of all that grace does through teaching us the ways of God and being made evident and demonstrated in the death of Christ, we are to tell others**
- B. **v. 15: Teach others about God's grace, which is Jesus Christ; we are to encourage each other as we live in the grace of God and rebuke each other when we begin to stray from the grace of God – need to do this regardless of what people think or say about us**
- C. **2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV) <sup>2</sup> Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.**
- D. **Extend an invitation to receive this grace – God's grace, His Son Jesus**