

## Titus 2:11–14

### Students of Grace

#### INTRO:

You can open your bibles, we will be in Titus 2:11–15

Two Examples from Early

- I was doing all the “Christian things”—but saw little transformation in my life. Why isn’t this working?
- The church I went to always put up the “perfect testimony” guy and I didn’t have that story. I didn’t belong. I figured Jesus didn’t want me.

We are going to talk today about how to defeat sin. Because if we are honest a lot of Christians still have sins that absolutely plague them and destroy their daily lives with the Lord. Sin is like that crazy uncle at Thanksgiving—He got kicked out a long time ago but still overstays his welcome and continues to be annoying.

The thesis for Titus is that Paul left Titus to put what remained in order. All about good works. Verses 2:1–10 are all “be good, do this, be good.” But Paul then proceeds to tell us how we get there. Everyone has different motivations for their behavior but Paul says there is only one biblical way.

#### TEXT:

Titus 2:11–14

“<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.”

#### MAIN:

First thoughts? The verse immediately implies this Christian life takes time. You don’t need training for things you can already do, and what training do you know that isn’t rigorous and long?

**Spiritual growth is a dirt road and sometimes we crawl.**

- This is both depressing and relieving

- depressing because we want it quick like our food, coffee, entertainment
- relieving because we don't have to act. We don't have to constantly think something is wrong with us.

**“The Grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people....”-v11**

- What is Grace?
- Grace is God loving you right now. Not some future you.
- God's Grace is placing his favor and acceptance on you despite the fact you don't deserve it.
- God's grace is using the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as our standing before him. So he sees us and says because of Jesus I am going to look at you as if you have already lived a perfect and righteous life despite the fact you live anything but that.
- This verse says HE brings Grace to US. We don't go get it. We don't bring anything to him.
- **Religion is man searching for God, but Christianity is God searching for man.** He has found us and done all that needs to be done. No more to add. Nothing left to do.
- Are you in this salvation? Do you reject the grace of God?

Now what does this Grace do for us?

**“training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...”-v12**

- Hold on so grace trains us? I figured it'd say discipline, or self-effort, or my hard work would train me. This says God's unconditional love and favor does.
- Trains us to say no to negatives, and yes to positives
- A lot of us in this room if we are honest believe that God looks down on us or is mad at us when we fall or stumble. We believe in grace only in theory, but hardly revel in it in times of failure. But if you are a Christian He celebrates growth, not failure.
- We have ton of words for training. Train in weightlifting, train in army, train The greek word for training here is “Paideuosa” (Pie-de-u-sa) literally means to train or instruct children. What great a picture that provides? Tenderly father affection trains us.

**EXAMPLE:** Child learning to walk illustration (Matt Chandler)

The bible makes it clear that Grace is the ONLY way to transform your heart to produce lasting change. Religion and self-effort can conform but Grace transforms.

- Thinking that your bible reading, your discipline, your self effort can actually fundamentally change your heart is like mowing over weeds, putting a band-aid on cancer, cologne on a corpse, rearranging furniture on the titanic.
- When you know God loves you and never casts you out it motivates you to him, not away from him.
  - Where do you go when you fall? Run to him or away from him.

**EXAMPLE:** sophomore year where Grace broke me and I really saw my sinfulness and His love.

So Grace appeared 2000 years ago in the past, it affects us here in the present, but what about our future?

**“waiting for our hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.”-v13-14**

- He gave himself for us. How awesome is that? Can you imagine the condescension? That the king laid aside his throne and came to die for the peasants who hate him?
- He did it to get a people of his “own possession.” It doesn’t say Jesus died to get your prayers, or your good deeds, your effort. I mean do you think he died and was beaten and crucified just to get those things?
- Is God glorified by your forced obedience?

**EXAMPLE:** No one praises a marriage where they hate each other but keep vows

- We think we are making God happy by doing those things but sometimes it can actually break his heart.
- Why I struggle with those “you’re going to hell!” preachers. Heaven isn’t a place for people who are afraid of Hell its for people who love Jesus.

**EXAMPLE:** Christmas morning Father giving present and Kid trying to earn it.

In America we have lost the scandal of Grace. In most churches it’s a shadow.

- Hebrews 12 and 1<sup>st</sup> John 2 highlight one of the aspects we have lost

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

“run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- This verse says we were the joy set before him. His enemies, his lost broken creation were his joy. He saw me and all the ways I'd treat woman, all the time I'd disrespect my parents, be mean, prideful, most of all live my life in opposition to God and this verse says I was a joy to come rescue.

### **1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1**

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

- If we rewrote this verse to fit our American mentality it would read “if anyone does sin, and repents, cleans themselves, etc, we then have an advocate.
- But no, it says when you sin, you have an advocate pleading your innocence.
- So guys when you look at that porn or lust in your heart or have fits of anger, pride, jealousy, in those moments while you're doing it Jesus is saying “He's mine. It's paid for. I took care of that. The record was cleansed before He did it.
- That is the essence of grace! That breaks the power of sin. When you truly get grace sin loses its power and its effectiveness (Romans 6:11).

### **CLOSING**

- If you are a Christian you are in the classroom of Grace. Grace is our teacher. The beauty of this is we get a perfect 100% in the class, an A grade before we even start the first day.
- So when we stumble or fall or “fail a test” we can look to that perfection of Jesus and say that's my grade. That's my standing. I am a perfect student in God's eyes because of Jesus.

- Religion is the opposite, you work for your grade and no one ever passes. Not one person can pass the class of God's law except Jesus.

So to the Christians in this room:

- You weren't saved because you did something; you were saved because he did something.
- In the same way, you don't change because you did something; you change because he did something.
- So search your heart and ask does grace motivate you? Joy should be your barometer. Do you have joy and constantly glean it from your pardon and forgiveness in Jesus or are you tired and exhausted from the Christian life? Are you worn out? Let grace cover you the same way it did when you first believed.
  - Why are you trying to earn what is freely given to you?
    - He has given himself as your sanctification, holiness, and victory.