

LIVING BETWEEN GRACE AND GLORY

Sunday, December 29, 2024 -- Jason Hill

TITUS 2:11-3:8

English Standard Version (ESV)

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.

3:1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. **3** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** **But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared**, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

CONTEXT:

- PAUL is writing to Titus to give advice on how to lead the church.
- Titus is on the island of CRETE to organize and strengthen the work. (SEE Titus 1:12-13)
- In Titus 1, Paul addresses the need for proper leadership and warns of false teachers.
- In Titus 2-3, Paul challenges Titus to teach that Christian living is rooted in RIGHT DOCTRINE.

THE GRACE, GOODNESS, AND MERCY OF GOD WHICH APPEARED IS SAVING GRACE.

DEFINITION:

SAVING GRACE is God's UNMERITED FAVOR freely given THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, which enables sinners to be RECONCILED with God and RECEIVE the gift of eternal life.

VIEWS OF HOW SAVING GRACE (RIGHT STANDING) RELATES TO LIVING:

LEGALISM - What we do leads to who we are.
(BIBLICAL RESPONSE - 2 Corinthians 5:21)

LICENTIOUSNESS - What we do does not matter.
(BIBLICAL RESPONSE - 1 John 1:6)

MORALISM - What we believe does not matter.
(BIBLICAL RESPONSE - Ephesians 2:8-9)

GRACE - Who we are leads to what we do.
(BIBLICAL RESPONSE - Ephesians 2:10)

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THE THEOLOGICAL BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING:

SAVING GRACE, understood and accepted, is FOUNDATIONAL for Christian living.

OBSERVATIONS and APPLICATIONS from TITUS 2:11-3:8:

1) SEE the INSTRUCTING POWER of GRACE. v. 11-15
“For the grace of God has appeared...training us...”

--The WORK of GRACE is displayed in the Gospel. v. 11-13

Past	v. 11: Grace saves us from the <u>PENALTY</u> of sin.	<i>“bringing salvation for all people”</i>
Present	v. 12: Grace saves us from the <u>POWER</u> of sin.	<i>“to renounce...to live”</i>
Future	v. 13: Grace saves us from the <u>PRESENCE</u> of sin.	<i>“waiting for...the appearing of the glory”</i>

--The PURPOSE of GRACE is man’s redemption and reconciliation. v. 14

- Jesus PURCHASED us from all wickedness. --redeem
- Jesus CLEANSED us to be in right standing with Him. --purify
 - * He creates a special relationship. (SEE 1 Peter 2:9)
 - * He brings glory to Himself through good work. (SEE Matthew 5:16)

--The OUTCOME of GRACE is a transformed life. v. 14

- We are a POSSESSION of God. (SEE Romans 6:20-22)
- We should display ENTHUSIASM in God-honoring good work. (SEE Titus 3:8)

--The MESSAGE of GRACE is to be shared with all using Biblical authority. v. 15

- We are to ENCOURAGE the good with the truths of the Gospel. (SEE Galatians 2:20)
- We are to CORRECT the bad with the authority of the Bible. (SEE Hebrews 4:12)
- We are to SPEAK to everyone the principles of Scripture. (SEE 2 Timothy 3:16)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What has God’s saving grace TAUGHT you? Name Something.

Have you TRUSTED in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection?

Does knowing and believing the Gospel cause you to live differently?

Is the grace of God in Christ something you REGULARLY TALK ABOUT with others?

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8 *The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

2) SEE the PRESSING REMINDERS of GRACE.

v. 3:1-7

"Remind them..."

--GRACE changes your CONDUCT.

v. 1-2

Toward those in AUTHORITY, you SUBMIT and obey.

Towards TASKS, you are PREPARED to serve eagerly.

Toward OTHERS, you are careful in speech, unifying, GENTLE, and considerate.

--GRACE humbles you because of your PAST.

v. 3

You recall the depths of HUMAN DEPRAVITY without Christ.

Disobedience, deception, being enslaved, depravity, and disregard for others.

You regret the despicable CHARACTER TRAITS hated by others.

You bemoan the broken RELATIONSHIPS with people.

--GRACE explains your SALVATION.

v. 4-7

God's Work in Salvation:

v. 4: He gave us a His MERCY. loving kindness

v. 5: He gave us a new BEGINNING. regeneration/renewal

v. 7: He gave us a new STANDING. justification

v. 7: He gave us a new FUTURE. hope of eternal life

3) SEE the INSISTING TEACHINGS of GRACE

v. 8

--The TEACHINGS about GRACE keep us DEVOTED to good works.

--The TEACHINGS about GRACE are VALUED and HELPFUL for all people.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Do those around you see a submissive, obedient, diligent, and COURTEOUS person?

When you think of life before Christ, do you MOURN or celebrate your depravity?

When you think of your salvation, do live a life of gratitude to God?

Are you INSISTENT on gathering in a place where you can remember God's Saving Grace?