

Titus 2:11-14
"The Grace of God"

There are very few words in our biblical vocabulary that are spoken more frequently than the word grace. Rightfully so, considering its place in the salvation of man/woman. Paul writes, probably, the greatest line of scripture on grace. **Ephesians 2:8**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God". The risk to words used in high frequency is the loss of that word's true meaning, a change in its meaning, and/or its misuse all together. I can think of one example specifically of this being the case with another word quite common in our American vocabulary, but for fear of controversy I will not go there. I will simply say this, its history is tumultuous and there remains great debate on its continued use, particularly by the people who were once the target of its derogatory meaning. I am sure there are other examples. The point is this, for a word of such importance as grace, we must continually be reminded of its correct meaning. Just as important, we must be reminded of the implication of this word in the life of disciples of Jesus Christ. So today I want to answer three questions regarding grace. First, what is its meaning? Second, who or what constitutes the grace of God? Third, what is the implication of grace in the believer's life?

What does grace mean? It means the kindness of God bestowed upon the ill-deserving. A kindness that results in the forgiveness of sin and bestows eternal salvation to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Grace is of God, from God and administered by God. Apart from the grace of God there could be no pardoning of sin and the granting of eternal life. That is to say, works

righteousness results in eternal life for no one. Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Church. Grace!

Gal 1:15-16a “¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.”

Gal 3:11, 19a “¹¹ So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life... ¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins.”

Col 1:6 “⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.”

Who or what constitutes the grace of God? In verse 11 Paul personifies the grace of God. He says, “the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men”. Grace is more than a word, or philosophy, or train of thought. Grace is an actual person, and his name is Jesus. Jesus is the grace of God embodied. And his appearing makes the grace of God available to all mankind. Though all mankind will not benefit from his appearing. Only those who believe.

Romans 7:14-8:4 “¹⁴ So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living

in me that does it.¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. ¹ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Finally, what is the implication of grace in the believer's life?

V12-13 ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave

Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good work.” We find here several implications. First, we never forget we are the students and Jesus is the teacher. This requires we study his word. Second, we follow his teachings which requires we no longer allow our sinful nature to rule over us. We no longer let sin have its way in us. We fight. We do that which glorifies his name. Finally, we watch. His return is imminent and so we do not let our guard down. We do not say like the scoffers in **2 Peter 3:4** ““Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” We do not say such a thing and certainly do not live like such a thing is true, for those who say such things forget about the flood in Noah’s day. Church, the grace of God. What a magnificent and transformative reality for all who trust in Jesus Christ! In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.