



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 9 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 06/26/2022

Titus 2:11-15 ESV

¹¹For 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**, ¹⁴who **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**.

¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

[BACKGROUND]

We are coming to our 9th week in Titus, and we have been heading to this focal point for the entire book of Titus. These verses produce a theme of the book which is a non-negotiable truth for the church today:

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS,** and **FUELS** us to **LIVE** on the Great Commission!

The Gospel - **The good news that God saves sinners** - that is about the broadest and general definition of the Gospel I can give BUT this passage focuses on one key component of the Gospel and answers a very specific how, it gives a very specific who, and offers a specific why as to the workings of the gospel. Therefore, to build on these truths we are about to increase the magnification, going to a pinpoint if you will (**compound microscope 4x, 10x, 40x, & 100x and my lessons from Biology**).

So, we move from our 4x view, what Titus is, **Lessons for the Church**.

When we narrowed the focus to the 10x we can see that there are two big sections on either side of this passage Chp. 1 – 2:10 dealing with how to build and strengthen the church and Chp. 3 what you want those folks to teach on.



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Then we move our view to a 40x magnification, and we see that the Gospel is the engine for the church (2:11-15) and that it is the power that will propel this church into new leadership and new teachings.

Then today for the next 2 weeks we are going to increase the magnification to 100x to look at a specific part of the Gospel, it is here, it is the nucleus of this Gospel, it is the DNA, that will help this church reproduce in the future. If you don't have this nucleus, you can't reproduce a church.

100xs = ¹¹For the GRACE of God has appeared

The **GRACE**, there it is, there is the nucleus. χάρις (*charis*). n. fem. **grace, good will, favor.** *Conveys the sense of a gift of kindness and favor given to a person or persons.* Sometimes this term highlights the undeserved nature of the gift of salvation, given not because of the righteousness of the recipient but because of God's gracious kindness in Christ (e.g., Eph 2:8). The blessing of salvation is given freely.¹ Grace is that which God gives us even though we don't deserve it and it is the **key ingredient in the heart change** in Christians. Particularly here Paul means the **Grace that comes in the embodiment of JESUS...** When we understand that nothing, we have ever done has earned God's favor toward us, that it was only by Jesus' merit that we have any heavenly blessing at all, the **recognizing** of that **fact** gives **birth** to a **changed heart.**

The next two weeks we are going to look at what this nucleus of GRACE is reproducing and see what we can learn from it. Today we are looking at how Grace comes to us, how it changes us, and how it redirects our attentions.

1. Grace comes to us, we don't go to it: Saved by God's Sovereignty. (v.11)

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

¹ Mathews, J. G. (2014). [Blessing](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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V 11 emphasizes this point: **grace appeared**. It gives the connotation that it was not expected. **Illustration:** What makes gift giving to a loved one a fun experience is the sense of giving something that was unexpected and undeserved. I am not a big gift giver typically, but what I like to do is get things for my family outside of the holidays, because those things are not expected, they are not connected to anything that would seem reciprocal, and then on top of that I like to give things they need.

Good gift giving, gracious gift giving, is unexpected and unconnected to behavior, and reflects the heart of the giver, and this is how the Christian starts to conceive of the heart of their Father. A Father who loves to gift His children when they know not what they need. Listen to how God gives gifts:

John 1:14-17 ESV

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only **Son** from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

(1a) The Grace of God, the nucleus of the Gospel, that what a church must have to be considered a church is the **Revelation of Jesus as the Messiah, that He is the prophet, priest and king for all men, and He is the only way to eternal life into the presence of the Father**. This passage teaches us that first Grace appears, and it **appears in the form of flesh**. The Words of the Living God are in Him, Jesus, so we would know the Grace of God the Father.

(1b) Secondly, this grace is **brought** to us. We didn't go seek it out, we didn't seek to win it in favor from God, it was a gift that we didn't need to go looking for, it was delivered to us. Humanity has taught over the centuries that it takes a journey, a quest, to find enlightenment, freedom, and purpose, but scripture teaches an alternate plan.

The Christian life is not a life of pilgrimage to gain Salvation, it is not about gaining enlightenment through self-discovery and experimentation, it is not a



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process of reincarnation, it is not a process of self-denial, it is not a process of building up good karma, it is not about doing deeds of righteousness like social justice work, and it is not trying to make your own identity in this life to give your life meaning and understanding. **Grace is something brought to you to help you in your life, by identifying who God is, so you and I can then learn who we are.** The path to meaning is through learning about Jesus not learning about yourself.

Eph 2:8-9 ESV

⁸For **by grace** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God gives the gift of Christ, not because we deserve Him, and He usually does it when we don't expect it, and He always does it while we are in bad states.

Romans 5:8 ESV

⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Scripture declares to us we don't go and get Grace, Grace is thrust on us, and the nature of its' giving and appearing is what the HS highlights causing us to become awake to the Father's love for us. **(What I got from mom and dad when I was 26)**

It is the realization of this extreme gift of Grace that propels the church.

¹¹**FOR** the **grace of God** has **appeared**,

Paul wants Titus to build the church, to get the right leaders, to ensure their mentorship, to ensure the continuance of the life of the church **BECAUSE of the magnitude of what God has given us! GRACE drives the church to continually grow because growth and care of the church is WORSHIP. GRACE is the nucleus for reproduction!**

What does it look like when we are affected by this Grace, when a person has come into the full realization that they have been loved by God?



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2. Grace changes us from the inside out: Conversion is God induced and is sufficient (v.12)

¹² **training** us to **renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age

There is a two-part reaction to Grace, as we look through our 100x magnification to see how this works. There is a reaction that comes in two forms: there is a leaving behind “**Renouncing**” and a going forward “**to live**”.

Oh wow, look at that, we see the two parts of **CONVERSION - REPENTANCE & FAITH**. Repentance is to turn away from a thing and turning to put faith in God demonstrated by godly living! The Gift of GRACE produces COVNERSION, and there is no other way to get that, **no Grace no Salvation**.

I have heard a lot of preaching in my younger day of pastors calling people to repent and put faith in God, so they may be saved from hell. The call for Repentance must conclude the right teaching of the appearance of Grace and Truth in the life of Jesus the Christ or it lacks the power to turn people from Hell. **Conversion must be internally motivated not externally contrived**.

Now, let’s talk about what conversion looks like:

¹² **training** us to **renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions,

Grace teaches us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions. On Crete this is huge for it means the life of a converted person would look nothing like a Cretan at all who is a liar, evil beast, and a glutton (1:12). Grace is what empowers you to say **NO** to what you treasure most on earth.

¹² **...** and **to live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age

Grace teaches us to live self-controlled, **upright**; exhibiting righteous behavior, in the present age. Now this is a big deal because there are many in the church today that do not show this.



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There are people that believe being a Christian should not entail looking too different from the world because that causes too much distraction and negativity (not winsome enough). If we look too different, then the world won't listen to us. There are those that have turned away from the plain teaching of the Bible to soften it, so as not to cause perceived division.

BUT Grace teaches us that we CAN LIVE in this **"present age"** (end of v.12) leaving behind worldliness and embrace holiness, and to do any less means we have not been loved by GRACE! It is not grace when we live less based on what the Bible teaches, it is not grace when we don't preach the full counsel of God's will in the church, it is not Grace when we fail to tell our friends what the scripture plainly declares, no, that is called SELF-LOVE or PRESERVATION.

The church at large has gotten into the habit of opening up doors to the unconverted offering membership while never teaching them that **people who love Jesus leave the world behind**. That paints a weak and non-existent savior. Churches are failing to proclaim that Jesus' love conquers one's desires of the flesh, desires to engage in homosexuality or any alternate lifestyle, and desires for political activism. The church that wants to remain relevant in culture won't give the call to come and die for it fears what may happen.

And any pastor this week that you saw pity the loss of pro-choice over the victory of pro-life you need to never listen to them again! **They believe not in the sufficiency of scripture, and that the Bible is not able to give them a strong enough picture of Christ to help people live in this present age!**

Grace, if you have truly received it, **changes you from the inside out**. So, what about when life gets hard, and we want to crawl back to our worldly comforts, or perhaps we get tired of being the focus of anger and ridicule, well Paul has an answer for that as well. Grace gives us strength to live in this present day by looking ahead.



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3. Grace trains us to be patient in life: Keeping our sight on the 2nd coming. (v.13)

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great **God and Savior Jesus Christ**,

There is a focus to life, there is a finish, there is a judgment day, and it is this day that stays in the forefront of our minds. The Christian life has been compared to a race by Paul ([Heb 12:1](#); [2 Tim 4:7-8](#)) and several other sporting events, point being that there is a conclusion and there is an award. In order to obtain that prize though we are encouraged to be patient and enduring AND the Grace of Christ is what makes that possible (**Earpods**). Having realized you are loved beyond measure makes a person focus on their future meeting. Waiting to see the glory of the one you love is **intoxicating**, for when He shows Himself all your life will be justified to all your haters.

It is when we let the world take our focus off of Christ and we let it put our attentions on our current struggles that we become resentful and dissatisfied. It happens to all of us, I was sharing with a pastor friend of mine that sometimes it happens to me especially when I am feeling the longevity of a struggle. What we forget to realize is even though we have been saved by Christ we still live in the presence of those that make life hard for they know Him not.

Jude 1:17-21 ESV
A Call to Persevere

¹⁷But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, **waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life**

Keeping ourselves in the love of God is not about your dedication to showing God you love Him, although that is good, but what Jude is saying is, keep **reminding yourself He loves you**, and He is building up the glory of His return



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by prolonging it completing all things that are to bring Him glory. For example, if Jesus had come back before Friday, we would have never seen the divine overturn of Roe vs. Wade, unbelievers would have not known of His divine intervention, and I believe there are more victories like that to come!

Everyday prolonged is another degree of glory turned up on Jesus magnifying the greatness of Grace that has changed you.

[CHALLENG & APPLICATION]

Family today two things this week, when you have a rough day and you start thinking what's the use no one cares, remember Grace was brought to you, Jesus comes to you by the Father, you are saved by Grace through Faith, you were loved and are being loved. It means that when there are times when you feel alone, that may be on purpose because you are being loved and trained to depend on Him alone, for you are never separated from the love of God ([Rom 8:31-39](#)). Then share that with someone for you may be the one that begins to open the eyes of a lost friend and let them know God is loving them by your testimony.

Family Grace changes us from the inside out. Today if you are having a problem dealing with a particular sin let me suggest that the answer is not in fighting it harder, but pursue Jesus more. The more that we see Christ, the greater the revelation, the more you will hate sin. The answer is to replace world worship with God worship. Read the Bible plan with us, spend time going to a friend this week and talk about what you learning about Jesus, spend time making much about Him with others and less time talking about yourself, and watch how your problems will shrink.

Family, life is hard, and if we don't focus on His return, we can become faint from the strain. Let us remember that this is a marathon and not a sprint but there is a finish line. Anytime I have found myself under lingering distress, I place my mind on the joy of seeing Him and hearing well done my good and faithful servant ([Mat 25:21](#)) sharing in His joy, getting to see Him in victory, knowing one day I will chant with this family the praises of His name, keep looking to His return, it will save you.



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All of this is supplied by His endless GRACE. Do you need that today, have you received the GRACE of Christ into your life, have you left the world behind to follow Him and receive a glorious new purpose, are you looking for something worth living for? You will never find it in this world, but you will find it in the eyes of Christ, surrender your life to Him today, call out for His Grace. Remember the story of the woman that just wanted to touch the hem of His robe to be healed, believe that HE can save you today, and your faith in Him shall be the sign of your Salvation.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that provided Grace in our most dire times of need, in the incarnation of His Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that came full of Grace and Truth revealing the true nature of the love of God.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that opens our eyes to this Grace, regenerates our souls, and promotes our Conversion equipping us to share our story with others.