



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

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 10th 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!

We started a discussion last week about what is the main component of the gospel. If you remember, we said if you take the gospel and increase the magnification all the way to 100x we would see that the DNA of the Gospel here is Grace.

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 in verses 11-15. Paul means the **Grace that comes in the embodiment of JESUS... "For the Grace of God has appeared (John 1)"**. When we understand that nothing, we have ever done has earned God's favor toward us, that it was only by Jesus' merit, his sacrifice of life, that we have any heavenly blessing at all, the **recognizing** of that **fact** gives **birth** to a **changed heart**.



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

Problem 1 - Here's where that rubs the world we live in a little raw today: It is not our right to receive the unmerited love of God, we are not owed his goodness, and our very existence doesn't necessitate that God must do for us. We are in rebellion against God, we are deserving of death, but God in His infinite gracious kindness loves us anyway. People are blessed when they see this. It is freeing not condemning to understand that one's behavior condemned to death, but God's behavior gives life, gives it abundantly, and gives it eternally.

For two weeks we were 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 specifically in Christ, how He changed us, and how we MUST respond. **So in review:**

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,

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

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,**

The next three things you will see today is more than just the by-product of Grace, but you will witness what His will wanted to accomplish. **Problem 2 - It is important to let scripture define for you who Jesus is and what He's like** because Many people in our world often want to point out what Jesus would do, they want to define what Jesus' motives were, it is an ever-



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

increasing phenomenon in the lost world for them to tell Christians what Jesus would do without ever knowing Him.

They want to define Him, if the world can't shut Him down then it will lie about what He's like. That is a ploy of the Devil by the way, to reinterpret scripture, to tell you what God would like, to misquote scripture as He did to Christ in the wilderness. So, we have to push back against subjectivism, and give objectifiable evidence of what He's like. That's what Grace will do for us today. Today in the Spirit of the 4th let freedom ring, this is Emancipation Day, God has come to free us, listen to how and why, believe on Jesus today, and again embrace your eternal life now.

4. Grace redeems us from lawless living: Grace pays what is owed.

¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness

The word redeemed here is not a common word in the English language, but it does mean the same when we use it. To redeem a thing is to **satisfy the demands of cost**. You use a coupon when you shop, you redeem the value of it against the cost of the thing you are buying. You use a gift card at a restaurant, you redeem that value of it when you go to pay. You trade in a car on a new one, the value of that car is redeemed, and the price of the new car is adjusted. To redeem something is to pay for what is owed.

When our forefathers declared independence from England most people I think, those that were awake in history class, know it was about taxation. The colonists claimed there was improper taxation without proper representation. That tax laws were being written in England by Parliament when the colonists were not included in the discussions. The claim of the crown was that we still owed them for the French and Indian War (1754-63) their protection during that time. They claimed there was still a debt owed and we claimed the debt had been paid. The resulting disagreement produced the war of Independence July 4, 1776.

Since we refused to pay the debt, the crown had no choice but to declare war and seek the heads of those that signed the Declaration of Independence of



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

which Georgia has a part in signing by, Button Gwinnett (appearing the first on the list), Lyman Hall, and George Walton. Debt was called in, we still owed, and treason was now the charge.

70,000 is the rough estimate of the lives lost on the patriot side and taking into proportion of the population of the US back in that day it rivaled the Civil War. To be **debt clear requires blood**, so our patriots paid for it with theirs. People who believed that their rights were **unalienable rights** ([Declaration of Independence](#)) from God. That word means these rights (life, liberty, & pursuit of happiness) were non-transferable, you can't get rid of them, and therefore they were worth the defense.

You see when you hear about the cost of blood, it doesn't matter whether you are from the left or the right, whether you are liberal or conservative, when you hear that blood was spilled for you, it does something to you. If it doesn't then you don't understand freedom and that old patriot blood bought it for you.

This is why we get it, as humans we all understand have a debt to be paid (Rom 3:10 *none is righteous*), we owed the maker of this universe everything, and everything He asked was fair, and what we did was take from Him, trying to be Him, we tried to usurp that power and the penalty was death. The debt has already been called in, in the garden, our disobedience is the curse of death, we will die and be separated for ever from the presence of God. There was no hope... Until Grace appeared:

Galatians 3:13 ESV

Christ **redeemed** us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree".

Grace, in the form of flesh, paid the debt, the patriot of heaven defended His Father's crown, He paid for our rebellion, He fought with the deceiver the devil, He won our independence our freedom, and now we are in right standing with God again. EMANCIPATION!



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

That's what it means to be **rescued from lawlessness** (v.14). You could be the best-behaved person in the world, but if you are not a Christian, if you believe not in God, you are still a traitor, a law breaker, an oath denier.

You know, history tells about people who were hanged as traitors according to the King's Law. People were dragged in a public procession, hanged from the gallows, drawn and quartered for treason against the crown.

Jesus walked of His own free will in our place for our treason, hung on a cross (a tree) for our treason, was tortured for our betrayal, and executed for our rebellion. **Grace, it always pays for what is owed**, and we as His people will never know the sting of an eternal death thanks to Him.

An Illustration of fear, and the realization takes away condemnation because He redeems.

We have been bought and here's what happens when you are redeemed:

5. Grace purifies for possession: Grace cleans up His own.

¹⁴ ... to **purify** for **himself** a people for his own **possession**

The grace of Jesus redeems us and now we find the reason why. Christ doesn't just buy us back so we can go get lost again, no, there is an objectifiable reason for His Grace. He is making a people for Himself! People that will turn and point back to the one that redeemed them! People that naturally glorify God.

Well, I know that the world may think ownership doesn't sound real attractive, and that's because most the world believes they know how to do for themselves ok without any oversight. BUT what you may not know is that if **Christ does not own you then world does.**

Luke 16:13 ESV

¹³ "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other..."



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

There are multiple verses that teach mankind is never truly free. We were created to worship, to live for something, to devote ourselves to a person, you can't escape what you were made for.

When Satan tried to lure Jesus into bowing down to him with the promise of making His life easier Jesus rebuked him with the truth.

Matthew 4:10 ESV

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

*"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve*

(Jesus is quoting the OT – Deut. 10:20 – *You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.*)

Therefore, no one can escape, we are devoted either to God or to a created thing. What's your position? (you can't place on God your lack of worshipping Him because of how person X lives, those are worldly judgments)

People growing up in America and being raised here have forgotten something. Our forefathers came to this land in pursuit of freedom, but it was never libertarianism freedom, for it doesn't exist. They came to pursue our creator and flesh out how we were going to use our inalienable rights to glorify our creator.

Coming to America and making something of yourself was about showing the world what God had already given to you!

This is why the church is so important to us right now. America may no longer be a land where you can pursue God and show a life of gratitude for being given a chance to live free, but that's what makes the church shine! A bunch of redeemed people that get that they belong to someone, that they are not their own, and it matters how they reflect someone else.

1 Peter 2:12 ESV



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.?”

People who are owned by God are free to make decisions for they know that no matter how good of a choice/decisions they make **God will make what is supposed to happen, happen.**

Problem 3 – what our rebellion does to us: When you think you are the master of your own destiny it affects everything about you for you think you have to control all your situations. That’s a huge amount of stress and you will either hurt others to get what you want, you will kill yourself in labor trying to make yourself into something that isn’t eternal or fails to satisfy, or you will give up and never realize your potential. In all those situations you lose, you lose what it means to be human, to be in God’s image. Only in Christ and only by being one of His people can you find freedom to become who He created you to be, a God glorifying individual that even in failures can still do what they were supposed to do, bring God glory, AND find joy in it.

That brings us to our last point.

6. Grace makes us zealous for Good works: Grace changes motives!

¹⁴ ...who are zealous for **good works**.

Have you ever met a Zealot for anything? I mean seriously, this is not the average person. We are not even talking about the man cave builder, or the collector, it’s that person that has been doing a thing for as long as they can remember. A Zealot is a person that does something, and they don’t care about the money that is needed to do it. It’s the person that spends not just time but all their resources to do a thing! **(give some examples)**

God’s people, those He possesses, through the act of redemption, those people are the ones Zealous for good works. These good works, in scripture that’s not just social justice endeavors or acts of charity, it is those things connected to God bringing in His kingdom.



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

Ephesians 2:10 ESV

“For we are his **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

The good news is that God must be the one to supply you with what you need so you will always have the ability to bring Him glory and you will have just the right amount of resources available to get it done. Here’s the key though, are you living like a person possessed by a passion to spend all your efforts, passion, time and money on the things of God’s Kingdom? Have you surrendered your desires for earthly things and are you following Jesus, are there connections to this world tying you down?

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

That’s the message for the church today. The church must keep raising up leaders as it tells us here in Titus 1 – 2:10 for Zealous people are in charge of it and God has given us the way in which to accomplish it. Then starting next week our elder candidates will preach on how this will play out, for they are starting to have a role in this and we all have a command to follow today in this text:

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

Titus establishes those churches for the Grace of Christ is worth it.

Highlands must now establish churches like those of ancient Crete for Christ is worth it. [IT doesn’t matter what the world does...]

Friends, my one challenge for you today, is as you look forward to this fall and the rest of the year how will you become a zealot for God? What is it you will surrender in your life so you can give it your all here?



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 10 The Value of Grace
By Pastor Jody May 07/03/2022

Today Highlanders as you celebrate your freedoms as an American this weekend celebrate more your freedom in Christ, for whoever Christ has set free they are free indeed!

Today Highlanders whatever you are chained to in this world, pray and ask God to break it and then trust God and leave it, and commit your loyalty to the only one deserving of it.

Today Highlanders commit to the rest of this summer, yes relax and love your children to the glory of God, but come fall commit to taking up the plough and become a Zealot for God's Kingdom, and work at figuring out how you will give it all away for God's kingdom.

If you commit to those actions that will be a testimony that people will listen to, and you will have an impact for God's Kingdom.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that sent the Son to redeem His children.

Go in the name of the Son, that has made us a people who were once not a people.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, and be a zealot for God, and tell others how He made you do it.