

Foundation of Grace

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men

The grace of God is the way God saves us. "Hath appeared" means it shines forth. Like a flashlight turned on during a dark night. When the power goes out in our homes we start searching for the flashlight. A family member gropes around feeling for the light. When the light is found everybody knows it because it shines out in the darkness.

This world is in darkness and there are many groping around looking for some illumination. They feel for it and know when the true light is found. That light is the grace of God demonstrated in the Gospel of Christ. Grace brings salvation. You don't go out and "get" salvation; it comes to you and you have the opportunity to receive it. All persons find salvation by the grace of God. The grace of God is the unearned favor of God. Not based upon works that have been done, but because of the sacrifice Christ made upon the cross. When we believe God and receive the promise of the Gospel, our sins are forgiven and we become a child of God.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The verses in Titus 2:11-15 present four things that the Grace of God shows us. . Teaching, Looking, Giving, Speaking

1. Teaching

- A. Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**
- B. Through the Grace of God we are taught what God's nature is like. The demands of the Christian life will be consistent with God's nature. For the Christian ungodliness and worldly lusts should be a thing of the past as we have been saved by the grace of God. How we should live is: soberly – self-control, righteously – justly, godly – having a character pleasing to God.
- C. Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**
- D. Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

2. Looking

- A. Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**
- B. If someone asked us the question, What are we looking for, What would be the answer? Titus says that what we should be looking for is in the future. The return of the Lord. That hope is not heaven or glory, but Jesus Himself, face to face.
- C. Looking for indicates that Christians should live in active expectation of the return of Jesus. It should be precious for Christians to consider:**
 - *He came the first time to save the soul of man; He will come a second time to resurrect the body.*
 - *He came the first time to save the individual; He will come a second time to save society.*
 - *He came the first time to a crucifixion; He will come a second time to a coronation.*
 - *He came the first time to a tree; He will come a second time to a throne.*
 - *He came the first time in humility; He will come a second time in glory.*
 - *He came the first time and was judged by men; He will come a second time to judge all men.*
 - *He came the first time and stood before Pilate; He will come a second time and Pilate will stand before Him. – David Guzik*
- D. "Great God" Evidence that Jesus is God in the Flesh.**

3. Giving

- A. **Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**
- B. Jesus gave himself for a purpose, to redeem us. He gave Himself, which means Jesus gave all He could give. This sacrifice was a substitute for us. Redemption means “to be bought out of slavery by the paying of a ransom.” We are bought out of our slavery to sin, and purchased for His service. We belong to Him. He did this to have us do good works. Zealous means: fervent, not a once and a while work but a life style.
- C. **1Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

4. Speaking

- A. **Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**
- B. *“God’s messengers of grace are directed to speak, exhort, and rebuke - and to do it with all authority. God’s messengers are to remember that they are messengers from a King, holding the word that brings life and turns back hell.” – Gukik*
- C. **Mat 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**
- D. The letter was being written to a leader of a church. *“This letter was written to Titus, but it was also written to the Christians on the island of Crete. Paul knew this letter would be publicly read among the churches on the island. So, in the structure of opening the letter, Paul took great care to tell the Christians of Crete what his credentials were, and where he stood on important issues.” - J Vernon McGee*
- E. When we speak in line with the Word of God we can speak with authority. This letter no doubt was read to all the churches in Crete and the letter is written with this in mind. The fact that the letter exists in scripture tells of the fact that it became an important document in all the churches of the day and even today. The instruction was to be bold and speak and act with authority.
- F. Paul had already set the importance of this in Chapter 1: **Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;** The same fact was stated in 2 Timothy: **2Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**
- G. The time mentioned is any time where this is true. This has always been in parts of the world. It though will become more prevalent worldwide in the last days.