

GRACE: TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

Titus 2:11-15; 3:1-7

Last week we looked at our 'Commanded Covenant' with God. Today we will look at the grace of God...God's grace is "The essence of God's covenant with mankind." *Philip Towner*

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. ¹⁵ These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. Titus 2:11-15 NASB

- ***The Bible says that grace made an appearance, referring to the first coming of Jesus.***
 - ***"The grace of God, His unmerited favor and blessing has 'come forth.'" V11 AMPC***

⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:4-5 NASB

- ***In Titus 3, Paul uses the same word 'appear'...in Titus 2, it is the grace of God appearing or demonstrating itself, in Titus 3, it is the kindness of God and His love for mankind...***
- ***There are two expressions of the same event, two ways of describing God's grace.***
- ***God's grace comes bringing salvation; not just help or benefit, but salvation from sin and all its destructive results.***
 - ***This salvation is available to all who 'behold and believe.'***
- ***The grace of God has something to say to us...His grace instructs, teaches, trains, and disciplines us.***
 - ***What are we supposed to learn?***

¹² It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world. Titus 2:12 AMPC

- ***Grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires.***

GRACE: TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

- ***In Mark's gospel, we are instructed to repent, to change our minds, to think differently about the old, godless way...this word 'deny' and the word 'reject' have a very similar 'thrust'.***
- ***We are to learn to pursue our new life in God and to think and act differently towards all the worldly passions and sinful impulses we encounter.***
- ***The grace of God has appeared for our salvation, our new birth, and having received this newness of life, we choose to abandon the ways of the world and say 'yes' to God.***
- ***We cannot get stuck in the 'thou shalt nots'...we need to be empowered and led by the Spirit to all the new 'thou shalls' that are ours in Him.***
- ***Our new life is lived out sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age (v12), all the while knowing that Jesus has promised to return.***
- ***This grace given life is based on values that are not 'world shaped' but God constructed.***

Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:14 NASB

- ***We have been redeemed...paid for...bought back and forgiven of every lawless deed.***
- ***We have been purified by the Lord and now are His own treasured possession.***
 - ***This fills us with gratitude and desire to carry out His purposes for us.***

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 NASB

⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11 NASB

- ***Paul's instructions are to speak and exhort these things in a way that they will not be easily disregarded.***

GRACE: TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, ² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. ³ For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. Titus 3:1-8 NASB

- **Titus is instructed to remind the Christians in Crete about citizenship (v1-2).**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20 NASB

- **We are citizens of heaven and citizens of our country.**
- **We are to be subject to rulers, obedient and ready for every good deed.**
- **We are to malign no one but be non-quarrelsome (peaceful), gentle, and considerate to people.**
- **Now Paul reminds Titus to remember what people are like before they know the Lord: (v3)**
 - **We, ourselves, once were foolish.**
 - **We were disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice (wickedness or badness), envy, hateful, hating one another.**
 - **But God! (v4-8) God shows up in His kindness and love for mankind.**
 - **He saved us, not based on our own righteous deeds, but according to His mercy by the work of His Spirit.**
 - **We are cleansed from sin by the washing of regeneration at our new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.**

He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but because of His own pity and mercy, by [the] cleansing [bath] of the new birth (regeneration) and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 AMPC

GRACE: TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

But when the goodness of God our Saviour, and His love to man, dawned upon us, not in consequence of things which we, as righteous men, had done, but as the result of His own mercy He saved us by means of the bath of regeneration and the renewal of our natures by the Holy Spirit, which He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; in order that having been declared righteous through His grace we might become heirs to the Life of the Ages in fulfillment of our hopes. This is a faithful saying, and on these various points I would have you insist strenuously, in order that those who have their faith fixed on God may be careful to set an example of good actions. For these are not only good in themselves, but are also useful to mankind. Titus 3:4-8 Weymouth NT

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 NASB

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11 NASB