

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- The Bible gives a lot of EXHORTATIONS, COMMANDS, IMPERATIVES, DUTIES, PRESCRIPTIONS, DECREES, RESPONSIBILITIES for me and for you.
- For Husbands — For wives — For children — For workers — For church members — For evangelism — For pursuing Christ — for forsaking impurity — For living contently — For intercessory prayer —
- **\*\*SO, how** in the world do you do this? \*how can you obey all this? \*here are the prescriptions, where's the POWER to do it?
- Today we often hear people say that preachers speak too much Law but not enough grace.
  - You give too many imperatives and tell us what to do; but don't remind us HOW to do it and who we are in Christ.
- you say: "HOW do I do this? I feel like I fall short? I just can't measure up."
  - Answer: God's great grace & work in salvation! It's not *your* strength but *God's supply*. It's not your *deeds* but God's *deliverance*. How? God's powerful & strong grace!

*Background to Titus 2.11-14*

- Titus 1 talked about godly leadership & protecting the church. Titus 2.1-10 talked about discipleship & serving in the local church. **\*how? What's the foundation?** 2.11-15 is the key!
- See the doctrines here: God's Grace; Incarnation; Salvation; Holiness; Godly conduct; Eschatology; Second Coming; Deity of Christ; Substitution; Redemption; Submission/obedience.

**The main point of this central section: *God's saving grace in the gospel is the foundation for all your Christian conduct.***

**THESIS — *God's saving grace includes a number of components...***

1. powerful transformation (12)
2. promised anticipation (13)
3. precise affirmation (13b (our great GOD and Savior...Christ))
4. perfect substitution (14a)
5. protected possession (14b)
6. pious ambition (14c)

**V.11a - the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation**

- ἡ χάρις τοῦ θεοῦ - God's grace. This is not common grace (general grace). **But** this is SAVING, SOVEREIGN, PARTICULAR grace. This is not the grace that gives benevolent gifts; this **is** the grace that saves a soul! *How's this grace described?*
    - Titus 1.4 - **Grace** is FROM GOD
    - >> Titus 2.11 - **grace** of God has appeared bringing salvation\*\*
    - Titus 3.7 - we are justified by HIS **GRACE**
    - Titus 3.15 - **grace** is with ALL the believers
    - 1 Tim 1.14 - **grace** of god is MORE than abundant
    - 2 Tim 1.9 - God calls us according to his own purpose and **grace**
    - 2 Tim 2.1 - we are to be strong in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus
  - It has appeared Ἐπεφάνη- is shining; manifested itself = incarnation of Christ? (2 Tim 1.9-10)
  - This grace brings salvation - σωτήριος πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις- to all men: all *kinds/groups/classes/categories* of men (vv.1-10).
- So what does this grace of God do & include? One element...*

## **I. POWERFUL TRANSFORMATION! (12)**

- A. The grace of God has come & has saved (v.11) & the grace of God has come & is sanctifying (v.12)!
  - *Like the testimony I heard this week of a woman in the drug culture -- she was a thief, hooked on drugs, a liar & godless. Till sovereign grace captured her soul & converted her. She spoke of how she now is powerfully being transformed by God's grace!*
- B. God's grace **instructs** us [παιδεύουσα ἡμᾶς] -teaches, instructs, educates, compels. We are saved *FROM* sin and *TO* righteousness.
  1. The **University of Grace** is the one place you enroll; enter that you never *graduate* -- we keep learning, keep receiving instruction, keep growing! What a joyful education!
    - a) This is the **put off sin** and **put on holiness** theme Paul brings out often: Rom 6.5-14; Gal 5.15-26; Col 3.8-14; Eph 4.22-24.
  2. The point: your strong *goodness* is not able to walk in holiness but God's *sovereign grace* is what enables you, equips you, sustains you & gladdens you to walk in obedience! Not about your own performance but God's great perseverance with you!
    - a) Behold the **POWER** of grace! Be thankful for GOD's sufficient grace! Rest in His unchanging grace! Live daily in His sovereign supply of grace!
- C. **TO DENY** (*to put off*) 2 sins [ἀρνησάμενοι]: renounce, to forsake, to put off, to resist, to fight *against*.
  1. **Ungodliness** - -ungodly, worldly, opposed to God; irreverence; unholiness; the antithesis of what's good. The word focuses on godlessness in *thought + action!*
  2. **Worldly desires** -- evil passions; worldly lusts; following/chasing the desires/spirit of this ungodly world (1 Tim 6.9; 1 John 2.16-17). These are pursuits and actions where we'd be embarrassed if Jesus came along with us for the ride.
    - a) **It's like** we are to **GUT THE HOUSE** and clear it out; get rid of the old, put off these 2 sins. But don't *leave it gutted*. Now we must *put on, furnish it, decorate it with these virtues* [next...]

D. **TO PURSUE** (*to put on*) 3 virtues [ζήσωμεν]: that we might live, make your daily conduct/ongoing walk *pursuing these 3 virtues*.

1. This [ζήσωμεν; a **present**; Paul's intentional emphasis] is a different verbal form in Greek. Paul's viewpoint here draws emphasis, prominence upon these virtues. The goal is what the grace of God equips us to **do/to pursue/to live out/to display!**
2. In the present age (this is for the here and now/present/immediate time; ἐν τῷ **vũv** αἰῶνι).
  - a) A good reminder: Christianity is NOT **\*\*ONLY\*\*** about the age to come > but also saves us for the present and teaches us how to live **HERE AND NOW**. (NOW // present age)
3. **Sensibly** -- self-control; wise, sober, 'thoughtful'. One of Paul's favorite words (Titus 1.8; 2.2, 5, 6). Wise-thinkers! This person has a sound/healthy mind shaped by Christ & truth. He is not controlled, distracted or swayed by *circumstances or culture*.
4. **Righteously** -- that which is proper, just, upright (1 Thess 2.10; Prov 11.19). We order our life & live according to the divine standard of what's right.
5. **Godly** -- holy conduct that is pleasing to God (2 Tim 3.12; Ps 97:10).

E. Christianity is not only a *future-oriented promise*. It is that: **but** it's also a *present-oriented life* -- empowered by God, transformed by grace, walking in holiness, rejoicing in Truth!

1. This is the *solid FOUNDATION* upon which all the work & labor in constructing a building stands. It's the solid foundation of **GOD'S SOVEREIGN GRACE!**
2. Like the home just down the street from ours. They removed the old house to now build a new one. All that's there now is a huge hole in the ground for the cement foundation upon which everything will be built. **Sovereign grace is that foundation for our lives!**

Has that grace of God appeared bringing salvation to YOUR SOUL?

## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- Pray that we'd be **PRAISING** God for grace -- **thank God for sovereign grace!**
- Pray that we'd be **WALKING WITH GOD** in his Grace -- **pray for his grace to transform us MORE!**

Like the conversion of **CHARLES WESLEY**

**Charles had discovered the vital doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone as he read Martin Luther's commentary on Galatians.**

**It was May 21, the day of Charles Wesley's conversion.' Charles said he felt the Spirit of God striving with his spirit 'till little by little the Spirit chased away the darkness of my unbelief. I found myself convinced of my salvation apart from my own works, by God's grace alone, by the merits of Jesus Christ — and I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ.'**

Wesley wrote:

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;

Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

**Has this revealed grace saved your soul?**