

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Titus 2:11-15.**

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, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and 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.

B. Some people have a distorted idea of God's grace.

1. Many think grace is God giving them what they want.
2. Some think grace is a free gift without restrictions or qualifications.
3. Many think of grace is something said prayerfully before meals.
4. Many think only of receiving a gift, and not of doing something with it.

C. The word "grace" is often defined as "unmerited favor."

D. The late Furman Kearley illustrated the working of grace with a story.

A fishing yacht was at sea with a typical load of deep-sea fishers, when one man was seized with severe pains in his side. It seemed that he might have appendicitis and they were far from shore. They called the Coast Guard and were patched through to an emergency hospital unit and a doctor. He concluded from the symptoms that it was appendicitis. There was no doctor on board and he could not wait until they got to shore. One fisherman had studied biology and he agreed to operate with the doctor giving specific directions by radio. It was successful by the help of God, by the instructions of the doctor, and careful following of the directions by the fisherman.

We are saved by God's grace today when we listen to God's instructions and have the faith to follow them carefully.

E. Tonight's study: What God's grace does.

II. GOD'S GRACE BRINGS SALVATION.

A. Man cannot save himself, nor even determine how to be saved (Jer. 10:23).

I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

B. Man does not even know about sin except that God's law describes righteousness (Rom. 7:7-10).

What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." [8] But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. [9] And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; [10] and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

C. Salvation (deliverance) is found only in X Jesus (Ac. 4:12; Jn. 14:6; 1Tim. 1:15).

(Jn 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

(Ac 4:12) "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

(1Tim 1:15) It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

III. GOD'S GRACE HAS APPEARED UNTO ALL MEN.

A. God has revealed Himself to man in many ways (Psa. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 1:1-2).



(Psa 19:1-3) The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. [2] Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. [3] There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

(Rom 1:20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.


(Heb 1:1-2) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, [2] in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

- B. The gospel is for the whole world (Mk 16:15).
 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
1. Paul said that it had been done (Col. 1:23).
 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.
 2. This does not mean that all had listened to it, but that it had been made available to all.
 3. We are responsible for knowing what we have the ability and opportunity to learn.


IV. GOD'S GRACE TEACHES US.

-  A. Grace is to teach us that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
1. Turning from the practice of sin is a necessary part of salvation.
 2. The wages of sin is "spiritual" death (Rom. 6:23).
 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 3. Peter says that growth depends on leaving sin and feeding on the word of God (1Pet. 2:1,2).
 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, [2] like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
-  B. Grace is to teach us that "we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."
1. To live soberly is to take our sin seriously and our inability to gain our own forgiveness.
 2. To live righteously is to follow God's will and do what He commands (Mt. 7:21).
 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.
 3. We are godly when we become "like God" in our goals and lives (Eph. 5:1).
 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

V. GOD'S GRACE WAS PURCHASED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.


-  A. See Titus 2:14.
- B. Jesus, by His death, delivers men from the slavery of sin (Heb. 2:14,15).
 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
- C. We can never disassociate God's grace from His Son (Rom. 5:6,17,2).
(Rom 5:6) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
(Rom 5:17) For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
(Rom 5:2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
- D. We receive this grace through faith. We have to trust the directions enough to do what we are told in order to receive this gift of salvation. Following directions do not earn the gift.

VI. GOD'S GRACE IS RECEIVED ON HIS TERMS.

-  A. It is for all men (see Ti. 2:11).
1. There is no one "totally depraved" who cannot receive it.
 2. But there must be faith enough to accept it (Mt. 7:23).
 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'
 3. X is willing, but man often rejects His offer (Lk. 13:34).
 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *the city* that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen *gathers* her brood under her wings, and you would not *have it!*
 4. Some receive God's grace in vain (2Cor.6:1).
 And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--

- B. Paul describes the process in Titus 3:5-7.
 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] that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.
1. God saved us by making us just through forgiveness.
 2. It was not by virtue of our own righteousness.
 3. It was by His mercy and grace.
 4. This grace was poured out on us abundantly through X.
 5. Man's acceptance was through the washing of regeneration when we were buried by baptism into Jesus X and put on X, and received the gift of the HS.
- C. In the illustration of the fisherman with appendicitis, the man was saved by the grace of the doctor who gave the instructions, by the friend who responded with positive action to follow the instructions, and the sick man who trusted enough to allow the operation to be done.
1. God's grace has been given and teaches us to leave the practice of sin.
 2. X came to follow the Father's instruction to provide the means of our salvation.
 3. We must trust the directions enough to allow someone to bury us in the watery grave that we might walk a new life of spiritual health.

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

-  A. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- B. X died for the sins of the whole world and tasted death for everyone.
- C. God's grace teaches us to turn from all sin and ungodliness.
- D. It also teaches us to live soberly, righteously and godly.
- E. To receive grace, we must trust God enough to do His will.
- F. Plan of salvation for non- Xians; erring Xians.