THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Setting

Titus left in Crete “put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town” who could “encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1:5&9). The primary problem was the “circumcision group” who taught Gentile believers must obey the Old Testament laws, especially the dietary laws (Titus 1:10-16).

Paul tells Titus to “teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1) to five groups, (Titus 2:1-10) “so that they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”

Expounding Titus 2:11

“For.” Everything Paul has said so far is because the “grace of God has appeared.”

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:21-25a (ESV) But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Ephesians 2:8&9 For it is by grace you have been saved – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works so that no one can boast.

“Grace…offers salvation to all people.” John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Grace Teaches Us

Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age,

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 8:3&4 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

“Ungodliness” is simply the opposite of godliness, an awareness of who God is that leads to living a life that pleases Him. Titus 1:1 “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.”

“Worldly passions” refers to the strong desires that are acceptable in this world, but are unacceptable to God, because fulfilling them is sought outside of God’s revealed will.

“Self-controlled” is the adverb form of the word that occurs in Titus 1:8; 2:2; 2:4, 5 and 2:6. It means to be of a sound mind, “it suggests the exercise of that self-restraint that governs all passions and desires, enabling the believer to be conformed to the mind of Christ” (Vine’s). Self-control is in reality yielding to the control of the Holy Spirit.

“Upright” is a form of the word usually translated “righteous” which in this context means simply doing the right thing in all circumstances.

“Godly” is the opposite of “ungodliness” earlier in the verse. It is an awareness of who God is that leads to living a life that pleases him.

“In this present age.” Being self-controlled, upright and godly is possible in the here and now.

Waiting for the Blessed Hope

Titus 2:13&14 while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

“The blessed hope” is the Rapture of the Church before the Tribulation, the seven years of God’s wrath upon the earth, described in Revelation chapters 6-19. I Thessalonians 1:9b&10 “They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”

“The appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” refers to our seeing Jesus face to face when He comes to take His Church to Himself. John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

I John 3:2b But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

“Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”. Jesus is both God and Savior.

“Redeem” translates a word meaning “to set free.” Jesus came not only to forgive but to change us by setting us free from “all wickedness.” “Wickedness” is *“anomia”* which is essentially living in defiance of the known will of God as revealed in His laws and instructions. The literal meaning is lawlessness.

“To purify for himself a people that are his very own” again emphasizes that Jesus came to not only forgive but to change those who come to Him for forgiveness. I John 3:3 “All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

“Eager to do what is good” summarizes the changes God wants to make in us and emphasizes that God wants to change us inwardly resulting in outward changes in our conduct.

These Are the Things You Should Teach

Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Titus 2:1 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

“Encourage and rebuke” is translated “encourage and refute” in Titus 1:9 in the qualifications for elders, “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

“With all authority” means that when Titus knew what the God had said, he was to teach it as a command from God.

“Let no one despise you.” As we pointed out last week, Titus and Timothy were probably both young men (I Timothy 4:11&12) teaching older people.

Things to Remember

God’s grace has come through Jesus and that changes everything.

God’s grace offers salvation to everyone.

Grace and works are totally incompatible.

Grace teaches us to be godly; the law could not make people godly.

The Rapture of the church is the “Blessed Hope,” being delivered from the “wrath to come.”

God wants to change us on the inside so we are “eager to do what is good.”

This kind of teaching is what changes people, not a list of rules and regulations.