

TOTAL GRACE: "Back to School"

INTRODUCTION: "Schooling Grace"

✓ **Grace empowers true holiness of life.**

Titus 2:11-14; Jude 1:4

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. . . Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

GRACE-INSPIRED LEAVING (TITUS 2:11-12)

✓ **Verse 11:** When the grace of God **appears**, certain things **disappear**.

- **God's grace** is "*His active favor bestowing the greatest gift to those who deserve the greatest punishment*"

✓ **Verse 12:** God's grace trains us to "**SAY NO**" (*beliefs and behavior*)

- Say **NO** to **ungodliness** (*asebeia*): "A life without reference to God"
Romans 1:21
- Say **NO** to **worldly passions** (*epithumia*): "Worldly desires that do not place God's kingdom first"
1 Peter 2:11

"Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin." (C.H. Spurgeon)

GRACE-INSPIRED LIVING (TITUS 2:14)

✓ **Verse 14:** God's grace is **transformational**.

- A **Purchased People**: "*gave himself for us*". A **design to the atonement** that focuses on the **elect**.
- A **Peculiar People**: "*people for his own possession*". "**Special**" in the sense of "**belonging to**".
- A **Productive People**: "*zealous for good works*" (ESV). "**Eager**" is not a strong enough translation.

"to have done the best things in the worst times" (Tombstone, Sir Robert Shirley, 1653)

GRACE-INSPIRED LOOKING (TITUS 2:13)

✓ **Verse 13:** "*Waiting*" is not **passive**.

". . . the kind of waiting a mother does . . . as she looks at the clock again and again and again for her child returning home from a friend's house" (De Courcy)

- **Seeking the Scriptures** – Revelation 1:3
- **Seeking the Saints** – Hebrews 10:24-25 ("Maranatha!")
- **Studying the Signs** – Matthew 24:3-51
- **Scanning the Sky** – 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Sermon Application Questions

January 20, 2019

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip mentioned a quote that said: "*Grace is not permission to stay in the flesh but power to live in the Spirit.*" Why is this concept so important to the Christian life? What happens when we take the opposite view that God's grace gives us license to sin?

2

Have you ever struggled with discouragement in your struggle to be holy? How does the truth of God's grace give hope to the believer? Why do you think believers need to be continually reminded of the truth that "*the Christian life is of grace from start to finish*"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages that were related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:8

This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

Jude 4

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2

In **Romans 1:21**, the Apostle Paul mentions the failure of man to honor God or give thanks to Him. From that root sin of “ungodliness” (*asebeia*) come a whole list of related sins including sexual immorality (1:24), homosexuality (1:26-27) and “all manner of unrighteousness” (1:29-32).

Have you ever reflected on the consequences of the sin of “*living a life without reference to God?*” What are some blatant and subtle ways that ungodliness shows up in our world and our society?

Blatant Ungodliness: (Example: “*Taking the Lord’s name in vain*”)

Subtle Ungodliness: (Example: “*Not making attendance at church a priority*”)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip mentioned that we live in a world that says “no” to nothing. In contrast, God’s grace trains us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions. What are some specific things that you need to learn to say “No” to?

(Remember what Pastor Philip taught us: the Christian is called to “say no” in both *beliefs* and *behavior*)

2

Titus 2:14 teaches us that although we are not saved by our good works, we are saved unto good works. In fact, the Christian is called to be “zealous for good works.” What are some practical ways that you can be a “zealot for good works” this week? Be specific and practical in your response.

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