**The Grace of God that Brings Salvation**

*Titus 2:11-14*

**Introduction**

1. The grace of God is a prominent theme in scripture. Ironically, it is severely misunderstood by many, despite its fundamental nature in scripture.
2. Christians must not be swayed by the misconceptions of God’s grace.
3. We must look to the scriptures to discover what is God’s grace.
4. Using the inspired writing of Paul in **Titus 2:11-14**, we are able to come to a fuller understanding of God’s grace, and how it relates to us.
5. Has Appeared to All Men.
6. Unconditional Appearance
	1. ***“has appeared to all men”*** – **cf. John 3:16** (God loved the world – so He sent them His Son)
	2. **Romans 6:23** – The sending of His Son is God’s grace.
		1. Grace – favor (salvation from sin = unmerited favor because wages of sin is death).
		2. ***“gift of God”*** – eternal life through His Son.
	3. **1 Corinthians 1:18- 25** – Not all will accept this gift even though it appeared to all.
		1. ***“message of the cross?”*** – **2:2** – Jesus crucified.
		2. Jews and Greeks – Appeared to both, but two classes of both.
			1. Jews – stumbling block; Greeks – foolishness
			2. Jews – called; Greeks – called (Power and Wisdom of God)
	4. The appearance of grace was unconditional (**cf. 1 John 2:2** – for the whole world).
	5. **However, the access into God’s grace is conditional 🡪**
7. Conditional Access
	1. **John 1:14-17** (fullness of grace arrived); **v. 10-13** (was not known and received by some, but know and received by others) – *The grace appeared, but was only accessed by those who were* ***born of God. 🡪***
	2. **John 3:1-7** – The condition upon entering the kingdom of God (the place of salvation) being born of God – **baptism**.
	3. **Mark 16:16** – Essentially saying the same thing.
	4. The appearance of grace was unconditional, but the access into grace is conditional – ***“we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand” (Romans 5:2).***
8. Teaching Us.
9. It is Educational
	1. While emotion may be a byproduct of God’s grace ***(“and he went on his way rejoicing” – Acts 8:39b***), receiving God’s grace is an intellectual process.
	2. **John 6:44-45** – We are drawn to Jesus by God’s teaching.
	3. **Acts 8:29-35** – Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.
		1. The Eunuch was reading from Isaiah.
		2. **Philip guided him in the scripture. He preached to him.**
		3. **(v. 36)** – He learned something. **Through the preaching of Jesus by Philip, God called him to be baptized.**
	4. **2 Peter 3:17-18** – If we enter into God’s grace through its teaching, and obeying it, then **it is logical we remain and grow in it through heeding its teaching.**
	5. ***What does it teach us? 🡪***
10. It teaches us:
	1. To deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. (NEGATIVE)
		1. **Ungodliness** – impiety (Strong). “want of reverence towards God” (Strong).
			1. An attitude of the heart which is irreverence toward God.
			2. **1 Peter 4:18; Romans 1:18** – distinction between ungodliness and sin or unrighteousness.
			3. **Ungodliness is not simply sin, but a lifestyle bereft of fear/reverence for God.**
			4. It is going about daily without a care about God in our minds.
			5. ***“There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:18)***.
			6. Not being concerned with God, or things which He desires, or does not desire.
			7. **Jude 14-15 (*concerning the false teachers*)** – The ungodly will be judged, and punished. (Therefore we must deny this attitude of the heart.)
			8. **We must always be concerned with God, and the things He desires.**
		2. **Worldly lusts – 1 John 2:15-17 –** these are desires that are illicit, and thus not according to God.
			1. **Those who are godly – who revere God, and are concerned with pleasing Him – will not be involved in the satisfaction of these lusts.**
			2. **James 4:4 –** We cannot be friends with the world, and expect to remain in God’s grace.
		3. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 20 –** As recipients of God’s grace, we are to be constantly concerned with His desires, and therefore constantly denying sinful urges.
	2. To live soberly, righteously, and godly. (POSITIVE)
		1. **Soberly** – of sound mind (Strong).
			1. Has to do with temperance; self-control; sound judgment. (*Compare with drunkenness – lowing of inhibitions does not allow to think clearly, and therefore out of control*.)
			2. **1 Peter 5:8-9** – We are self-controlled, knowing the devil is trying to make us stumble, and are able to resist his temptations.
			3. **1 Corinthians 9:27** – We must be in control of our body.
		2. **Righteously** – upright in character; just in treatment of others.
			1. Our actions should be righteous before God, and our fellow man.
			2. **1 Thessalonians 2:10** – When Paul came to the Thessalonians, he did so in such a way that was just, and fair in his treatment of them.
			3. **V. 4-9** – This shows how they treated them justly/righteously.
		3. **Godly** – showing piety before God; Godward piety.
			1. God’s grace teaches us to always be aware of His presence, so as to avoid displeasing Him, and looking for every opportunity to be pleasing to Him.
			2. We are His ***“special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14)***.
			3. **Ephesians 2:10** – God prepared these for us to walk in, and we walk in them because we know He wants us to.
	3. To look for the hope of Jesus’ appearing. (MOTIVATIONAL – for the negative and positive – also a positive in and of itself)
		1. **The grace of God teaches us to look for the hope given to us at Jesus’ coming as a motivation for the type of living previously discussed.**
		2. **1 Peter 1:3-9** – Our hope is living, thus active toward obedience, and allows us to endure trials and tribulation.
			1. ***“In this you greatly rejoice”*** – in the hope of salvation revealed at the last time – time of Jesus’ appearing.
			2. **This rejoicing is in spite of the troubles we may come across as we live for Christ.**
			3. Our desire for salvation greatly outweighs all else, and so we persevere, ***“receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”***
		3. **2 Peter 3:11-14** – Not only because the world will be burnt up, but because of the wonders of heaven we hope for, we are persuaded to live appropriately before God.

**Conclusion**

1. We must understand the truths about the grace of God.
2. It is not unconditional, but rests on certain requirements given by God. We must follow Him in order to receive His grace.
3. **We must not only understand that God’s grace teaches, but we must understand what it teaches.**
4. We must continually strive to live as the grace of God instructs, **and we must not be afraid to teach it to others, and uphold it by word and deed in our lives** (**cf. Titus 2:15).**