**Grace Appeared**

*Titus 2:11-15*

**Introduction**

1. Grace is the central thought of the gospel, and an indispensable part of the Christian’s life.
2. ***“For the grace of God has appeared” (NASB)*** is a most significant statement.
   1. Prior – anticipation of God’s grace.
   2. Present – participation in God’s grace.
   3. Future – consummation of God’s grace.
   4. It HAS appeared, and we are to be enveloped by it.
3. We should not miss out on God’s grace by a misunderstanding of it, or an incomplete understanding of it.
4. Its Salvation **(v. 11)**
5. ***“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men” (NASB)***
   1. **Appeared** – *epiphainō* (V, aorist) – to shine upon, i.e. become (literally) visible or (figuratively) known (STRONG)
      1. **(v. 13)** – appearing – *epiphaneia* (N) – a manifestation, i.e. (specially) the advent of Christ (past or future) (STRONG)
      2. **Glorious** – i.e. 2nd appearing in glory.
   2. Grace appeared (shined forth) (past) – **John 1:1-5, 9, 14, 16-17** – Word, light, gives light, grace and truth.
      1. **(v. 17)** – law through Moses, but grace and truth through Jesus.
      2. The fulness of God’s grace was not manifested until the incarnation of Christ – the Mosaic Law pointed toward that time of favor in the Messiah.
      3. **Cf. Matthew 4:12-17** – people in darkness have seen a great light – Jesus, bringing in the kingdom.
   3. Grace appeared in the offering of Jesus – **Romans 5:15, 18** – gift by grace of Jesus, righteous act justifying – death.
6. ***“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men” (NASB)***
   1. Not speaking of universalism, but availability – all men.
      1. **(2:1-10)** – Older men, older women, young women, young men, bondservants.
      2. **(1:12)** – Cretans, with terrible reputation.
      3. **(3:3)** – what they all once were.
      4. Salvation for those in helpless pitiful state, all in that state, salvation offered for all – **1 Timothy 2:4**
   2. Grace ***“appeared”*** to save – **Titus 3:4-7** – ***“appeared”*** (**v. 4** – same as **2:11**).
      1. **(vv. 4-5a)** – kindness, love, mercy – not our works.
         1. **Love** – *philanthrōpia* – fondness of mankind, i.e. benevolence (“philanthropy”) (STRONG)
            1. affectionate concern for and interest in humanity, (loving) kindness (BDAG)
         2. (2x) – **Acts 28:2** – natives on Malta caring for Paul and prisoners in state of helplessness.
         3. Not works – **Romans 11:6**
      2. **(vv. 5b-7)** – ***“through”*** – *dia* – denoting the channel of an act.
         1. It is God’s grace, especially in the person of Jesus – His sacrifice – that saves.
         2. That grace reigns in God’s plan of righteousness – **Romans 5:21**
         3. However, it is ***“through”*** – **(v. 5b)** – regeneration, renewing, born of God (**John 1:12-13)** – **John 3:3, 5** – baptism. (Newness of life **– Romans 6:4**)
         4. **(vv. 6-7)** – the blessings of the HS, namely salvation/justification, poured out that we might be heirs.
7. Its Instruction **(v. 12)**
8. Note the tenses:
   1. **(v. 11)** – God’s grace appeared (aorist, past), making salvation available.
   2. ***“teaching us”*** – present, active – God’s grace is ever present in instruction.
   3. ***“denying ungodliness…”*** – aorist, past – having made the decision to deny (**cf. Romans 6:3, 6** – baptized into His death, old man crucified).
   4. ***“we should live soberly…”*** – aorist (ingressive) – we should begin to live (**cf. 1 Peter 4:1-3** – spent enough time living in sin; **Romans 6:5** – united with resurrection as well).
      1. ***“in the present age”*** – the state things/the world has not changed, but God’s grace is to change how we live in it.
   5. God’s grace in Christ, namely His death for us, was to effect new life, not the same life devoid of consequences – **John 12:24-26** – He had to die to make many live, and we have to die to live with Him.
9. ***“Teaching us”***
   1. *paideuō* – to train up a child, i.e. educate, or (by implication), discipline (by punishment) (STRONG)
      1. **cf. Ephesians 6:4** – ***“training”*** (N)
      2. “(1) to provide instruction for informed and responsible living, educate; (2) to assist in the development of a person’s ability to make appropriate choices, practice discipline.” (BDAG)
   2. Renewing of the Holy Spirit (via word) – **Titus 3:5**
      1. Ongoing, daily – **2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:16**
      2. Renewing mind to prove what is the will of God – **Romans 12:2**
      3. Learned Christ, put off, be renewed, put on – **Ephesians 4:20-24**
   3. Regeneration/renewing = rebirth – **1 Peter 1:23; 2:1-3** – we taste the graciousness of the Lord in our new birth, being freed from what separated us from God, and the proper response is to realize the continual offer and work of grace in the transformative power of its teaching.
10. Grace is God’s Transformative Power (through teaching)
    1. **Titus 1:10-11, 15-16** – they profess to know God, but deny Him through works.
       1. Do they know about grace?
    2. **Titus 3:1-3** – reminding of what grace teaches/demands/empowers us to do – live changed lives.
       1. This is grace that is attractive – **Titus 2:5, 9-10** – claiming God’s grace while living the same blasphemes God and His word; submitting to the transformative power of grace in the gospel makes it attractive.
       2. These Cretan Christians are not like the Cretan’s – **Titus 1:12** – by God’s grace – **1 Corinthians 15:10**
11. Its Hope **(v. 13)**
12. ***“looking for”*** – Present, passive – i.e. as we are being taught to live transformed lives separate from sin, and submit to that grace, we are presently – in that transformative process – looking for our hope, the coming of Jesus.
    1. DIVINE INCENTIVE – why are we living differently? It is in preparation for the ultimate promise – **Titus 1:1-3** – the apostolic ministry in revealing the truth which leads to godliness is climaxed in the final reception of the hope of eternal life. (ab. ***“sound doctrine”*** – but with a view to eternal glory)
    2. ***“glorious appearing”*** – future, 2nd advent of Christ – **(v. 11)** – first advent. (**cf. Acts 1:9-11** – He will return in like manner)
       1. **Acts 1:8** – speaking of the work (as apostles) that they were given to do, and would start soon.
       2. ***“why do you stand gazing?”*** (**v. 11)** – i.e. He is going to return, and in the meanwhile you have work to do.
13. ***“the blessed hope and glorious appearing”***
    1. Two sides to the same coin – Our hope is the objective, visible appearing of the Lord in glory. (**cf. 1 Corinthians 11:26** – till He comes)
    2. Christ is our hope – **Colossians 3:1-4** – our mindset on heavenly things to do the will of Christ (life hidden with Christ in God) is in anticipation of Christ our hope appearing.
       1. You will appear with Him in glory – **1 John 3:1-3** – we allow ourselves to be transformed now in anticipation of being transformed totally later.
       2. **2 Peter 3:14, 18** – in anticipation of our hope we grow, and as we grow we’re looking. (**cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, 8)**
14. Its Sanctification **(v. 14)**
15. A further description of the appearance of grace in **verse 11**:
    1. **Gave Himself** – died for our sins.
    2. **Redeemed us from lawless deeds** – were slaves of sin, purchased out of that to belong to Another.
    3. **Purify for Himself** – the redemption was not simply to release us, but for Him to own – useless/unfit unless purified.
    4. **Own special people** – *periousios* – “pert. to being of very special status, chosen, especial” (BDAG)
       1. ***“to purify for Himself a people for His own possession” (NASB)***
       2. LXX – **Exodus 19:5** – Israel (then), Christians (now)
       3. With work to do – ***“zealous for good works”***
16. Grace Sets Us Apart for God
    1. **Titus 3:8, 14** – careful to maintain good works, not unfruitful.
       1. **2:11** – ***“For”*** – looks back to the contrast of **1:10-2:10** – some claim to know God but are impure and deceive others, but you (Titus) speak what is proper for sound doctrine – given to good works ***(“For”*** – grace has appeared, and teaches us this)
       2. **3:8** – follows further discussion of that grace in **3:4-7** – He has saved us, made us new, renewed us, and it is a trustworthy saying that we be careful to live that way – new, given to good works.
       3. **Not saved to be the same, but to be completely different in God’s service.**
    2. **Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:5 –** Made God’s own to be given to good works in service of Him.
    3. The zeal comes from the appreciation of the grace – **2 Corinthians 5:9-10, 14-15**
    4. Something we pursue – **2 Timothy 2:20-22** – we want to be useful!
17. Its Proclamation **(v. 15)**
18. Titus is commanded to speak these things.
    1. ***“These things”*** – everything before, and following – regarding ***“things which are proper for sound doctrine” (2:1)***
    2. Especially as these things relate to grace – **(v. 11)** – ***“For the grace of God has appeared” (NASB)***
    3. Conviction and transformation by the grace of God is to result in the overflow of such in proclamation to others – **John 7:37-38; 1 Peter 2:9-10** (we proclaim the Lord and His grace to others).
19. The Method of Proclamation
    1. **These things** – not a lewd grace (**cf. Jude 4; 2 Peter 2:19**)
    2. **Exhort** – inviting and encouraging to right conduct.
    3. **Rebuke** – admonishing wrong conduct.
    4. **With all authority** – not that of our own, but of Christ.
       1. **Authority** – *epitagē*; an injunction or decree; by implication, authoritativeness (STRONG)
       2. **1:3** – ***“commandment”***
       3. **Let no one despise you** – *periphroneō* – lit. denotes “to think round a thing, to turn over in the mind”; hence, “to have thoughts beyond, to despise,” (VINE)
          1. Along with the authority – not letting anyone think around or past the authority of the word.
          2. When we speak these things, we do so with conviction, and in doing so convict others – we must put it clearly and unapologetically so that grace can have its effect.

**Conclusion**

1. God’s grace has appeared and is life changing.
2. It should be comprehended, and fully embraced.