

God's Grace: Freely Offered to All Titus 2:11, Ephesians 2

Introduction:

1. **Titus 2:11** is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. I love the phrase "**the grace of God.**"
 - It is used 23 times in the Bible, all in the New Testament.
 - All but six are directly related to the apostle Paul, who wrote this book to Titus.
2. Grace simply means that I receive **freely** what I don't deserve.
 - **Illustration:** You have a bill that is due but they give you extra time to pay it. We call it a grace period.
 - **Illustration:** You violate a rule at work that should result in termination, but your boss says to you, "I am going to give you grace." You receive freely another chance.
 - **Illustration:** A policeman pulls you over for doing 50 in a 35. He says, "I could write you a ticket, but I am going to give you grace this time."
3. A marvelous demonstration of **God's** grace is found in Titus 3:3-4. When we deserve **judgment** for our sin, God extends love, kindness, and grace.
4. Is this grace available to only an exclusive group? Read **Titus 2:11** again. God is offering salvation from sin's penalty and sin's power, and this offer is to **all men**. This incredible offer is based upon His grace.
5. Did you know that it was not always this way? God did not always offer His grace indiscriminately to all men everywhere.
6. In Ephesians 2 there is a natural time line that will explain this offer of grace today to all men.

"Time Past" - Ephesians 2:11-12

1. In time past God made a covenant with the nation of Israel. In this covenant were some glorious promises, one of which was the promise of a Redeemer (a Christ, a Messiah).
 - This Messiah would set up an earthly kingdom of eternal duration.
 - God said He would make Israel a kingdom of priests with a King on a throne Who would reign forever.
2. If you were a Jew in time past:
 - You received covenants of **promise** from God.
 - You lived in **hope** of a Redeemer who would one day deliver you.
 - You had God's Word (given through Moses and the prophets.) You weren't **without God.**
3. The point of **Ephesians 2:11-12** is that the Gentile nations did **not** have any of these advantages. They had turned their back on God long ago and been given over to idolatry. **Romans 1:18-32**
4. It was prophesied that when the Redeemer came to Israel and they received Him, God would establish a **new** covenant with Israel, and Israel would bring light and knowledge to all Gentile nations. **Isaiah 59:20-60:3; Ezekiel 37:26-28; Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 33:7-9**

- This is why **Matthew 20:28** says that Christ came to give His life a ransom for **many**.
 - **Isaiah 53:8** states, "...for the transgression of **my people** was he stricken." Isaiah's people were Israel.
 - **Matthew 1:21** says, "for he shall save **his people** from their sins." Christ was a Jew. **Romans 1:3, 9:4-5; Hebrews 2:16**
5. It was prophesied **in time past** that Christ would suffer and die for the sins of Israel (the elect) and through the blood He shed be able to remit their sins and institute a new and glorious covenant with them. **Jeremiah 31:31-34; cf. Hebrews 8 & 9**
- Do you see how people can form a belief that Jesus died only for the elect? They misapply Scriptures dealing with Israel in time past.
 - As you look at Israel's "time past" program, you have what theologians call a "limited Redeemer" and "limited redemption."
 - There were some things that God planned to do through the cross-work of Jesus Christ that He never told anybody. He kept it a secret (**1 Corinthians 2:7-8**), **but now** has made it known (**Ephesians 3:1-8**).

“But Now” - Ephesians 2:13-14, 16-17

1. **"But now"** indicates that a change has taken place. Paul explains that God isn't operating today like He did in time past.
 - The plan in time past has been set aside. Why is this? **John 1:11** says, "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*"
 - Israel rejected their Redeemer (**Acts 3:14-15**) and the offer of the new covenant. **Acts 3:19- 4:3**
2. What would God's response be to this rejection? It was supposed to be wrath and judgment on Israel and the world. **Psalms 2**
3. Instead, God revealed a secret He had kept hidden from the foundation of the world. Here it is - when Christ died on the cross, He wasn't just dying for the elect's (Israel's) sins. He was dying for the sins of the world.
4. Based on the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross for sin, God would offer grace and forgiveness to **every man**, without discrimination.
5. God revealed this through a man named Paul and sent Paul to the nations with this message of hope and reconciliation.
 - Paul was a Jew. He knew the prophetic plan - start at Jerusalem and convince Israel of Christ. Jesus said that salvation is of the Jews (**John 4:22**). It had to start with them so they, in turn, could prove a blessing to all people (**Genesis 12:3**).
 - But when Paul went to Jerusalem, God said, "No. Get out, I'm sending you to the Gentiles with a new message. Through Israel's **fall**, I'm offering the Gentiles salvation and forgiveness of sins directly, apart from Israel." **Acts 22:17-21, 26:16-18**
 - Christ revealed to Paul the wonderful accomplishments of the cross (one example - **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**).
6. Paul received an **"all men"** - **"every man"** ministry. Remember **Titus 2:11**. Compare this with **1 Timothy 2:1, 4, 6, 4:10; Colossians 1:27-28**

7. In **time past** Israel was the elect of God. They were the chosen vessel that God worked through on the earth. **But now** God's grace has appeared to **all men** and all men can be saved. Why? Because it has been revealed that Christ gave Himself a ransom **for all**.
8. We live in the dispensation of grace - God is freely dispensing His grace to anyone who will simply trust His Son as their Savior. Sin has been forever dealt with on the cross. Now it is simply a question of whether or not men will accept God's offer of reconciliation.

“The Ages to Come” - Ephesians 2:6-7

1. This offer of grace to all people will not last forever. Remember, this world deserves the wrath and judgment of God. It has been promised and it will come. A grace period doesn't last forever.
2. When this time of grace ends, all those who accepted God's offer of grace through His Son, will be caught up into the heavenlies.
3. We will occupy positions in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ and we will display His love and kindness in the ages to come. We will be trophies of His grace on display for the redeemed of the ages to look at.
 - We will serve the Lord as joint-heirs with Jesus Christ and even oversee the angelic creation. **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**
4. Those that rejected God's offer of grace will be left behind to face the wrath and judgment of God for seven years.
5. At the end of this time, God will redeem a remnant of Israel. God will sow them unto Him in the earth and they will be the blessing to all nations that God intended for them to be.
 - Through the Body of Christ the heavens will be filled with His glory.
 - Through Israel the earth will be filled with His glory.

In Conclusion:

1. As you can see, Paul had an "all men - every man" mission and mandate from the Lord. This is our mission and mandate today.
2. We must passionately and zealously get this message to the world. Reconciliation with God has been made possible through the finished work of Jesus Christ.
Illustration: You are late on your electric bill with no way to pay it. Somebody from the light company calls your house and tells your child that they have decided to extend a grace period, but you need to call them before the day is over. Your child neglects to tell you the message of grace. What will you be doing that night? Sitting in darkness. Why? Because you never heard the message of grace. People all over this world are sitting in darkness, and the problem isn't with God. He is offering grace and light to them. The problem is with the messengers, the church!

Ages to Come

Ephesians 2:6-7

But Now
Ephesians 2:13

**BELIEVERS
CAUGHT UP**

Israel receives:

1. Covenants of promise
2. Hope of a Redeemer
3. The Word of God

**GRACE & RECONCILIATION
AVAILABLE TO ALL
THROUGH CHRIST**

**GOD'S WRATH
& JUDGMENT
ON THE EARTH**

**ISRAEL AT LAST A
BLESSING TO ALL
NATIONS**

Tribulation

Time Past
Ephesians 2:11-12

**GENTILE NATIONS
GIVEN OVER TO
IDOLATRY AND
WITHOUT HOPE**

Grace Period

7 years

**Kingdom of
Christ on earth**

**CHRIST
REJECTED BY
ISRAEL**

**ISRAEL'S SINS REMITTED
THE NEW COVENANT ESTABLISHED
KINGDOM OF PRIESTS ON EARTH**

