

What Does the Grace of God Teach? Titus 2:11-13

Introduction:

1. Mankind is in desperate need of salvation. **Romans 3:23** declares that "*...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"
2. Sin has separated mankind from God. It has created a breach between us and God. **Colossians 1:21** uses the terms "aliens and enemies by wicked works." **Ephesians 2:3** says we are "*...by nature the children of wrath.*"
3. Thank God for **Titus 2:11**. God's grace has been extended to mankind and salvation from the penalty of sin has been offered. How can God make such a gracious offer? Because of the cross-work of Jesus Christ. vs. 14
4. Have you accepted God's grace through believing on His Son, Jesus Christ? If so, you have complete justification before God. **Romans 5:1**
 - To be justified means that you have been declared by God to be righteous before Him. How can this be?
5. **2 Corinthians 5:21** explains that Christ took **my** sin so He could give me **His** righteousness. This is grace! It sets me free from the penalty of my sin.
6. But do you know what the next verse says? **2 Corinthians 6:1** says, "*We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God **in vain.***"
7. There is some fruit that should come forth once the grace of God has been extended and received. **Titus 2:12** teaches that the grace of God teaches us some things.

The grace of God teaches us:

To deny sin - verse 12a

1. Did any of you experience this after you were saved? You sinned, but found you couldn't enjoy it anymore. Why is that? Because the grace of God **teaches** us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
2. To live ungodly is to act in a way that is contrary to God's character. Once you are saved, you have the divine nature of Jesus Christ dwelling in you. Your complete identity has changed.
 - You are no longer by nature a child of wrath, but a child of God.
3. When you act in a way that is contrary to your new nature, warning lights pop on (just like on your car dashboard) inside of you telling you that something is not right. The grace of God teaches you that that particular action or attitude is ungodly.
4. When you were saved, the Bible says that Christ's death delivered you from this present evil world. **Galatians 1:4; cf. Colossians 1:13**
5. Our heart (affection) is to be set upon Christ, not the lusts and desires of this world (**Colossians 3:1-2**). When we lust after worldly things, the grace of God teaches us that this is wrong and teaches us to deny that.
6. Some people might say, "You can't teach people to live by grace. If you do that people will use grace as a license to sin." Of course this is dead wrong. The grace of God teaches you to **deny** sin.

7. The grace of God sets you free from the power of sin (**Romans 6:14**). Religion, man-made traditions and rules can't do this. They will keep you on the treadmill of religious performance. Only the grace of God can set you free from sin. **The grace of God also teaches us:**

To live differently - verse 12b

1. Notice, the grace of God sets you free from sin so that you can **live**:
 - **Soberly** - sound in mind, purpose, and judgment.
 - **Righteously** - doing that which is right.
 - **Godly** - displaying the character of God.
2. Isn't it great that the grace of God not only teaches us what to **deny**, but it teaches us how to **live**? The Christian life is not just a list of "don'ts," but it is about living a new life - the Christ-life. **Galatians 2:20**
 - God cleansed and forgave you, but then He placed His very life in you.
 - This is what **Titus 2:1-10** was all about. How can those different groups display the kind of life that Paul revealed?
 - Verse 11 begins with, "*For the grace of God...*" What brings the kind of changed life described in verses 1-10? It's the grace of God within the believer!
3. This is why God's grace was given to you - to make it possible for you to live a godly, righteous life in the midst of an evil world.
4. God didn't just save you from the penalty of sin and then leave you alone to try to change your life. He placed the Spirit of Jesus Christ in you. As you walk by faith in Him and trust Him, He teaches you how to live and lives His life through you!
5. God's grace teaches you the sins you need to **put off** and deny, but then it teaches you what to **put on**. It teaches you a new way to live. **Colossians 3:8-14**
 - Legalism is when you are trying to measure up to a performance-based system of man-made laws and rules. It is the opposite of grace. Grace is what **God** does for you, not what you do for God.
 - Living by grace means that we accept by faith all that God has done for us in Christ and we live in the reality of the new identity we have in Him. **The grace of God also teaches us:**

To focus on Christ - verse 13

1. Why would Paul tell believers to be looking for the appearing of Christ? Obviously, God has an eternal plan for us that goes beyond this earthly life.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** describe this appearing of Christ.
 - In the ages to come, God will display through us the grace that brought us salvation. **Ephesians 2:6-7**
 - We will be joint-heirs with Christ, extending His glory into the heavenly places, giving orders to the angelic creation and managing the affairs of the universe in the ages to come. **1 Corinthians 6:3**
2. The grace of God teaches us that there is something beyond this brief life. God has an eternal plan and purpose for us. When Christ returns and we see Him, that eternal plan will commence.
3. God's grace teaches us to live life **in time** (now) in light of what God will do through us in eternity. **Colossians 3:2-4**

4. God's grace teaches us to keep our focus on Christ, not on the things of this temporal life. It teaches us what is really important. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

In Conclusion:

1. In Titus 2:11-13, God's grace has three components:
 - **Salvation** - verse 11 (Changes the meaning of the **past** through forgiveness)
 - **Sanctification** - verse 12 (changes the way we live in **present** time)
 - **Glorification** - verse 13 (changes our eternal **future**)
2. God's grace brings:
 - Freedom from the penalty of sin - verse 11
 - Freedom from the power of sin - verse 12
 - Freedom from the presence of sin - verse 13
3. All three aspects of this grace are seen in the Colossian believers in **Colossians 1:5-6** (they are in reverse order).
4. God's grace is truly amazing!

God's Grace

Freedom from the penalty of sin

Salvation

Changes the meaning of the past

Titus 2:11

Freedom from the power of sin

Sanctification

Changes the way we live in the present

Titus 2:12

Freedom from the presence of sin

Glorification

Changes our eternal future

Titus 2:13