

Sunday, October 3, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 2:12: Grace Our Teacher

### **Introduction/Review**

- Last week we studied verse 11 and saw that today in the dispensation of Grace not only is God saving mankind by Grace through faith but he has chosen not impute men's trespasses unto them.
- Romans 3:19-20—all the Law can do is declare the sinner guilty before God.
- Romans 4:4-5—person who is working to get saved is just compiling more debt.
- Roman 3:24—salvation today is a free gift of God's grace that is received the moment a lost sinner places faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only total and complete payment for their sin.
- Ephesians 2:8-9—people are saved today by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ.
- Ephesians 1:7—the very essence of God's grace is His provision of Jesus Christ as our sin-bearer, the fact that Christ assumed our sin and its death penalty.
- In today's verse we are going to see another glorious truth regarding the grace of God.

### **Titus 2:12**

- ***“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”***
- *Teaching us*—what is the subject of this sentence? Who or what is doing the teaching? It is the grace of God that brings salvation in verse 11.
- Here is verse 12 we learn an amazing truth that the majority of professing Christendom refuses to accept. Not only does God's grace saved us from our sin it also teaches and instructs us how to live Godly in the present evil world.
- *Denying ungodliness*—means to not accept, to reject, to refuse, ungodliness or lack of reverence towards God.
  - Matthew 10:33, 26:7-72—“deny,” “denied”
  - Acts 7:35—“refused”
  - Romans 1:18, 11:26—“ungodliness”
  - II Timothy 2:16—“ungodliness”
  - Jude 18—“ungodly”
- *Worldly*—means of or belonging to the world, i.e. having the character of the preset corrupt age.

- *Lusts*—desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden (*Strong's Concordance*)
- Taken together Paul is clearly referring to base desires of our flesh that are in line with and driving the corrupted world system around us.
- In short, grace teaches us to deny, reject, or refuse two things: 1) ungodliness, 2) worldly lusts.
- *We should live*—carries the following relevant meanings:
  - to enjoy real life
    - a) to have true life and worthy of the name
  - to live i.e. pass life, in the manner of the living and acting
    - a) of mortals or character (*Strong's Concordance*)
- Notice how Grace teaches us what to deny or reject thereby freeing us up to live, to enjoy real life and demonstrate the true moral character of what it means to be a saint of the most high God.
- *Soberly*—with sound mind, soberly, temperately, discreetly (*Strong's Concordance*)
  - Titus 2:2, 4, 6—we all need to live in an intelligent manner according to God's written word.
- *Righteously*-- just, agreeably to right, 2) properly, as is right, 3) uprightly (*Strong's Concordance*) Justly; in accordance with the laws of justice; equitably; as a criminal righteously condemned. (*Webster's 1828*)
  - I Thessalonians 2:10
- *Godly*—1) Living in obedience to God's commands, from a principle of love to him and reverence of his character and precepts; religious; righteous; as a godly person. 2) Pious; conformed to God's law; as a godly life.
  - II Timothy 3:12
- The Grace of God is what teaches us how to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. According to Galatians 1:4 nature of this present world is evil and in rebellion against God.

### **Grace A Superior System**

- The Grace of God not Law keeping or any system of performance based acceptance teaches us how to live godly in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 5:1-2—we have a standing in grace that we access by faith.
- Romans 5:20—grace by its very definition implies that it can be abused or it would not be grace. Should grace be abused? Romans 6:1-2—**GOD FORBID**
- Galatians 2:21—frustrate—1) Literally, to break or interrupt; hence, to defeat; to disappoint; to balk; to bring to nothing; as, to frustrate a plan, design or attempt; to frustrate the will or purpose. 2) To disappoint; applied to persons. 3) To make null; to nullify; **to render of no effect**; as, to frustrate a conveyance or deed. (*Webster's 1828*)
- Galatians 5:4—the Galatians had fallen from the standing they had in grace by seeking to place themselves back under the bondage of the law.
- I Timothy 1:6-9—remember the purpose of the Law? Romans 3:19-20—it pronounces the sinner guilty before God. That is why the Law is not made for the righteous man. Once the sinner comes to the place where he or she acknowledges their sin and receives the free gift of salvation the Law no longer serves any purpose for that person.
- I Corinthians 15:56—when we make the mistake of thinking that keeping the law will produce godliness we are giving sin strength in our lives.
- Romans 7:5, 7-9—keeping the law gives motion life to sin in your life.
- Romans 7:4—we are dead to the law, the law no longer has power over us (Romans 6:15).
- These verses highlight why Titus 2:12 is so important. The Godly life that is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1-2) is produced by the grace of God working in the hearts, minds, and lives of believers. The law is simply not capable of producing what Grace is. Grace is a superior system.
- I Corinthians 6:12—because the believer is dead to the law there is nothing that is unlawful for the believer.
- However, not all things are expedient (Literally, hastening; urging forward. Hence, tending to promote the object proposed; **fit or suitable for the purpose; proper under the circumstances**. Many things may be lawful, which are not expedient).
- The test in verse 12 according to Paul is does this thing have the capacity to have power over me. If it does then it is not expedient and should be discarded.
- I Corinthians 10:23—when someone asks the question is this lawful what are they essentially asking? What or how much can I get away with?

- To ask the question does this edify is submitting to a much higher standard than is required by the law. There are many things that are lawful but do not edify.
- Colossians 2:6—the problem is not with grace the problem is with us. We fail to consistently apply the grace of God and live in its transforming power. The pull of the flesh is be religious rather than rejoice in who God has made you in Jesus Christ.