

Sunday, September 8, 2019—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 brought 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 present 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.
 - Galatians 1:4—Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil world.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3—as lost people our brains were wired according to the course of this world. Our brains like what they like and travel the path of least resistance.
- In short, grace teaches us to deny, reject, or refuse two things: 1) ungodliness, 2) worldly lusts. Keeping the law will never bring about spiritual victory because all it does is fertilize your flesh. In other words, it appeals to the very wiring that we are trying to renew and rewire.
- *We should live*—in the Greek this statement is in the subjunctive mood. In other words, believers should live in the manner Paul is fixing to describe whether or not they actually do.
- The word translated “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 child of 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.