

God – The Grace of God Titus 2:11-14

Thesis: To help us better understand the grace of God.

Introduction:

- A. Many times, the church is accused of not believing in the grace of God.
 - 1. Because we rightly teach that there are things that we must do in order to obtain heaven, others will say that we do not believe in the grace of God.
 - 2. We also understand that no amount of works can save a man; we are saved by the grace of God.
 - 3. However, we must be obedient to Him.

- B. Notice the definition of “grace:”
 - 1. Grace is “unmerited favor.”
 - 2. It is getting something that we do not deserve.
 - 3. It differs from mercy in that mercy is not getting something that we do deserve.

I. God has always been gracious to His people.

A. The grace of God was seen by Israel as they wandered in the wilderness.

- 1. **Ex. 34:6-7** - And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, {7} keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”
- 2. **Num. 6:24-26** (Aaron’s blessing that He was to give to the people) - The LORD bless you and keep you; {25} the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; {26} the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

B. The grace of God was seen by Israel as they were taken as captives.

- 1. Before the captivity, God was gracious to His people.
 - a. The last thing that God wanted to do was to send His people into a severe captivity.
 - b. **II Kgs. 13:22-23** - And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. {23} But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.
- 2. God was even gracious to Israel while they were captives.
 - a. In Nehemiah, the Levites, while confessing and repenting of the sins of Israel, acknowledge the grace of God.
 - 1) **Neh. 9:17** - They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But

they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.

2) **Neh. 9:31** - Nevertheless in Your great mercy you did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; for You are God, gracious and merciful.

b. Other prophets also point out the graciousness of God.

1) **Joel 2:13** - So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

3) The point is that God has always been a God of grace.

C. The Psalmist spoke on numerous occasions about the grace of God.

1. **Ps. 86:15** - But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
2. **Ps. 103:8** - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
3. **Ps. 111:4** - He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
4. **Ps. 116:5** - Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful.
5. **Ps. 145:8** - The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.

D. God always looked for opportunities to show His grace to His people.

1. Many times we picture the God of the Old Testament as a destroyer.
2. Certainly, to those who are disobedient, God is a God of wrath.
3. However, throughout the entire Old Testament and New Testament, God was always looking for a way to save His people.

II. Today, God shows great grace towards us.

A. It is the grace of God that brings salvation (2:11).

1. It is only by the grace of God that we can be saved.
 - a. **Acts 15:11** (Peter speaking about the opportunity for the Gentiles, as well as the Jews, to be saved) - "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."
 - b. **Eph. 2:8** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
2. Remember the definition of grace.
 - a. Grace is "unmerited (or undeserved) favor."
 - b. We cannot **earn** salvation, and God does not **owe** us a home in heaven.
 - c. It is only through the grace of God that we can have salvation.

B. The grace of God that brings salvation comes through Christ (2:13-14).

1. The grace of God was made known to us through the death of Christ (2:14).
 - a. Christ gave of Himself on the cross so that He could redeem (buy back) us.
 - b. Jesus also gave of Himself on the cross so that He could purify us.
2. Because of the grace of God, we look for the great appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (2:13).
 - a. His return is described as “the blessed hope and glorious appearing.”
 - b. It is when He returns that we will be able to have this great home in heaven for an eternity.

C. The grace of God that brings salvation is available to all men (2:11).

1. Christ died for all.
 - a. Heb. 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
 - b. Everyone has the opportunity for eternal life.
2. When it comes to salvation, God does not show favoritism or partiality.

III. The grace of God does not remove our responsibility of faithful living (2:12).

A. Because of the grace of God, we are to live a sober, righteous, and godly life.

1. We must deny “ungodliness and worldly lusts.”
 - a. There is a wrong way to live.
 - b. The grace of God teaches us that we should not live this way.
2. Paul sums up the grace of God and our responsibility towards Him.
 - a. Eph. 2:4-10 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), {6} and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, {7} that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. {8} For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast. {10} For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - b. Because of the grace of God, we must be faithful to Him.

B. Even though God is extremely gracious towards us, we must continue to be faithful to Him.

1. Remember the example of Noah.
 - a. Gen. 6:8 is the first mention of grace in the Bible (“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”).
 - b. However, for Noah to be saved, he still had to build the ark.

2. Remember Paul's question in **Rom. 6:1**.
 - a. **Rom. 6:1** - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
 - 1) Paul is asking a rhetorical question to get his readers to understand that they must live differently.
 - 2) Because of grace, can we continue to live in any way that we want?
 - b. Notice the answer: **Rom. 6:2-7** - Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? {3} Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. {7} For he who has died has been freed from sin.
3. Even with God's tremendous grace, we must be faithful to Him.

Conclusion:

The difference between the grace of God and the wrath of God is our obedience.
God wants to show us His grace.
However, if we are not faithful to Him, we will see His wrath.