

“GRACE IS VERY DEMANDING”

TITUS 2:11-12

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INTRODUCTION

In this passage we see two primary points concerning Grace: it is the Great Penetrator; it is the Wise Pedagogue. In the next message we see grace as The Effective Preparer and The Thoroughgoing Purifier (vv. 13-14).

- Grace has penetrated our world in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ—at His Incarnation; Christ has brought salvation to all men; all men have not come to salvation, but He has brought salvation to them.
- Grace has also been a great teacher for every believer—teaching us as a pedagogue does his pupil—both the negative things to avoid and the positive things to practice.

GRACE DEMANDS THAT YOU RENOUNCE UNGODLINESS AND PRACTICE GODLINESS!

Now, it is important that we note the connection with the passage preceding these verses [notice the “for”].

- The moral demands upon various classes of Christians—Old men, women; young women, men.
- The especial demands upon slaves—of all people. Why would any slave have an exalted purpose for living? Why should a slave be concerned about conduct?
- All of these moral demands must be solidly based upon biblical truth and the doctrine of God’s grace.
- Creed affects character, and genuine character can only be produced through genuine faith.
- However, one who has experienced grace through faith and has a solid doctrinal foundation must manifest the reality of such in genuinely godly character—without that doctrine is empty and vain.
- We all have a solid reason for **adorning the doctrine of God** mentioned in v. 10.
- Paul has just spoken about “God our Savior” in v. 10—now he elaborates upon that **salvation**.
- *Salvation always comes to man with a call to repentance and a change of life!*

I. GRACE IS THE GREAT PENETRATOR (11)

A. Darkness Dispelled—“has appeared”

1. The First Coming of Christ—birth, perfections, healings and miracles, sufferings & death, resurrection.
 - The verb tense speaks of a **definite event in time**.
 - Again in 3:4 this same verb speaks about Christ’s first coming.
 - Here we see the dawning of light upon darkness—sudden divine intervention.
 - “The Sun of Righteousness” arises with “healing in his wings” (Mal. 4:2).
 - “Those sitting in the valley and the shadow of death” have light upon them (Lk. 1:79).
2. Note that the Second Advent is portrayed with its powerful effect upon the believer in v. 13.
3. The details about the Atonement of Christ is portrayed in v. 14.

B. Salvation brought to **all men**—the effects of the Incarnation have become visible in the lives of those experiencing God’s grace.

1. The “all men” does certainly include all of the classes of believers mentioned in vv. 2-10, including the slaves. No one is left out.
2. However, when we compare this statement with I Tim. 2:4-6 we must not limit the extent of the atonement to only the elect; it is brought to and offered to all men.

3. This bringing to all men has special effects on those who actually receive it—"us" of v. 12; see John 1:9-12.

II. GRACE IS THE WISE PEDAGOGUE (12)—"Grace" here is practically personified.

- Grace saves us, but it also changes us in our **attitudes, appetites, ambitions, and actions**.
 - The present tense of the participle shows a continual teaching.
 - The term refers to both corrective teaching in discipline and to practical guidance.
 - Our word "pedagogue" comes from the Greek word.
 - Grace guides us step-by-step.
 - Included is comfort, counsel, encouragement, admonishing, convicting, rewarding, restraining.
- A. Negative things to Deny—outright rejection
- Before believers can manifest positive qualities, negative qualities must be rejected.
 - The verb conveys the idea of a definitive act of rejection, abandonment, and disowning.
 - The picture may well be the time of our conversion and baptism when we repented and turned to Christ.
1. Godlessness—the opposite of godliness; the life of the person when unsaved (cf. Rom. 1:18).
 - Not worshipful; not honoring to God.
 - Immorality and idolatry are characteristic.
 2. Worldly Desires/lusts—strong desires not under the control of God the Holy Spirit.
 - Governed by the "spirit" of this world-system under Satan's dominion.
 - I Jn. 2:16—"lusts of the flesh, of the eyes, pride of life."
 - Longing for pleasures, power, and possessions.
 - Desires of the unregenerate human mind.
- B. Positive Things to Practice—"live, conduct ourselves"—the **purpose** of the grace of salvation and the teaching of grace.
1. **Self-Mastery**: Live sensibly—seriously and with self-control; cf. the adjective with older men, women, and younger women in vv. 2, 3, 5.
 2. **Treatment of one's Neighbor**: Live righteously—according to God's standards; fairness, justice, integrity.
 3. **Relationship with God**: truly worshipful and God-honoring behavior.
- C. Time Frame and Conditions for all of this: **The present age**—literally "the now age."

CONCLUSION

Don't get caught up in this age! Evil powers are now in control, but not forever or for long.

We live in this present age, but we are not to live like it or for it! Christ has redeemed us from it (Gal. 1:4).

Rom. 12:1-2—don't be conformed to it or walk according to its values (Eph. 2:2).

In Christ we have already tasted the powers of the "age to come" (Heb. 6:5).

Grace is the Great Penetrator; it is the Wise Pedagogue.

THANK GOD FOR HIS GRACE THAT HAS BROUGHT US SALVATION!

Are you saved?

If so:

Grace is very demanding.

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