



THE SEVEN WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

Titus 2:11-15

Calvary Baptist Church

February 23, 2014



INTRODUCTION:

I. THE WONDERFUL **MANIFESTATION** OF GOD'S GRACE (2:11; Isa. 45:33; Gal. 4:4)

QUOTE: God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, reaches down to those who have rejected God: who are doing their own thing and living like they want; it reaches down to those who ignore and neglect God and pay little attention to what God says. The point is this: God's grace, the gift of His Son to the world, is not **deserved**. God's grace is not merited. No person deserves the favor of salvation that is in Christ. That's why we call it grace!

II. THE WONDERFUL **PERSON** OF GOD'S GRACE (2:13; Titus 3:4)

Lit., Gk. - "Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." This is the same thought as John 1:1.

QUOTE: In this little statement resides all the truth of the gospel in kernel form. Only a **human** could die in our place. And only a **perfect** human would qualify as a substitute. Therefore, that human must also be God. And in Christ, that is exactly what we have.

III. THE WONDERFUL **GIFT** OF GOD'S GRACE (2:14; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16)

IV. THE WONDERFUL **WORD** OF GOD'S GRACE (2:14; Ex. 21:28-32; Mt. 20:28; Lk. 1:68; 1 Tim. 2:6)

λυτρόω - to release on receipt of **ransom**, to set free, liberate.

V. THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF GOD'S GRACE (2:14)

A. Redeem from Iniquity

Lawlessness. Living as if God's word did not exist.

B. Purify - (*katharidzo*) - to cleanse. (1 John 1:9)

C. Peculiar (Ex. 19:5)

- God has purchased us.
- We are now His special treasure, his beloved possession.

D. Zealous of Good Works (1 Pet. 2:9)

VI. THE WONDERFUL LIFE IN GOD'S GRACE (2:12; Eph. 4:22-24)

TEACHING = training. The grace of God saves, but it also sanctifies. IT GIVES US LIFE, BUT IT ALSO TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE!

A. Putting off the Old Man - "Past Life"

1. Denying - Lit., "To say no to."

- There are things that believers must say no to.

2. Ungodliness

- The rejection of all that is reverent and has to do with God.

3. Worldly Lusts

- The strong desires of this age, this world.
- Fame, fortune, fun!
- We are to say no to the soft, sleepy lifestyle which leads to a useless life.

QUOTE: The standard of practical holy living has been so low among Christians that very often the person who tries to practice spiritual disciplines in everyday life is looked upon with disapproval by a large portion of the Church. And for the most part, the followers of Jesus Christ are satisfied with a life so conformed to the world, and so like it in almost every respect, that to a casual observer, there is no difference between the Christian and the pagan

QUOTE: Seventy percent of Americans think it important to obey God or the Bible when choosing right from wrong, but far fewer believe in moral absolutes. A Gallup poll, conducted for Americans

United for Life, found nearly 70 percent agree with the statement: "There are few moral absolutes; what is right or wrong usually varies from situation to situation." Only 27 percent disagreed. Moreover, while 50 percent were troubled about the influence of religious fundamentalism, only 36 percent expressed concern about secular **humanism's** influence. -- Reported in *National & International Religion Report*, 4/6/92. "To Verify," Leadership.

B. Putting on the New Man - Present Life

1. Soberly (Mk. 5:15)

- With reason, **rationally** as opposed to iniquity or lawlessness above.
- Salvation will correct a man's **thinking**.
- Nothing more tragic than mental illness, distorted perceptions.

2. Righteously - doing right. See chart.

3. Godly - Godly, as opposed to ungodly above.

CHART 1 - THE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW MAN AFTER REDEMPTION			
OLD MAN		NEW MAN	
Iniquity (14)	<i>anomos</i> - lawlessness	Soberly (12)	<i>sophronos</i> - wisely, self controlled
Worldly lusts (12)	<i>kosmikos epithumas</i> - the placing the heart upon the strong desires of this present age.	Righteously (12)	<i>dikaiōs</i> - rightly. Living according the pattern of "the heavenlies."
Ungodliness (12)	<i>asebeion</i> - Rejection of all that is associated with God.	Godly (12)	<i>eusebōs</i> - Accepting and living by the principals of God.

QUOTE: I thought when I became a Christian I had nothing to do but just to lay my oars in the bottom of the boat and float along. But I soon found that I would have to go against the **current**. -- D.L. Moody, Christian History, no. 25.

QUOTE: In other words, God's grace not only redeems us, but it also reforms us and rewards us. "Teaching" in v. 12 in the Gk. is the word for training or disciplining. We are disciplined by grace. Believers who honestly understand the grace of God will not want to live in sin. They will **turn** from ungodliness and worldly lusts; they will live serious, clean, **dedicated** lives in this present world. (Wiersbe)

VII. THE WONDERFUL **HOPE** OF GOD'S GRACE (2:13)

- A. God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to look for the **return** of the Lord.
- B. This is a great verse on the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Greek points out its greatness even more:
 - 1. The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ are not two different things;
 - 2. The blessed hope **is** the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. What will be so blessed about His return?

BLESSED: The word "blessed" (*makarios* PWS: 404) means to be filled with happiness, prosperity, richness, benefits, the highest good—all the great and glorious benefits imaginable.

CONCLUSION (2:15)

Past: "The grace of God ... has appeared to all men" (v. 11)

Present: "teaching us" (v. 12)

Future: "looking for the blessed hope" (v. 13) (Wiersbe)

QUOTE: There are two "poles" to the Christian life:

1st, we look back to the **cross** (v. 14)

2nd we look ahead to the **coming** of Christ (v. 13).

These two poles help keep us steady in our Christian walk. These themes are written into Paul's description of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11) where we are to remember His death "till He comes."