



Wednesday Night Service

May 19, 2021 ~

“Study on the Book of Titus – Zealous for Good Works – Session 5”

Introduction: In last week’s study, we focused on making disciples. One of the main points from last week’s session was that: the church has responsibility to teach. Over the last three sessions we looked at the three critical practices of the church. The church is to:

Preach
Lend
Teach

These are three indispensable priorities and practices for every church. So, let’s look at grace. (Read: Titus 2:11-14)

Key: Grace is an action word! It is something God has done to make it possible.

Key: What God does is more important than what we do.

Today we will answer three questions about grace:

1.) What is Grace?

This is what we do know regarding grace: Grace comes from God. God gives grace. It is something that only God can do. When we think about the definition of grace, I heard this one: Grace is God’s unmerited favor. We can’t earn it, God gives it.

Titus 2:11 says “For the grace of God brings salvation.” Then Paul goes on to say, “Grace has appeared to all men.”

Key: Grace is not an abstraction (idea or thought) it is an action. Grace is an actual event in space and time. Grace appears not by human design, but by God’s design and plan. There was a time in your life that you received God’s grace.

In verses 13-14, Paul tells Titus how this grace appeared. It appeared to us through a man called Jesus. The author Todd Wilson says this “Grace has a face.” It is the face of our great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a scarred face, a bloody face and a dying face. The face of a man who went to a cross and died on that cross so we could find forgiveness and receive his grace.

Verses 14 gives us 3 characteristics of grace:

1. Grace is powerful. Paul says “it is the grace that came from Jesus, who gave himself for us. He redeemed us from every lawless deed.”
2. Grace is purifying. Grace not only rescues us from our sin but cleanses us from our sin. Like the hymn says, “What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus.”
3. Grace is possessive. Grace is not only incredibly generous; it is tremendously possessive. When grace comes into your life, it takes you over; it owns you.

Key: When we encounter the grace of God, in the cross of Christ, you no longer are your own, but you become His own possession. Your life belongs to Jesus.

Key: Grace is possessive because it is costly. It cost God the life of His only Son.

But we must understand that grace is not a one-time deal. Grace is on-going. The grace of the cross and the Son are always there and always given afresh. (Read: II Timothy 2:1 and II Cor. 9:8)

2.) What Does Grace Do?

When grace shows up in your life it trains you. (Read: Titus 2:12) “It trains or teaches us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts.” Grace tells us what to do to change. Grace trains us to live a better life.

In verse 12, Paul tells us four qualities of grace:

1. Grace trains us to develop self-control.
2. Grace trains us to live uprightly.
3. Grace trains us to live godly lives.
4. Grace trains us in how to live right now.

(Read: Heb 12:7-11)

This passage speaks to how grace trains us. This passage speaks about divine discipline.

Key: So if you feel like the circumstances of your life are stretching you beyond what you think you can bare, then it may well be the grace of God training you.

3.) How Do We Embrace the Training of Grace?

We do these two ways:

- 1.) Deny ourselves. As Paul says, "it is dying to self". To follow Jesus will require us to give up some things: Our sinful past. Give up wrong attitudes and actions. (Ex. The runner of a marathon who has to give up things to prepare for the race)
- 2.) Wait for what we hope for. Verse 13 says, "We wait for our blessed hope." There is more to come: Heaven awaits those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus and have received his forgiveness and grace. But for now, we live our life with gratitude for the grace we have received and live our life for the one who died for us.