

“Taught by Grace”

Titus 2:11-14

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Shadrach Means

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What is Grace?

- *Grace* – Unmerited favor and mercy. Getting something, we don't deserve.

Imagine you were speeding down Eucalyptus Ave. on the way here tonight and you didn't notice that officer on the side of the road with a radar gun aimed at your car. The problem is, you were speeding and clocked at 85 mph. You see him flip his light on and hit the siren. You are TOTALLY busted! Let's say that you have to go to court and try to fight it (hoping the cop doesn't show up, but he does), the judge will look at the evidence, he will ask you if you were speeding, you will say yes because you are sworn to tell the truth, the officer is there, the evidence is there. You aren't getting out of a thing!

The judge says your fine will be 100 hours of community service and \$1000 fine for excessive speed.

Imagine now a defense attorney showing up, walking up to the judge and saying, "I will pay the fine for, fill in your name."

The judge looks at you to see if you will agree to allow this.

What did you do to earn this favor?

That is what Jesus has done for you, he paid the price.

Taught about the gift of grace

Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,.."

- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"An atheist said, "If there is a God, may he prove himself by striking me dead right now." Nothing happened. "You see, there is no God." Another responded, "You've only proved that He is a gracious God." Unknown.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "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."

Taught by grace to...

Titus 2:12 "...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,..."

• Teaching –

- *"The ancient Greek word for teaching has in mind what a parent does for a child. It speaks of the entire training process: teaching, encouragement, correction, and discipline. Grace is a teacher in this sense."* Guzik

Taught to deny

• Deny – to disown, to say NO, "Just say NO!" (The test of genuine conversion)

- *Ungodliness* – to live in an ungodly manner, or godlessness.
 - It's to live as if God didn't exist, or that God has no rule over your life.
 - Imagine, you say you have received Jesus as LORD and SAVIOR, Then try to use grace as a license to sin.

- *Worldly Lusts* – pertaining to the system or standards of the world.

Devoted to the world and its standards.

- **Romans 6:2-4** "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."

• If we truly have received Christ, we say no to sin.

• If we truly have received the Grace of God, there is something that's produced!

- **Too many Christians live here**, just living daily trying to deny the flesh.
 - God didn't intend for us to live in this state!
 - It's time to **MOVE FORWARD!**

Taught to live

• Live –

- *Soberly* – a sound mind, self-control, restraint.

- **1 Peter 1:13-16** "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, *"Be holy, for I am holy."*

- *Righteously* – in a right way, upright

- **1 Peter 1:6-9** "⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."

- **Godly** – in a godly manner
 - *Because God is the center of your life and pleasing Him is your #1 goal!*
 - **In this present age** –
 - *“Christians live “in this present age” (NIV), but they do not live like it or for it. Christ has redeemed us from this evil age (Gal. 1:4), and we must not be conformed to it”* ¹
- ¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 267). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- **Romans 12:2** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
 - *Conformity* is what happens on the outside.
 - *Transformation* happens from the inside out. (1 Peter 1:6-9)

Taught by grace to wait

Titus 2:13-14 “¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.”

- *Looking* – to await, to expect, to look forward to.
- *Blessed hope/glorious appearing* – the Greek text requires that they be construed as the same thing.
 - *The motivation to live rightly!*
 - **1 John 2:28-29** “²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”
 - **2 Timothy 4:8** “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
 - *Because we look forward to seeing Jesus!*
 - **1 Peter 1:6-9** “⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your [faith], *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though [it] is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your [faith]—the salvation of *your* souls.”

- **1 John 3:2-3** “² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”
 - I think it says a lot about a person that claims they love Jesus and don't look forward to seeing Him.
 - It's like saying a bride to be loves the man she is to marry but isn't looking forward to the wedding.
- *Because He has prepared a place for us!*
 - **John 14:2-3** “² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there you may be also.*”

“At the height of WWII, Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned for taking a stand against Hitler. Yet he continued to urge fellow believers to resist Nazi tyranny. A group of Christians, believing that Hitler was the Antichrist, asked Bonhoeffer, “Why do you expose yourself to all this danger? Jesus will return any day, and all your work and suffering will be for nothing.”

Bonhoeffer replied,
“If Jesus returns tomorrow, then tomorrow I'll rest from my labor. But today I have work to do. I must continue the struggle until it's finished.”

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2 Peter 3:18 “...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. to Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.”