

God's Grace
Turnpike Wesleyan – March 1, 2020

Scripture Text: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Introduction

The amazing thing about God's grace is that it reaches what you and I would consider the **unreachable** places of humanity and touches the **untouchable** regions of life.

However, grace is one of those Christian catch words - that we say a lot - but do we know what it means? That's one problem with so much of what passes as Christianity today. Everything is vague. Some people think grace is nothing more than a table prayer. Others think “grace” just means that God loves us and so we are saved because God is more or less a nice guy.

If grace is going to save us and be the foundation of our lives, we better know what it is. If we get grace **messed** up, then we also get our salvation **messed** up.

Allow me this morning to unveil **three** truths about God's grace.

The Apostle Paul unveils the person of God's grace.

Paul never argued the **existence** or reality of God's grace ... he simply testified to it. Even when he reminisced on what kind of person he used to be (and he describes all the vile and ugliness), he concludes by saying “but God's grace **stepped** in!”

Paul could reference God's grace on two fronts: **historically** and **personally**. The grace of God did for the **Israelites** what they never could have done for themselves.

Paul knew grace on a personal level. Note how he phrased the first part of our Scripture text: “For the grace of God has **appeared** that offers salvation to all people.” If grace is something that “**appeared**,” then it must be an actual thing that is visible and tangible: something we can see and touch.

Grace is **Jesus** in the flesh. It is who He is and what He has done.

The Apostle Paul unveils the purpose of grace.

What did Jesus, the grace of God, come to do? He “brings salvation to all people.” The word for salvation in the Greek ends in “ios” which emphasizes action - He is saving.

We are by nature objects of God’s wrath. God hates sin, and we are sinners.

So, we need to be saved from God’s wrath. That’s pretty offensive to today’s culture, but that’s how God’s Word describes humanity. And if Jesus came to bring salvation, this also insinuates that we can’t save ourselves.

Here is the heart and soul of God’s grace - redemption. Redeem means to buy back. Jesus took on flesh for one main reason - that He could suffer, bleed, and die on the cross: so that He could pay the price we owed God.

The Apostle Paul unveils the power of grace.

Grace gives us the ability to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, grace trains us to say “no” to the “now age.”

God’s grace also gives us the power to rise above that which would keep us in captivity and bondage. It enables us to live a life that is pleasing in the eyes of the Lord.

And with grace, we have this blessed hope. We are blessed with a different mindset. We are blessed with the realization that this world is temporary, so we aren’t too attached to it.

Where would we be without Jesus, the grace of God, appearing? We would only be concerned about ourselves. We would only be bound by laws and regulations, were it not for grace. Then there would only be death. No hope.

And what if this salvation appeared, but it was not given to us as a free gift? Then none of us could be sure that it was ours. We would be hopeless rather than hopeful.