

- **\*Read Titus 2:11-14\*** A couple of weeks ago, we studied about the Grace of God from the account of Moses and the bronze serpent that is recorded in **Numbers 21:1-9**. That lesson certainly didn't cover all aspects of the Grace of God, so I wanted to consider God's Grace from another text, this one being the text that we just read from **Titus 2:11-14**.
- The **Letter that Paul wrote to his "true child in a common faith", Titus**, is focused on the idea of Titus setting things in order that are lacking (**1:5**) and in doing so all things would be sound. (**2:1**) To be sound is to be made whole, wholesome, healthy, etc. This word was used much in the medical field, and it seems logical and accurate in its use here in **the letter to Titus**. Paul wanted Titus to ensure that this church was healthy and whole. A couple of the topics covered in this letter really solidifies this desire of Paul for a strong healthy church. **1:5** tells us that Paul left Titus in Crete so that he might appoint shepherds for this church and other churches. **2:1-10** shows us that Paul wanted all the individuals of the church to know their role so that the church would be healthy and whole. And then our text includes God's grace and the roles that it plays in the health and vitality of a church.
- What I see within these 4 verses is the Grace of God examined from 3 different perspectives. The Apostle Paul teaches us the Grace of God from the past, in the present, and into the future. I would like for us to consider God's Grace from these same perspectives in order to gain an even better grasp of how God's Grace plays a role in making the church and its individual members whole and healthy in this life.

### **I. Past: God's Grace has brought us salvation.**

- A. God, in His perfect love, has given us the ability to be reconciled back to Him through His Grace.
  1. Recall the definition of Grace that we have been using in our studies on the subject, "not receiving what we deserve and not deserving what we receive."
  2. This explanation of grace is given support by **this letter that we have from Paul to Titus in 3:5**. We have not been given forgiveness because we have done something to earn it, but it has been extended to us because of God's mercy.
  3. While God's grace was present many thousands of years ago (Adam & Eve, Noah, Children of Israel, etc.), God's perfect love, mercy, and Grace was shown through the giving of His Son on the cross. (**John 3:16; Eph. 2:4-8**)
  4. The showing of God's Grace on that day some 2,000 years ago, was the ultimate giving of something to a people who were so underserving.
- B. This Grace was not something that was an after thought, but God had considered us from even before the beginning of all things.
  1. God, in His perfect knowledge, knew that we were in need of saving because we would choose to sin against His Will.
  2. Therefore, even before the world that we know was founded, God had set in place this plan to extend Grace to those who would follow after His Son Jesus Christ. (**Eph. 1:2-8**)
  3. Without this Grace, there is no way for us, as sinners, to have our sins forgiven. We would never have the ability to become whole and healthy once we had decided to rebel against Jesus.
  4. But thanks be to God for His wisdom and foresight into establishing His Grace that has brought us salvation through the perfect shed blood of His Son those nearly 2,000 years ago.

### **II. Present: God's Grace instructs us in godliness.**

- A. God's Grace is something that must be appreciated to the highest degree, and we show our appreciation for it by allowing it to show us how we ought to live in this life.
  1. God's Grace teaches us how to say "No" to the ungodliness and worldly desires of this life. (**v.11**)
  2. The wickedness, godlessness, lack of respect for authority, improper desires of the flesh, and the life are things that the Christian should recognize as not being proper for them to participate in because they are not in agreement with the holy nature of our God.
  3. The Grace of God is not a license to sin according to Paul. (**Romans 6:1,2**)
  4. Instead, we ought to be devoted to living sensibly, righteously, and godly in this life. (**v.11**)
  5. This is to say that we ought to think and behave with a clear mind that is focused on God and His Will. We are to treat those around us with respect and love, and we are to respect the authority of God's Word by living according to it's teachings.

B. Paul really sums this up well for us in **Romans 12:1,2**.

1. Paul urges the brethren in Rome, by the mercies or Grace of God, to live holy lives before God. **(v.1)**
2. They were not to allow themselves to fall into the sinful mold that those of the world would allow themselves to fall into. **(v.2)**
3. Instead, they were to give the effort to transform themselves from the inside out. **(v.2)**
4. We are not to be outwardly conformed, but instead we are to inwardly be transformed into that which is pleasing and acceptable before God.
5. The Grace of God implores us to live godly in this present age.

### **III. Future: God's Grace helps us to look forward in hope.**

- A. Because of what God's Grace has done and is doing, we are able to look towards the future with hope.
  1. God's Grace forgiving us of sins through His Son, allows us to look forward to that glorious appearance of Jesus with hope, and not with fear. **(v.13)**
  2. Our God desired to have His special people brought together through the blood of Jesus, and those people can have hope in the next life because Jesus rose from the dead into life. **(I Cor. 15)**
  3. We are not deserving of such a resurrection, but God's Grace makes this possible and gives us this hope in an eternal life in heaven with our God.
- B. Because of this hope in life to come, we live this life knowing that this is not the end and that our citizenship is actually in heaven and not this sad and broken earth. **(Phil. 3:17-21)**
  1. Because of God's Grace, we don't put all of our stock in the things of this earth.
  2. Things in this life get broken, they get stolen, they die, and they're gone, but the things of heaven are eternal. **(Matt. 6:19-21)**
  3. Because of this, we put our full trust and hope in our heavenly citizenship that will never be taken from the faithful disciple of Jesus.
  4. We eagerly await that day when this mortal body will be transformed into a spiritual body like our Savior, and this gives us hope and happiness that nothing else can!
  5. The Grace of God gives us confidence that can't be shaken by anything that man or Satan can throw at us. May He be praised for his perfect and matchless Grace!

God's perfect Grace is not dead or inactive, but it truly is alive and it plays a huge role in our spiritual health as disciples of Christ. May we never forget of God's perfect Grace... what it has done, what it continues to do, and what it helps us to look forward to after this life is over. And may we be so appreciative for a God that put in the effort and forethought to put into action this amazing Grace. May God help us to not waste this Grace that was made available to all through the shed blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. May all the glory and honor be given unto Him in all that we do.