**Titus 2:11-15 Grace in one Sentence**

# Intro

* "Titus" - in just 46 verses covers every major doctrine - God's sovereign plan, Christ's deity, appearing, Substitutionary atonement, the work of the Holy Spirit, church leadership, the second coming, importance of sound doctrine, Christian living, and ... all of this is applicable to us because of a thing called...
* Grace - explained in one sentence, 11 to 14
* The "Grace of God" - used variously (eg 'thank God') - needs definition
* At the end - I will show how everything the Apostle Paul writes in this letter is centred around this thing called, **God's Grace** - Grace is the link between God and Man - It's the rope that encompasses the greatness of God on one end, and lassos man on the other, and draws the two together - Grace takes remote facts about God and transforms those facts into immanent power which changes people. Without Grace, a person will receive information about God and say, "so what". But when Grace is received, "so what" is exchanged for thirst for more of Him.
* So, if there is a distance between you and God - what this letter has said up till now will have no power - will all seem pretty, "so what". Well, now we enter an opportunity for that to change.

# Pray

# Read 2:11-15 - ESV + NKJ

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

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

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.

15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

# Proposition: The Grace of God in one sentence - described in at least 3 ways:

- to appreciate **Grace** : Obvious but has to be shown: God's Grace(= favour)

1. **a Saving Grace (12)**

[What Grace gives - salvation// 'Are you saved' could mean, 'have you received this favour from God' ?]

* 1. New Life. (12, "*teaching us that...* ***we should live***")  
       
     "Holistically" new : all faculties of mind, hands, heart
     1. **Sophronously** - [ESV: "*self-controlled",* NKJ*:soberly*] *spiritually-enabled* *mind* that sees and understands, not blinded, "m. of Christ". Spiritual Sanity. The mind is the first faculty affected by Grace

cf. unregenerated mind - always pressing towards unrestrained living, not serious about the Lord, weak in :faith, love and endurance; worldly : slandering, accusing, bad habits, hard-hearted, exposing itself to evil and losing innocence, idle, unkind and stubborn - but the Grace of God changes that...

* + 1. **Righteously** (*hands*) - [ESV: upright]

stable, brimming with love, transforming daily into the likeness of Jesus Christ!

* + 1. **Godly** (*heart*) - Centrality of God to all of life's business. P Tripp refers to J Piper on the life of worship: as arrangement of our "solar system" orbiting by the gravity of the Son - a heart that loves God and is captivated by Him
    2. (... note: '*in the present age*'...this aeon of history now since resurrection - In contrast, if you don't have this *Life* in the *present age* you have... "*death*" - though your brain signalling, hands twitching, heart pumping). **God's Grace described as Saving, because it creates New Life**

but wait, there's more!!

* 1. New Anticipation - future age (13)
     1. **i.e. the "new life"** extends beyond "the present age"
     2. God's Grace is beyond this world - literally. a Deposit now (guaranteed by the HS... full then)

1 Cor 15:53-54 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

When we talk about ***Grace*** - this is what we mean. You can't say 'so what' to that. You can accept it or reject it, but you can't say, 'so what'.

One Def of "Grace" = "*receiving what don't deserve*" - Eph 2:8-9 [We should use the word with more gravity if we can, forethought, sacred word]

1. God's Grace... is (11) **an Appearing Grace - the "Epiphany"** [epi-phaino]

Epiphany ="a moment of sudden and great revelation"

Sometimes there's not a lot of "salvation"[above] to be seen around! cf the entire letter urging the manifestation of mind, hands, heart... ! // Is "God's Grace" just a good philosophy to make people behave better, or does God Himself actually give this divine grace... Where's the proof?!

* 1. > aorist (11)
  2. parallel to (14) *gave* [cf Favour/Grace!]:
  3. We know God Himself actually gives this divine Grace because **He gave Himself**.
  4. [G.Riches (what we received above) .A.C.E.]

**Q: when** did the grace of God appear? On the cross. Confession of an unbeliever eyewitness: "*Surely this was the Son of God*!", "*Declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead*" (Rom 1)

* [God's Grace may be obscure in our lives, but unmistakeable on the cross] - so ironic, ought to see this **Life** on that **Man**, and **Death** on **Us**, but ... *the Grace of God has appeared* - "epiphanied" ... "for us" (on our behalf) so that this **Life** is found **on Us**, and **Death** on **Him**]

*Epiphany* v1= "a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization" - When you surrender to this epiphany, 'so what' becomes 'desperate thirst for more'

* 1. what makes it an *epiphany?*:
     1. Epiphany 2: a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being
     2. what makes it an *epiphany* is that He appeared from Heaven (**Granville-sharp rule**, v13)

[Pray - Lord soften us by your gracious hand]

* 1. ... i.e. = the Mega-God who epiphanies ; on the cross - this is the God we serve. When we talk about ***Grace*** - this is what we mean
  2. The first word of this sentence of Grace - **Epiphany**!

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1Jo 4:10 NIV)

God presents his own love for us in that while yet being the sinning ones, Christ, on our behalf died. [Q: Does God love me? The epiphany of God's Grace is the epitome of God's Love]

1. ... is also described as **an Identity-Giving Grace**

"teaching us" - training us, raising us into maturity, -- with this objective:

"to purify for Himself **a people** for His **own possession**" (ILLUS: Deu 7:6 "*For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth*.)

* 1. >> though 'saving grace' was *epiphanied* to all, not all are saved

Our Mega-God's intention, ie Christ's intention: transfer of ownership, (14) " to *redeem us* ***from***L*"*, " to *cleanse us* ***to***Himself*"*

* 1. our Identity changes - an **Identity-Giving Grace** - and the identity described in v12 is those who, while "waiting"(13), are renouncing their old identity. LIT: [ESV:renounce] in middle voice, therefore "renouncing self": ie. recognising and rejecting the sinful nature: 'ungodliness' (orientation) and 'worldliness' (character)
  2. Zealous = "*fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their beliefs*"

# to help pull this together, Review Context:

* 1:1-4 for the sake of the faith of God' elect and knowledge of the truth which accords with **godliness**.
* 1:5-16 the testimony in the leadership, "**[fit for every] good work"**
* 2:1-10 the authentication of the word in male and female, young and old, lord and subject - by their zeal for godliness - "**nothing evil to say about us**"
* **... Why is godliness so NB to Paul, for Titus to drive home? Why this ZEALOUS JEALOUSY for the church...(11) "For" = "Because" the saving Grace of God has appeared and given us a new identity //**
* **I.O.W In all this talk of Reformation - Only the Grace of God will do it!!!**

Lastly, this word Zealous - a noun. Not adjective.

[ILLUS: we do this... an adj becomes the Nick-Name: "Softy", "Sweety" "Stinker" "Speedy" "Bossy Boots"- Before His Grace there were a whole lot of adjective-nicknames God could've called you...You know wha God's nickname for this church is? **Zealot**! Well, that's his plan anyway!] Zealot of Goodness.

# Application:

**How is your Life**?

* [sophron] spiritual sanity? your righteous hands? the godly orientation of your heart?
* How is your zeal? [ILLUS: Slowed down by barnacles... Zeal, Have those old weights of worldly desire and ungodliness you once denied, in the old man, been gathering around like barnacles?.]

I can't give you **information** to overcome that - only God's Grace will! >>> The Grace of God has appeared - Let it appear again. Stop looking at yourself - look to the cross. You need an Epiphany.. The Saving Grace of God.

Natural man is motivated to be gracious because man is aware (to some extent) that he’s just as guilty as the person in need of grace. Natural man forgives others because he often only knows a small piece of all the other person is actually guilty of. As I began to process this, I was blown away. God is neither motivated by his own sinfulness nor enabled by his ignorance.

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