

The Amazing Grace of God *Titus 2:11-3:8*

Intro:

I. When someone makes what seem like exaggerated claims about what a product can do, our first reaction is generally one of skepticism:

A. This illustration probably holds true for a number of different products, but it seems to resonate the most with medicine:

B. Anytime someone wants to sell you on a pill, a syrup, or some new herb, they are armed with a long list of all the ills that can be cured or alleviated: One cannot help but call to mind the pictures of the “Snake Oil Salesmen” of the late 1800s.

II. It is perhaps due in part to the abundance of frauds, that when we actually come across something that not only claims to be able to accomplish a whole host of positives, *but actually lives up to the hype*, that we cannot speak well enough of it:

A. You buy it in bulk! You stock up on it! You tell your friends and family about it whenever you see them, to the point that they just wish you’d stop talking about it!

III. Why do we bring this up?

A. Consider, that in the conversation about Grace, we can be guilty of approaching God as though He were a snake oil salesman:

B. God has offered up His grace to all men everywhere, on the condition that they do relatively little by comparison, and in return they receive something that accomplishes a whole host of good:

1. Sometimes our reaction, *is that it is too good to be true!*

2. Perhaps because of the various abuses that God’s grace has suffered over the years from those in the religious world, or perhaps because we just can’t believe that God is willing to do so much for people like us:

a) But we look at everything that God does for us through His grace, and can walk away saying just that: *its too good to be true!*

IV. There is a particular set of verses found in the book of Titus that do an excellent job of giving us a list of just exactly what all God can be achieved through His grace, and how that should motivate those who receive it:

A. While no means an exhaustive study, our goal will be to read through this text, making a few observations along the way, and hopefully walk away with the determination to continuously glorify God for His grace, to take more time to marvel at its measure, and to let it have even more affect on the way we live our lives:

Read Titus 2:11-3:8

Chapters 2 and 3 are almost mirror images of each other: They each start out with an encouragement of how a Christian ought to live, then state that those actions should be motivated because of God's Grace, followed by a list of just what all that Grace accomplished, and capped off with a second exhortation to pursue Godly action:

So it is in the context of having just urged Titus and those to whom he would preach to live a certain way, that we come to verse 11

1.) God's Grace: Has brought Salvation to All Men 2:11

- Grace, when considered by the New Testament writers could loosely be described as “the beneficial activity of God on behalf of His creation”
- I believe that v. 11 is specifically referring to the coming of Christ, and the fulfillment of God's plans; an event that John would describe in John 1 as light having burst into the world to shine into the darkness:
- And now that the light has enlightened all men, it has brought with it God's grace:
 - It is ideal that Paul should begin his discussion of Grace's accomplishments with Salvation for Grace is Salvation's fundamental building block:
 - Without Grace, there can be no redemption
 - The very idea of Grace as we often describe it (unmerited favor) is that God's grace is based on His love for us in spite of our failure to have met His standard
 - We describe Grace as unmerited because it is a gift, and one that we have not, and cannot earn
- But more impressive is that the Salvation that God's grace has brought has no shortcomings: It is not restricted by time, distance, race, or nationality:
 - Paul specifies that this is a salvation that has been made available to all!

- And yet Paul does not wish for our view of Grace's function to be limited to its role in our initial salvation: He wanted Titus to know that Grace continued to play a vital role in the day to day life of a Christian:

2. God's Grace Acts as a Teacher 2:12

- Paul was very keen on emphasizing the continual role that Grace played in the lives of Christians: It is why you will find within the first couple of verses of virtually every Epistle, and often the closing lines, Paul wishing Grace to his brethren:
 - Paul here describes one way that Grace works, is by acting as our teacher:
- First He says that Grace teaches us how to say no to the ungodly lifestyle and wicked desires that the world wants us to accept:
 - When we have obeyed from the heart, and have become recipients of God's grace in our salvation, it helps to create in us the desire to renounce those things that are at odds with our newly adopted Father:
- In contrast, it teaches us to say *yes* to that which will draw us closer to God:
 - It encourages us to be self-controlled in this present age, because we know that by the grace of God we have a reward prepared for us in another age to come! Which is what he leads into in the next verse

3. God's Grace Points us Toward Our Hope: 2:13

- In Phil. 3:20-21 Paul states "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*"
 - As God's Grace encourages us to live lives of holiness, it does so with a view towards the reward to come:
 - It prepares us to live a life that hopes for the coming of our Lord:
 - And yet Paul describes this as being a blessed Hope: Do we realize that Hope itself is a blessing?
- **Foundation that cannot be shaken:**
 - Rom. 5:5 *hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

- *Phil. 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*
- *He 6 19: This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,*
- 1 Thess 1:3 allow us to endure,
- Bold speech 2 Cor 3:12

4. God's Grace Thoroughly purifies us: 2:14

- There is no sinner too far gone as to be covered by the Grace of God
- No list of offenses to great
- no debt too deep to be paid off
- God's grace has endless power:

5. God's Grace Motivates us to Godly Action: Read 2:14, 3:5-8

- God's grace is not a license to live how we want: God's grace is a license to Live for God
- We cannot walk away with any other conclusion:
- God's Grace did not come without a cost: the price was the life of His son:
- And any understanding of God's grace that leads to another conclusion that we've been purified with a purpose is not an understanding of God's grace