

The Message of God's Amazing Grace, Titus 2.11-14
Titus, pt.6

Intro. 1. Video of John Newton

2. Text

3. 4 Prophetic words imbedded in this sermon.

A. His grace is for everyone (2.11)

a. "grace" – God's radical and immense ever pursuing and intense love for mankind. It's like a water fall that can't be stopped. The face of grace is Jesus. In Jesus, you see grace. Grace is unmerited favor. It's demonstrated when you take in a stray animal or assist a person in need.

i. Tony Romo story of assisting a couple in need of tire change; offering to pay for a guys movie ticket.

b. "revealed" or "appeared". The appearance of His grace is a clear & distinct revelation. Jesus brought God's saving purposes into the open so that all can now see.

i. God didn't & doesn't hide truth from those who seek it. He doesn't hide what you need. Your part is to seek the truth and respond in faith when you find it.

ii. The example of Jesus telling the disciples about the Scriptures that had to be fulfilled about His death, burial & resurrection. Yet, when He died they ran away & didn't believe. God provided grace for them to latch onto it, but they ran.

iii. Appl – God has given us many convincing promises that He will take care of us during difficult seasons. Whatever challenge you're facing, His grace is being revealed. Your part is to look around and latch on to the truth. ***THE LORD HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZING THAT TO ME. IF YOU ARE WALKING IN SOME LEVEL OF FEAR – HEALTH, FINANCES, FUTURE – IT IS B/C YOU AREN'T BELIEVING IN HIS CLEARLY REVEALED GRACE.**

1. You have to find it for yourself. My faith will not save you & my faith will not sustain you. It must be your pursuit and trust in God's truth.

2. *I felt this impression from the Lord, "My people have thrown in the towel too early. You are in the first quarter of the game and there's much to unfold. Pick up the towel and get your head back in the game. It isn't over and you will win!"

- iv. ***“Water Word”** from message on **“Following the Lord through the Winds of Change”** in Oct. '08.
- c. **“salvation to all people”**
 - i. Salvation is only found in Him. Jesus is the only road to God. There is a constant barrage of political correctness and a growing resentment of those who stand on the truth that Jesus is the only way, I believe we will see more and more pressure brought upon those who hold to the exclusivity of Christ.
 - ii. American Christians are growing more reluctant to state this truth. We are even promoting the equality of other belief systems. We must respect people’s faith choices, but we must never capitulate the exclusivity of Christ. All faiths aren’t equal. Jesus claimed to be the only road to the Father.
 - iii. **“to all people”**. His crucifixion and death exemplified this reality. All people need Him, whether it’s the murdering, anarchist Barabbas or the thief on the cross.
 1. This text isn’t saying all are saved, but that salvation is available to everyone. What about in those places where the gospel hasn’t been preached? In most of those places the gospel could be preached, but due to political leadership, the truth is being suppressed and resisted. It’s not b/c there is lack of effort to spread the gospel but rather it’s b/c of the intentional effort of political & religious structures to resist the gospel.
 2. Jesus told the story in Lk.20 about Pharisees who rejected his ministry. He also made a strong statement against those who lead people, esp children, away from the truth.
 3. His salvation is available to all, but woe unto those who actively hinder its spread into their homes and country.

B. His grace instructs us to say...

- a. **“No” to godless living (2.12a)**
 - i. It’s not about rule keeping, but rather giving in to the work of the Spirit inside of us.
 - ii. The word **“instruct”** could have a double connotation. It means education on what is right but also disciplining us when we’re wrong. You can either learn by being taught a truth or you’ll learn by being **“taught a lesson.”**
 - iii. Rom.6.11-14; 8.5-11. Through the supernatural activity of the HS I am no longer bound to sin. I don’t have to be a ruler keeper, but rather I must be a Spirit permitter.

1. It wasn't up to you to save yourself; it's not up to you keep yourself saved. Your responsibility is to continue to walk towards him.
2. If a person continues in the same sinful pattern after conversion, it may be that they aren't saved – 1 John 3.7-10. Appetites change after conversion

b. "Yes" to godly living (2.12b)

- i. wisdom – sensible. This is a person who has control over the issues of life. This is the inner workings HS.
 1. This is one of my greatest prayers for myself & others. We must be discerning especially in this hour.
 2. Matt.25 & the story of the 10 Virgins, 5 foolish & 5 wise. Eph.5.15f – live wisely b/c the days are evil.
 - a. *Be Prepared word (on Prophetic Page of website) & impression about a hurricane, Oct.'08 & winter '09, esp Feb.'09.
 - b. *The Lord made it clear that we would be touched by a hurricane this summer; I also had a clear sense that something significant would happen in Oct and we saw the stock market tumble. I have the same sense about the winter of '09, but esp the month of Febr. We need to be prepared. It may be for us as a church or for our community or nation, but we need to be ready. It may be very positive or very challenging.
- ii. Righteousness – to do what is right in relationship to others. This is the outer workings of the HS.
- iii. Devotion to God – close fellowship with God. This is the upperward working of HS in my fellowship with God.
 1. I'm witnessing people becoming reluctant to step out in deeper levels of faith with God, b/c of difficulties with people. They are letting hardships with others determine their course forward with God.
 2. If God has called you to a task then you don't have one direction and that's forward and one speed and that's fast.
 3. I believe God has a divine assignment & Satan is using difficulties with others as a diversion to keep you from it. Work through the relationship struggle,

but don't let that stall your devotion to God & the destiny before you. You can move forward, even if the relationship isn't where it should be.

- a. We want everything to be in place before we launch out to sea and sometimes we have to build the boat at sea.

C. His grace instructs us to wait expectantly for the full revelation of Jesus (2.13)

- a. The divine declaration – “our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Clear declaration of Jesus' divinity. There is but one definite article attached to God & Savior which indicates singularity of identity.
- b. “will be revealed” – there was already the revelation of His grace in salvation and now we are waiting for the full revelation of His presence at His return.
- c. “we look forward in hope”
 - i. Personal word of what the Lord has been impressing upon me. We are to be watchful to the environment, discerning of, sober, obedient to the Word, responsive to the Spirit & filled with faith.
 - ii. The wise men & star. The religious leaders knew where Jesus was to be born & saw the star, but didn't discern the time. Jesus to Jerusalem, L.19.41-44. They didn't recognize the time of God's coming to them.
 - iii. *THE LORD HAS EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THE NEED TO BE SOBER, RESPONSIVE & FAITH FILLED.

D. His grace defines our new life in Christ (2.14)

- a. We are free from every known sin
- b. We are clean
- c. We are his own special people
- d. We are totally committed to doing good.
- e. You are defined by heaven, not earth. This is how God sees you and relates to you!
- f. Jesus gave himself as a ransom to free us. Mk.10.45. We have been delivered from both the power & penalty of sin
- g. Illust – a person bound with black, & red cloth & chains. Satan, sin & death are holding the person captive until a ransom is paid. Jesus gives himself as the payment. He dies and the person is

released. He is resurrected & the person is unbound and then beauty replaces the consequences of sin, Satan & death.

- i. The person is free
- ii. The person is clean
- iii. The person is in intimate fellowship with God
- iv. The person is zealous to serve God.