

That Which Grace Requires

Text : **Titus 2: 11-15**

(*Read = Titus 1:16-2:15*)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Titus was a young evangelist who accompanied the Apostle Paul.

1. Called his “**true child in a common faith.**” (**1: 4**)
2. He was a Greek so Paul refused to allow him to be circumcised. (**Gal. 2: 3**)

B. When Paul visited Crete he left Titus to minister to the church there.

1. Crete was one of the largest Mediterranean Islands. (**Pleasant climate**)
 - a. 140 miles long X 35 miles wide
 - b. Homer called it, “Crete of a hundred cities.”
 - c. It was very populous and prosperous.
 2. The people of Crete were not highly regarded in the ancient world. (**unsavory rep.**)
 - a. They were noted for their skill as seamen and as archers.
 - b. But they were also noted as being skilled in treachery and ambush.
 - c. They described themselves as being of low character. (**Read ... 1: 12-13**)
 - 1) **Liars** ... They were dishonest in their dealings.
 - 2) **Evil Beasts** ... They lived like predatory animals.
 - 3) **Lazy Gluttons** ... They were eager to have, but not to work for it.
- (* **Titus was told to rebuke them for practicing their culture.**)

C. Not much is known about the church in Crete.

1. We don't know its origins. (*It was already there when Paul visited.*)
2. It had no elders to deal with problems.
 - a. Titus was left to address their problems.
 - b. He was assigned to appoint elders in every city.
3. They had a problem with false teachers causing disturbances.
4. Unsanctified members were harming the reputation of the gospel, and the Lord.

D. Some of the problems which needed addressing were :

1. The lack of spiritual leadership.
2. Many evil talkers in the church.
3. The Cretans had brought their evil culture into the church instead of changing.
4. The conduct of the members were denying Christ and disgracing the gospel. **1:16**

What message would an evangelist have for a situation as difficult as that ?

I. Titus was instructed to teach them that there is a code of conduct for Christians.

A. Mature men are to lead the way by being :

1. **Temperate** (sober) = Abstaining from wine (*Cretans were known for intemperance.*)
2. **Dignified** (grave) = Honorable, Reverent
3. **Sensible** (temperate) = Curbing one's desires and impulses (*self-disciplined*)
4. **Sound in :** (sound) = To be on good health (*One who keeps the graces and is strong*)
 - a. in faith
 - b. in love
 - c. in perseverance (*steadfastness*)

B. Mature women are to set an example by :

1. **Be reverent in behavior**
2. **Not malicious gossips**
3. **Not enslaved to much wine**
4. **Teaching what is good** (*pro-active Christians*)

What's the result ? *They will be able to teach the younger generation.*

Note : **This is God's plan for maintaining His church.** ... **II Tim. 2:2** (*chain*)

C. Younger women must be taught to :

1. **Love their husbands**
2. **Love their children**
3. **Be sensible** ... temperate ... under control ... self-disciplined
4. **Be pure** ... very different from their pagan neighbors
5. **Be workers at home**
6. **Be kind** (*of good constitution or nature, pleasant*)
7. **Be subject to their own husbands**

What's the desired result ? *The word of God will not be dishonored.*

D. Urge the young men to :

1. **Be sensible.** (*exercising self-control in all things*)
2. **Be an example of good deeds.**
3. **Maintain purity in doctrine.**

4. Be dignified.
5. Use speech which is above reproach.

What's the result ? *Those who oppose will be put to shame, having no charge.*

E. Urge bondslaves to : (**employees**)

1. Be subject to their own masters
2. To be well-pleasing
3. Not to be argumentative
4. Not to pilfer (*don't steal*)
5. To show all good faith (*Be trustworthy*)

What's the desired result ? *They will adorn the doctrine of our Lord.*

- * **There is a standard of Christian behavior that Christian ministers MUST teach.**
Titus 2: 15- These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority.
 Let no one disregard you.

II. Grace demands that this standard be adhered to by all who are saved.

A. Vs. 11 ... Notice the word “for” ... (awz)

1. “awz” indicates the beginning of an explanation.
2. Thus, Paul is about to explain why this standard must be maintained by Christians.

B. God has poured out His grace to save men.

1. Salvation is now available to all, but all men are not automatically saved.
2. God offers the gift, man must accept the gift ... through faith. (cf- **Eph. 2: 8-9**)

C. Salvation is from sin. (**Col. 1: 14 , **Eph. 1: 7**)**

1. When one is delivered from sin, he can no longer live in it. (**Rom. 6**)
2. Everyone has a decision; do they want to be saved or to live in sin.
 * *The spirit of God will not dwell in a dirty house.* (**I Cor. 6: 12-20**)

III. Grace sets one free from law /sin, but demands surrender to the giver of grace.

A. Grace establishes the rule, the reign, the Lordship of God in our lives.

1. Men were created to serve God. (*Put in the garden to dress and to keep it*)
 - a. We are created **by** God and **for** God. (**Col. 1: 16**)
 - b. All who are on the earth belong to God. (**Psa. 24: 1**)
 - c. Man's only choice is will he be faithful or rebellious.

2. Those who rebel against God do not become free, they serve Satan. (**Rom. 6**)

B. Vs. 12 ... Those will be saved must “deny ungodliness.”

1. Ungodliness = as·**eb**·i·ah = “want (*lack*) of reverence towards God”
2. This means everything that is not consistent with the nature and character of God.
3. Thus, when one receives God’s grace (salvation) he must change his whole value system to conform to God’s values.
 - a. **Rom. 12: 2** - but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
 - b. **I John 2:15** - Do not love the world nor the things in the world.

**** The Christian must reject the culture of this world and accept the culture of Heaven. (Develop a completely new world view.)**

C. Vs. 12 ... Those who will be saved must also “deny worldly desires.”

1. Satan is very skilled in marketing his wares.
ILL. – Eve , Judas , Demas
2. We live in flesh which is vulnerable to temptations.
 - a. Satan appeals to our flesh.
James 1: 14 - But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
 - b. The flesh is constantly at war with the flesh.
I Pet. 2:12 - Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. (*don’t conform*)
3. Saved people must constantly discipline their desires.
 - a. The ability to postpone gratification is a mark of maturity. (**physical or spiritual**)
*** We first begin learning this discipline as infants, e.g., potty training.**
 - b. The Lord says we must also discipline ourselves spiritually.
Gal. 5: 16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
 - c. The desiring never stops, but the doing cannot continue.
 - d. Everyone has occasional failures. ... **I John 1: 6-10**
But the saved person cannot **practice** the desires of the flesh. ... **I John 3: 4-10**

D. Grace requires the saved person to change his lifestyle while on earth.

Remember : The destiny of the Christians is not planet earth.

* **Earth is where we choose God and learn how to live in Heaven.**

1. Grace requires people to live “**sensibly in this present age.**” (i.e., **while on earth**)
 - a. Required of all saved people regardless of age.
 - b. Curbing one’s desires and impulses ... **a life under control.**
 - c. Abstaining from evil.
2. While on earth saved people must live “**righteously.**”
 - a. This involves consciously setting a godly standard for one’s life.
 - b. Remember the words of God to the Ephesian brethren.
Eph. 5: 8, 10 - **for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light** **10** **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**
 - c. Setting a righteous (godly) standard will put one out of step with his peers.
 - 1) Society pressures those who are out of step to conform.
 - 2) Equal pressure is applied to those who rise about the standard as to those below.
3. While on earth saved people must live “**godly.**”
 - a. That which is “godly” is in line with His nature, His values, and His character.
 - b. To live godly is to display His values in one’s hearts. (**think like God**)
 - c. God **IS** love. (“**For me to live is Christ.**” **Phil. 1: 21**)
 - * **To love like God (Phil 2) is the hardest thing one can learn to do because it require him to live outside himself.**

IV. Grace cause one to live with his focus on the future, NOT on this present age.

A. Read ... Vs. 13

1. The saved live in anxious expectation of future glory.
2. Our hope will be realized at His appearing.

B. Read ... Vs. 14

1. He redeemed us. (**He did it for a reason.**)
 - a. Man was lost to Him, but He died on a cross to get them back.
 - b. When He purchases / redeems, He again becomes man’s owner. (**1 Cor 6, Acts 20**)
2. He “**purified to Himself a people for His own possession.**”
3. He purchased the cleansed people with a view toward receiving service.

- a. All servants are expected to serve their master.
- b. Jesus wants those He purchased to be **“zealous of good deeds.”**
- c. Zealous = *“most eagerly desirous of”* ... **NOT** prodded to do or duty-bound.
- 4. The “godly” servant has the same values and the same goals as God.
 - a. Some good works are listed, but the “godly” servant is alert for opportunities.
 - * **God does not want Christians to be like the Pharisees, checking off a list.**
 - b. Reaching lost souls is God’s highest value on the earth.
 - I Pet. 2:9- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

CONCLUSION :

A. This is a message that God wants preached to all of those He has saved.

**Titus 1: 15 - These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority.
Let no one disregard you.**

- 1. I am commanded to preach this message to God’s saved people.
- 2. I am then commanded to insist that His people give heed to it.
- 3. Having done so, my responsibility is fulfilled.

B. The decision is now yours. What will you do with it ?

- 1. Will you reject everything that is not consistent with God’s nature ?
- 2. Will you subjugate your earthly temptations to the will of God ?
- 3. Will you alter your life to be :
 - a. sensible
 - b. righteous
 - c. godly

C. Are you living each day with an eye toward that blessed hope of His return ?

- 1. Are you staying busy in His service ?
- 2. Are you ZEALOUS for His service ?

INVITATION :