

Title: The Grace of Christmas

Passage: Titus 2:11-14

Summary:

I. The appearing of God's grace (v.11)

II. Living in God's grace (v.12)

III. Hope of God's grace (v.13-14)

Key Truths:

- God's grace = Expression of God's undeserved kindness, warmth, generosity, and good will.
- The reason God will never stop loving you is because He never began. In eternity past, God decided to give you the grace in Christ Jesus to make you His own.
- Holy living is our loving response to God's grace in Christ. God's grace is transforming us in this life now into the character of His Son. Saved by grace is also living in His grace.
- The hope of God's grace - God will bring you home safely because you belong to Him. God's grace is what saves you, holds you, and fully redeems you.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Is Christmas the most important date on the Christian calendar? Why would it be?

- It was God's grace that made that day so special.
 - God's amazing grace arrived in Bethlehem that special day.

Passage:

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

EXPOSITION

Overview

I. The appearing of God's grace (v.11)

II. Living in God's grace (v.12)

III. Hope of God's grace (v.13-14)

I. THE APPEARING OF GOD'S GRACE (V.11)

Titus 2:11

***For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
For the grace of God***

- Definitions:
 - Active communication of God's divine blessing.
 - Expression of God's undeserved kindness, warmth, generosity, and good will.
 - G.R.A.C.E. = God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Also see:

Titus 3:4-6

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

- grace of God has appeared = Jesus Christ

bringing salvation for all people,

- Salvation. Why?
 - We have a sinful nature that is rebellion to God.
 - God's holiness separates us from Him because of our sin.
 - God is also just. Rebellion demands nothing but a just punishment, which is death.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Question: When were you saved?

2 Timothy 1:9

who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

- God gave us grace in time before there was time.

- Before anything that was made, God gave us grace.
- "Covenant of redemption"
 - The agreement made between the members of the Trinity to bring us salvation. God the Father planned the redemption, sending God the Son to save His people, who voluntarily and willingly agreed to be sent and do the work necessary to save those to be saved. God the Holy Spirit agrees to apply the work of Christ to those saved by sealing them unto salvation.

Jeremiah 31:3

the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

- The reason God will never stop loving you is because He never began.
- In eternity past, God decided to give you the grace in Christ Jesus to make you His own.

II. LIVING IN GOD'S GRACE

Titus 2:12

training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, training

- A relationship term
- Not behavioral modification but heart transformation.

training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions

- ungodliness and worldly passions = sinful flesh / rebellion against God and His ways.

and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

- We are being trained to be like God and not of this world.

Common errors or misunderstandings of grace

Error #1: If we keep God's law, then He will accept us

- We get credit for our acceptance of God.
- Truth: We can do nothing to earn God's grace. We are completely saved by God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Error #2: My behavior doesn't matter.

- Jesus is my Savior but not my Lord.
- Truth: God's grace is transforming us in this life now in the character of His Son. Saved by grace is also living in His grace.

Hebrews 12:6

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

Error #3: If I don't behave, God will take His grace from me.

- God will withdrawal His kindness in some way.
- Truth: God is always for you. God will never condemn nor abandon you..
 - The greatest hope is from obeying Him.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Holly living is our loving response to God's grace in Christ.

- The more we understand how God is kind to us, the more we are overcome by His mercy and the more inclined we are to love and serve Him. (R.C. Sproul)
 - The more we understand God's grace, the more we love Him and want to serve Him.

III. HOPE OF GOD'S GRACE

Titus 2:13-14

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

- The grace of God began with Jesus' first coming. It will be consummated with His second coming.

Acts 1:9-11

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- When Jesus comes again, He will rid the world of all evil. There will be a cleansing where there will be a new earth. Everything made new.
- When Jesus comes again, also all believers will have fully redeemed bodies. No temptations to be evil or disobey. A glorious state with God.

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

- Jesus second return is a gracious one where He is coming for His beloved.

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- who gave himself for us = Jesus is personal when He returns
- a people for his own possession = we are God's own treasured possessions.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- The hope of God's grace - God will bring you home safely because you belong to Him.
- God's grace is what saved you, holds you, and fully redeems you.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.