

Grace Unwrapped!

Titus 2.11-14

Grace is unmerited and unlimited: It is undeserved, yet God extends it to everyone. It is also largely unknown; in fact, many Christians have never discovered the full impact grace can have in their lives. Time to *unwrap* grace...the gift that keeps on giving!

1. Grace in the past: It brought salvation to all mankind (11)
2. Grace in the present: It teaches us how to live life (12)
3. Grace in the future: It focuses our hope on Christ's return (13)
4. The Goal of Grace: Redeemed and pure people (14)

*Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master; my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.*

Thomas O. Chisholm



Digging Deeper

1. Titus 2.11 begins with the word “For.” This indicates that what Paul is about to say provides a reason for what he has just said. Read Titus 2.1-10. What actions and attitudes does Paul exhort Christians to live out? Which apply specifically to you?
2. The reason Christians should exhibit the pattern of behavior in verses 1-10 is that “the grace of God has appeared” (11). What is this a reference to? (The Greek word translated ‘appeared’ is ἐπιφαίνω (*epiphainō*), and describes light shining in darkness, like the dawning of a new day.) How many people is salvation made available to because of God’s grace appearing?
3. The Greek word translated ‘instructing’ at the beginning of v12 refers to *child-training*, or *discipline* (see Heb. 12.7). The grace of God *instructs* us to reject sinful living and pursue godliness. How does grace do this? Read Romans 8.1-15. How is a life of grace different from a life under law? What role does the Spirit play in helping us live our new lives in Christ? Is it possible for a Christian to live a sinful life? What is the result of this? How can a Christian find victory over sin? (Read Romans 6-8!)
4. One of the most wonderful, and most *powerful* aspects of grace is the *hope* which it gives. What is the *blessed hope* Paul refers to in v13? How does the assurance that Jesus is coming again and that we will be with our Savior forever affect your spiritual walk with the Lord? How does it affect your attitude toward sin and anything that displeases God?
5. We may often think that Jesus came to earth to die for our sins, so we could receive forgiveness and go to heaven when we die, and this is true, but it is only part of the story. According to v14, *in our present lives on earth*, what is the desired result of Jesus’ death on the cross? What does He want to see happening in our lives? Reflecting on Christ as the Bridegroom, and the Church as His bride, what kind of bride does Christ want us to be? (See the parallel to wives and husbands in Ephesians 5.22-33.)