

Set in order – Sermon 13 – The Guesswork of Grace – Titus 2:11-15

Intro:

- 1) **Word picture – board game**
 - a. Guess by filling in the blank

- 2) **What does this have to do with our passage today?**
 - a. Unfortunately – there are key doctrinal words that really impact our faith which Christians seem to just guess at
 - i. Sometimes we hold a specific belief about a word simply because that’s what other’s say about it
 - b. We preach them, sing them, talk about them, use them in prayer – but do we know what they mean and how they impact our lives?
 - c. Today we are looking at one of those key words – GRACE

- 3) **Grace is an impactful word and a vital word**
 - a. Grace is mentioned some 170x’s in the Bible
 - i. 39 – OT
 - ii. 131 - NT
 - b. It is used in the key verses about salvation
 - c. Many of our classic worship songs speak of grace

- 4) **Listen – if we misunderstand grace, or overlook the necessity of grace, I believe it really constrains the depth of our walk with Jesus**
 - a. As we will see, Paul places a strong emphasis on grace here and how it impacts a life set in order and living out sound doctrine

- 5) **This morning we are going to look at our passage which deals with the doctrine of the grace and take the guesswork out of it**
 - a. Sermon: The Guesswork or Grace
 - b. Text: Titus 2:11-15
 - c. Important – context
 - i. V1 & 15 form an inclusion – speak....sound doctrine
 - ii. What is written between these verses is considered “sound doctrine”
 - d. Desire – tap into what grace really does in the life of a Christian

The Appearance of Grace – V11

1) V11 opens with a bold statement about the saving grace of God

- a. Interpretation – God, by grace, has made salvation available to all people
- b. “Grace is a one-word summary of God’s saving act in Christ, given freely to sinners who believe.” – Mounce
- c. In this portion of the passage Paul wants the Cretan believers to know – God has graciously brought forth salvation to mankind AND how that impacts their life

2) Grace is Providentially Provided

- a. This passage brings up a word that requires a sound understanding to have a life truly “set in order”
 - i. Grace – Grk. *Charis* – unmerited or undeserved favor and blessing of God
 - ii. Grace carries the idea of something given to you which you did not earn
- b. There’s a difference in Scripture between something acquired:
 - i. Apo agorasias – by purchase
 - ii. Apo charismatos – by gift
 - iii. The grace of God is not something acquired by your purchasing, but rather by the free gifting of God
- c. Historical context
 - i. In the Greco-Roman world Charis was used for:
 1. A gift given freely
 2. A favor given from a superior to an inferior
 3. Patronage (a wealthy benefactor helping someone socially)
- d. Fascinating – the words grace and joy share the same root word in Greek
 - i. Char
 - ii. Given the root, there is a certain, distinguished relationship between grace (charis) and joy (chara)
 - iii. They are linguistically cognate, with *charis* (grace/gift) often signifying that which brings joy, while *chara* (joy) is the response to that grace.
 - iv. Here how this applies - Grace evokes a joy and a delight rather than pride and self-sufficiency because grace by nature is unearned
- e. 1st mention brings some clarity – Genesis 6:8 – Noah
 - i. Notice “found grace”
 1. Found – uncover, discover, cause to encounter
 2. Differs from the word “earned” – sakar – meaning an earned wage
- f. When you hear “grace” think – the unearned gift and favor of God
- g. Grace is one of the crucial elements which sets Christianity apart from every other world religion
 - i. Christians didn’t earn their standing with God, Jesus earned it for them

3) Grace Produces Purity

- a. Although grace is free, there is an expectation attached to it
 - i. Not an expectation of repayment, but of transformation
- b. This passage is contextually significant in giving us an understanding on Godly living
 - i. It gives us the theological grounding for “why” the holy living of V1-10 is expected for the church
- c. “For” functions as an explanatory transition
 - i. IOW – here is why the application of sound doctrine is able to be lived out
- d. You will find in the NT that grace is rarely solo – it set the stage for expected life change
 - i. Most of Pauline Epistles start with an explanation of God’s grace, then goes into the life that should follow
 - ii. Eph. 2:8-10

4) Grace is Present with a Purpose

- a. Bringeth salvation – Soterion – brought deliverance
 - i. Soteria – used in the NT times to speak of health/wellbeing
 - ii. Carries the idea of a restoration to a place of safety
- b. Its important that we understand, God’s grace didn’t just bring encouragement, it brought deliverance!
- c. Grace is not simply kindness – its redemptive

5) Grace is Proven in the Past

- a. This passage reminds us – Christianity is not some speculative philosophy – it’s a historical revelation
- b. IOW - God’s grace has been seen
 - i. Appear – to + shine – indicates to shine forth, to show oneself openly
 - ii. Grk – Epephane – English word “epiphany”
 - iii. Used of a sudden, visible manifestation
 - 1. Greco-Roman world – used of the public arrival of an emperor
- c. This verse is speaking of God’s physical presence in Jesus Christ
 - i. In Jesus we see the saving grace of God most clearly
 - 1. John 1:14
 - 2. Rom. 5:15
- d. God has manifest His salvation in the Person and work of Jesus Christ
 - i. Seen, witnessed, testified, written, and preached (even to you)
- e. What we learn here is:
 - i. Grace is not theoretical
 - ii. Grace is not abstract
 - iii. Grace is historical

6) Grace Proclaims to all People

- a. This phrase speaks of the scope of God's grace
 - i. It has been made available to all people
 - ii. I like this quote – “the perfect atonement of Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God made all men salvable.” – D. Akin
 - iii. Clarity – not all men get saved, but all have access to salvation through Jesus
- b. In the context – this teaches us that God's grace is not confined to a specific gender or class of people
 - i. Just got done addressing specific groups of people and their group-specific application
 - ii. Now – Paul reminds us grace crosses those boundaries and is made available to all
 - iii. IOW – “all men” indicates
 - 1. All kinds of people
 - 2. All classes
 - 3. All social levels
 - iv. Powerful statement to make in a Roman ruled city
 - 1. Class life was prevalent
 - v. Teaches us – grace is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity, social statuses – all need Jesus and God's grace extends to all
 - 1. Gal. 3:27-29

The Assignment of Grace – V12

1) Notice - God's grace not only brings salvation, it brings sanctification

- a. In V12 Paul moves from grace that's revealed to grace that reshapes
- b. In this verse we get to see the great assignment of grace in our lives
 - i. Here's what grace does in the life of a believer AFTER salvation

2) Grace sanctifies

- a. Q – What is meant by “sanctification”?
 - i. The process by which God, through His Word and His Spirit, makes you look more like Jesus continually
 - ii. John 17:17
 - iii. 1 Cor. 1:10
- b. Sentence – salvation delivers you from sin's penalty, sanctification delivers you from sin's power
- c. IOW – God does not just rescue you from hell – he reshapes you into holiness

3) Grace Schools

- a. Good statement – When you enter into God's UNITY, you also enter into God's UNIVERSITY
- b. Notice this – “teaching us that”
 - i. Teaching – to educate and rear up a child
 - 1. Means to influence the conscious will
 - 2. Speaks of a spiritual and moral nurturing
 - ii. In the Hellenistic culture – the word translated “teaching” here referred to the entire educational system that would form a citizen into a culturally respectable person
 - iii. This word is the root of our word - pedagogy
- c. We could say – not only is grace our new culture, it is our new curriculum
 - i. Not the world
 - ii. Not our flesh and desires
 - iii. Not the devil
 - iv. Not the populus
- d. God's grace educates and equips us spiritually
- e. IOW - You aren't just forgiven; you get formed

4) Grace Shapes

- a. Don't miss this – the maturity of grace in our lives should be continual
- b. Teaching – present active participle – continual/repetitive action
- c. A life lived in the grace of God WILL BE a life of maturing
 - i. Grace is not stagnant – its shaping

5) Grace separates

- a. Q – what is an evidence that I’m growing in the grace of God?
 - i. There will be things you begin to reject
- b. Denying – to refuse, to give up
 - i. Certain things we must let go of
 - ii. Maturing grace involves separation
- c. Ungodliness – Lit. no + worship – lack of Godly reverence
 - i. My translation – stop worshipping yourself
 - ii. Grace dethrones self
- d. Worldly lust – desires which oppose the things of God – worldly impulses
 - i. The former ungodly passions before salvation – Eph. 2:1-5
- e. IOW – Grace matures you with the discernment to say “no”
 - i. Sentence – It’s hard to grow in grace while holding on to the very things grace seeks to destroy

6) Grace Secures

- a. Not only will grace grow you reject certain things, it will grow you to receive certain things
- b. Notice what we are to receive
 - i. Should live – to have life, a word of temperature – warm
 - ii. Soberly – self-controlled, root – right state of mind
 - 1. Opposite of a sober mind is an intoxicated mind
 - 2. Meaning – adopt a Biblical worldview
 - iii. Righteously – justly, honestly, w/o injury to others
 - 1. Live according to God’s standards
 - 2. Grace develops a standard change in your life
 - iv. Godly – opposite of ungodly, well + worship
 - 1. Correct reverence toward God

7) Grace Strengthens for the Season

- a. Notice when this should take place – “in this present world”
- b. Present – now, as it is
- c. Not some distant time of greater holiness – but now
- d. Not in some “Godlier” generation – but now, as it is
 - i. God’s grace has enabled you for right now!

8) Q – what do you need to reject in the grace of God and receive in the grace of God to experience Godly growth?

The Anticipation of Grace – V13

1) Truth – God’s grace is not just for today, it also covers tomorrow!

- a. V13
- b. V11-12 showed us grace that saves and sanctifies
 - i. V13 shows us grace that steadies and secures our future
 - ii. Here’s how we can say it:
 - 1. Grace not only redeems your past and reshapes your present, it also reassures your tomorrow

2) Grace Shifts our Sight

- a. Interpretation – God’s grace gives us a satisfied gaze into the future
- b. Looking – to receive, to accept, to admit
 - i. We look because we admit who Jesus is
 - ii. Present participle – continuously
 - iii. This is not a casual glance, this is a continued expectation
- c. Blessed hope
 - i. Blessed – to be fully satisfied
 - ii. Phrase denotes a fully satisfied hope
 - iii. Internal state, not external circumstance
- d. Glorious appearing
 - i. Glory – recognizing a person for who they really are
 - ii. Jesus is alive and is coming again
 - iii. Write down - Grace sees the crib, cross, and crown

3) Grace Settles our Perspective

- a. God’s grace teaches us where we should look
- b. Reality – this earth is not our home, this world is not our final destination
- c. Eternity is on the mind of people
 - i. 7 out of 10 people believe in heaven
 - ii. 10 out of 10 will experience eternity someday
- d. Eccl. 3:11

4) Grace Silences our Fear

- a. Many people have a fear of eternity
 - i. Apeirophobia – fear of eternity
- b. “Eternity is a very long time, especially towards the end.” – Woody Allen
- c. “Eternity is a long time to be wrong”
- d. Notice what God says here – blessed hope, glorious appearing
 - i. Something welcomed, not feared
 - ii. Truth – faith in Jesus takes away the fear of Jesus
- e. God’s grace teaches us to look for the coming of Christ with a blessed hope not a burdened heart

The Accomplishments of Grace – V14

- 1) In closing, verse 14 summarizes the accomplishments of grace in Jesus Christ
 - a. He PAID for us – substitute
 - i. “He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay.” – Ellis J. Crum
 - ii. Redeem – the price paid to effect one’s deliverance
 - iii. This word was heavily influenced by the slave trade/auction in the Roman Empire
 1. A placard would be hung around the neck of a slave listing: age, skills, health, and any defect
 2. Interested buyers would then proceed with purchasing “redeeming”
 - iv. Q – What did our placard say? – guilty, sinner, enemy, death
 1. Yet – Rom. 5:6-8, 1 Cor. 6:19,20
 - b. He PURIFIES us
 - i. Purify – to clean, free from filth
 - ii. Legal and ceremonial term
 - iii. Prodigal son – Luke 15:20-24
 - c. He POSSESSES us
 - i. Peculiar – treasured people
 - ii. Root word – beyond/abundance
 - iii. We are beyond common – we are special
 - d. He PREPARES us
 - i. Eager to do good works
 - ii. Opposite of the culture in which Titus pastored (1:12)

Closing

- 1) **God’s grace is often overlooked and unlearned, therefore the full experience of depth and intimacy can be missed**
 - a. Here in our text we see grace as the foundation of the Cretan lives that were changed
 - b. We can experience it in our lives right now
- 2) **Notice – Paul closes with the exhortation to teach this continually**
 - a. Stated as present imperative – command for continual action
 - b. We need this reminder often
- 3) **Special – about to take communion which is a visible representation of that grace of God in Jesus Christ**