

# Titus Series | Grace Revealed

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- We are so excited you have joined us following our Starting Point series! And, we want to welcome you into your first Bible Study and show you the powerfully transformative nature of God's grace in your life!
  - Remember God doesn't want something FROM you, He wants something FOR you!
- We are going to master one of the shortest letters in the Bible over the next 3 weeks together and God will give us great learning through Titus.
  - It is called Titus because that is who it is written to. Paul the apostle wrote the letter to him in order to give him instructions on how to transform the churches on Crete, the leaders, and the culture by God's grace.
  - I want you to watch this 8:20 video overview of the letter to Titus, and then we will draw our message from there.
  - A line drawing will unfold as a voice-over explains. Absorb as much as you can, but don't be overwhelmed. Thank you to The Bible Project for this video.

# UNLEARNING

*Titus week one | grace revealed*

# Unlearning Culture

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- Cretan Culture wasn't in good shape, but Paul saw it as the perfect place for the transformative grace of God to do its work. How bad was it?
  - They looked to Zeus as their god and fell into his underhanded ways of seduction and treachery. They claimed he was a Cretan and was born there.
  - Titus 2:12-13, "Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, 'The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons.' This is true."
  - Crete was known for its 100 cities, yet they were filled with violence and sexual corruption.
  - "Kretizo" in Greek meant "To be a liar!"

# Unlearning Culture

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- The first work of God's grace in all of our lives is to unlearn the ways of our corrupted culture.
  - "Reprimand them sternly" and tell them to "stop listening" to those who have turned away from God's truth. "Their minds and consciences are corrupted."

# New Pathways

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- There was a man who tried to learn to ride a 'backward bike' and found he could not do it. After 8 months of five minutes a day practice he was able to retrain his brain and ride the bike. While visiting Europe that year he found he was no longer able to ride a normal bike! (video: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) The Backwards Brain Bicycle)
- God's Generous Grace not only saves us from our sins through the death of Jesus, but it retrains us away from our former ways to a new pathway of life.



# Grace for you

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- You may not be aware of it yet, but God is removing your former ways from you— the ways you look and act like culture— and is leading you into new ways of living according to His character— the God who does not lie. This grace makes you a change agent!
- When God worked in Israel he first took the people out of Egypt, but then He took the Egypt out of them!
- 2:11-14

# Grace revealed

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- For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God...
- Notice that our transformation by grace takes place right in the middle of this evil world.
- We are people who turn from the prevailing ways and turn to devotion to God in this world.

# Grace revealed

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- ... While we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.
- When a believer looks back we see God's forgiveness, and when we look forward we see a wonderful day of praise to Jesus!
- We have a new God— Jesus is God and we will see him! so therefore...
- The people of Jesus must be totally committed to doing good in this world by God's grace.



# Unlearning

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- How are you unlearning the ways of our culture while living in the middle of it?
  - Our culture is not too different than Crete and is therefore a perfect place for transformative grace!
  - But if we as Jesus' people have either withdrawn from or assimilated into the culture we will not be able to transform it.
  - What would it look like for you to break away from a cultural corruption in your life? Where are you walking in the ways of our culture and refusing God's grace?