

Living in Light of Grace

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Titus 2:11-14

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Welcome to the very final Sunday Night Live. So, all of you are getting to experience the end of an era tonight, eight weeks in the books. We'll see, as Jason said, maybe next year we'll do it again. We'll pray and talk it over, but I'm so thankful to be here with you all tonight to be able to talk about Jesus, to be able to gaze upon his glory and his grace together, and I hope it's a blessing for you as much as it's been for me to meditate on these things as I put this together.

Will you open your Bibles to Titus 2:11? Titus 2:11. We're going to be looking at verses 11 to 14 tonight. Well, it is hard to believe, I can't even, I don't know what happened to the year. I can't believe it's almost Thanksgiving. We are 25 days away from Thanksgiving today. Halloweens in two days, Christmas is around the corner, so we are in the holiday season. Not to stress anybody out, I know that can carry some stress, but it's upon us. And so in the spirit of the holidays, have you ever seen a reporter go down to a homeless shelter and interview a celebrity and ask them, because they're there and it's Thanksgiving and they're serving up turkey and pie and whatever, and they'll say, gosh, you could be anywhere today. Why are you here?

Have you ever heard what they almost always will say? The celebrity will say, well, it just makes me feel so good. So not taking away from the fact that they're doing that, but on a motivation level, if that's our reason for what we do, it is selfish because that's all about us. They're there because it makes them feel good. That's the primary motivator for them. What about you? What about you? Why do you do what you do as a Christian? What motivates you to live for Christ? It's really interesting to see that when you look in the New Testament, God doesn't just say to us, here's what I want you to do, and do it because I told you so. He doesn't do that.

Actually, when he gives us a command, when he gives us instructions as Christians, he will say either before or after, almost always, a Gospel motivation for us. He'll talk about who we are in Christ, what Christ has done for us. He'll talk about the Gospel, the glory of the Gospel or His Grace. And then he says, "Because that's true, now go live that way." That's our motivation. So, God always gives us Gospel motivations for our obedience, and Paul does this all the time in his writing. When you look at Ephesians classic example of that first three chapters are doctrine, last three are now how do you live that out in your life?

He does the same thing in Titus, but just in reverse order in Titus, in chapters one and two, Paul talks about the things that young men are to do, and older women are to do. Older men, young women, bondservants. And then he gets to our passage in 11-14 and he gives the why, he gives the Gospel motivations for why they should live in the ways that he has just described. And so tonight we get to swim in the beautiful waters of the Gospel motivations that Paul gives in this

letter. Will you stand with me if you're able, as we read God's Word together from 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."

That is God's Word. You can be seated. So as I said tonight, we get a gaze upon the glory of Christ and His grace, and at the same time look at what is the impact of this amazing grace on us and how we should live our lives. So as we begin, I want to pray that God will help us to do just that. Father, thank you for this time. Thank you so much for the precious people that are here, dear brothers and sisters, children of you through your grace, and that we get together to talk about you and worship you and to think through your amazing, eternal, perfect Word.

Father, I pray that as we think these things through tonight, you would help us to find deeper motivations consistently surfacing in our hearts for why we do what we do, that it would be Gospel motivations that drive us. Will you bless this time, Lord, please? Will you help me to communicate these amazing truths clearly and in a way that honors you? We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Well, to live in light of grace is what we're going to be looking at tonight as our overarching point, Living in the Light of Grace, because he makes it clear in this section that we're going to look at that that's what we're to do. And so, to live in light of grace means that the grace of God is so at the forefront of our focus that it impacts who we are and how we live our lives. We're going to unpack that tonight because we are always, all of us, living in light of something.

So what about you? What do you mainly live in light of? Do you typically live in light of grace or are there other things that you typically or predominantly live in light of, things like guilt. Maybe that could drive what you do or earning God's approval. It could be that. Or maybe it's your marriage or your kids. That's what you live in light of and grace is somewhere over here. It could be other people's approval, it could be your career, it could be escape or pleasure. There are all kinds of other motivations that we can live in light of. And so it's critical for us to think this through and understand this because to the degree that we live in light of grace is the degree that you'll become more like Christ, and you'll live more like him.

Go back to verse 11, look at the very first word there, "For the grace of God has appeared." So (for) here connects the behavior that Paul's been talking about and he's saying, because that's true or because you're being called to this, now let me give you the motivations. It connects the two together and it gives us the motivation, the Gospel motivation of the grace of Christ as he talks about how we're to live in those ways. So, his grace doesn't just save us, although it does and thank God that it does, but it also has a huge impact on how we live our lives day to day.

Listen again to verses 11 and 12, "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 this present age." "For the grace of God has appeared." Paul is not just talking about grace here, he's talking about Jesus, who was grace in the flesh, the grace of God appeared. That's Jesus. And through his life and his death and his resurrection, you could say that Jesus fleshed out grace for us.

John 1:14 says, "And the Word of Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father full of grace and truth." Grace isn't just a thing, it's a person, the person of Jesus Christ, and in his first appearance, he brought salvation to his people through grace.

I will say this though, unfortunately in my experience, most Christians, many Christians don't have a really good grasp on what grace is. Christians often can sort of explain, have an idea of what it is, have a sense of what grace is, but might struggle to really define it or see how it applies to their life beyond just the fact that they didn't go to hell and rightfully thankful for grace. So what is grace? Well, the simple answer is that it is God's unmerited favor. It is God's unmerited favor, which means its favor given to us even though we haven't earned it and we don't deserve it. That's good news. That's the good news of the Gospel.

However, all of us do earn one thing in this life, scripture tells us. There's one thing that scripture tells us that we deserve. Romans 6:23 says that "The wages of sin is death." Wages, we earn wages. The wages of our sin is spiritual death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. In other words, what we earn in this life, living in sin apart from Christ is spiritual death and hell. That is the one thing scripture says we deserve and grace is everything beyond hell through Jesus Christ. It's getting, grace is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is we don't get what we deserve, Grace is we get what we don't deserve. We don't deserve any of it.

In other words, what we earn in this life is spiritual death in hell. And yet, God gives us salvation through grace. He places his Spirit within us, he gives us the Bible that we're looking at right now, he gives us a glorious purpose of living for him and honoring him and bringing glory to his name. We don't deserve to be his children and yet even saving us, he could have saved us and left us over there and we would've been saved and been in heaven forever in paradise, free from sin. He had adopted us and made us his kids. I don't even know how to comprehend all the implications of that. We get to be a part of his body, the church, like we are here at Redeemer Bible Church together, the universal church and the local church.

We get a future with him in paradise forever and ever and ever and so much more that is all getting what we don't deserve. That is all God's grace, but grace doesn't just save us. Verse 12 says, it also trains us. It teaches us. One writer said that in this life we are learners in the school of grace. Now, I was hesitant to put that in there because for some of you school was a nightmare. You hated school. So all of a sudden, you're like, oh, grace. I'm in the school of it. That sounds terrible. But imagine the best school ever, the school of Grace. That is what we are

in because it is teaching us and training us gently to become more and more like Christ, to say no to sin and to say yes to godliness.

And it's this amazing grace that Paul says trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-control, upright, and godly lives in this present age. And I love this. In the Greek, the word trains is in the present tense, which means it's an ongoing continual action in our life for our whole life, it never stops. Continually, we as Christians are being trained to say no to sin and to say yes to godliness by grace. And so the grace of Christ is always, always training us and teaching us to live lives that are honoring to him.

And that's our *first point* tonight, *Live Godly Lives in Light of Grace, Live Godly Lives in Light of Grace*. It is grace that motivates us to live godly lives out of a love and a gratitude for our savior and all that he's done in saving us. First Peter 1:5-9 says that if Christlike character isn't growing in you, this is a sobering verse here, if Christlike character isn't growing in you as a Christian, Peter says, you're so nearsighted that you are blind because you have forgotten your former purification of your sins. You have forgotten the Gospel and you've forgotten all of its implications.

And so we need to remember the Gospel, remember God's grace every day and that actually helps us to grow in Christlike character. And so as we fixate on grace, we are drawn to Jesus. We're drawn to spend time in His Word and in prayer. We're drawn to be deeply connected to his body, the church, and to live lives that honor and glorify the one who saved us through grace. And grace continually impacts every area of our life. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:10, "By the grace of God, I am what I am." So what was Paul? Well, he went from being a persecutor and a ravager of the church to being an apostle of Christ through grace. But it didn't just stop there. He says, "And his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me."

It was through God's grace that Paul, and I don't know that any Christian has ever accomplished more for the Kingdom of God than the apostle Paul, but it's by his grace that Paul accomplished all that he did for the Kingdom. Grace, it didn't lead Paul to apathy. Paul didn't say, I'm saved now. I'm good. I'm never going to lose his approval. I'm going to be in heaven one day. I can kind of coast now. Not even close. In fact, it was the opposite for Paul. It freed him and it galvanized him to exert the most vigorous effort imaginable for the sake of the Gospel.

Grace is also there when we're suffering. That's good news. Our youngest daughter, some of you know, has had health struggles for 17 years, unimaginable health struggles. And when your child suffers as a parent you suffer, but his grace has been there for us.

Hebrews 4:16 tells us to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. God's throne of judgment through Christ and his grace has now become the throne of grace for us as Christian instead of judgment coming forth from God and the throne, grace comes forth for us through Christ. It is through grace that we can approach the throne of grace to find grace, which helps us in our time of need. That's

good news. In the context of our struggles with our hearts, idolatries, or sinful conflict with each other. That's the context that James is writing when he in verse 4:6 says, "But he gives more grace," therefore it says God opposes the proud, that's a scary verse, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

God's Grace is available to all of us through Christ in the midst of our own struggles with our hearts, our idolatries, and I know there's never any interpersonal struggle in churches, as I'm sure all of you're aware of. We always get along perfectly, but on the off chance there's a struggle, his grace is there to help us as we humble ourselves before God and our deepest struggles, he gives us grace. Romans 6:14 helps us to understand that because we are under grace, sin no longer has dominion over us. Before we were saved through grace, we were slaves to our sin and now it doesn't have any dominion over us.

Grace has set us free from that slavery and grace also helps us to live like that's true and it is. And yet, as we talked about earlier, there are so many other reasons that we might try to live godly lives. Again, maybe you're trying to earn favor that's already been granted to you through Christ. Maybe you're trying to look good for others or maybe you're trying to live up to the standard that you've set for yourself and that you are striving to be good enough to meet your own standard, to feel good about yourself. Or maybe it is, like I said, guilt that motivates you. None of these motivations honor the Lord or help you to live genuinely godly lives that are pleasing to him.

If you're living in light of guilt, what is that like? Well, your life will lack joy and it's going to be full of discouragement. If you're living in light of trying to earn God's favor, your life will be filled with frustration, and you'll be exhausted. Listen, it is exhausting to try to earn something that you'll never be able to earn. It's exhausting. You need something much more powerful and beautiful and hopeful to live in light of. You need grace. And the really good news is that God didn't just give us grace, he lavished, lavished his grace on us according to Ephesians 1:8.

John 1:16 says that as Christians, you have received not just grace but grace upon grace through Jesus. And we see that in the life of Paul. When Paul was suffering and he cried out to God that he might end his suffering, God responded in 2 Corinthians 12:9 by saying, "My grace, yes, exactly is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." God's grace is sufficient for all that we face in life in a fallen world, and it is through grace that we are able to live godly lives in this present age.

God lavished his grace on us. That doesn't always impact me. There's so much that conspires to pull our focus away from these things in this life, our own heart, our own sin, our idolatries, Satan, the culture. There's so much that can distract us and pull us away, but he lavished his grace on us through Jesus. And as Christians, we need to be people of grace. We need to meditate on grace every day, we need to be filled with gratitude for the grace that has been lavished on us. We need to show grace to each other as God has shown grace to us. We need to talk about grace, we need to worship Christ for his grace, we need to pray that God will help us to remember his grace so that we can live in light of grace.

As we think about grace, we tend to look back on all that Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. And rightfully so. We need to always be, I mean, that's the Gospel. We need to focus on that all the time, but we should also look forward to his imminent return. Take a look at verse 13, "Grace trains us as we're waiting for our blessed hope. The appearing," there's that word again, "Of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Paul is pointing us here to the second coming of Christ. Jesus first appeared on a mission through grace to redeem a people for himself, but he's going to reappear one day in glory to judge the nations, to conquer his enemies, to rescue his people, and to establish his kingdom and his righteous rule on earth. And we, the saints, will reign with Christ in glory, according to Second Timothy 2, through grace.

This blessed hope, as Paul calls it, of Christ's return is such an expression of God's grace and it is so critical to the Christian faith that one theologian wrote that this future appearing of Christ in glory is the supreme object of our Christian hope. So, we shouldn't be waiting on the second coming of Christ like we're sitting at the MVD, passing time on our phone, waiting for our number to be called so we can get it done and get out of here. That is not what Paul is saying here in Titus.

Actually, the word waiting in the Greek indicates that we are not just waiting, but we're waiting with eagerness. There's an eager anticipation of the return of our Savior, and so are you eager for Christ's return? I know I am sometimes. Sometimes I lose my focus, but if we are eager for Christ's return, it will help you to live a godly life in the here and now. And that's our ***second point, Eagerly Wait for Christ's Return in Light of Grace, Eagerly Wait for Christ's Return in Light of Grace.***

It is by the power of his grace that we are waiting for this blessed hope. And what's so great, this hope isn't a, "Well, gosh, man, I really hope Jesus comes back. That would be amazing. I really hope." That's not the hope that's being talked about here. The hope that is being talked about here is a confident expectation of Christ's return that is based on God's character and on his promises, so we know it will happen. As we really consider grace and Jesus who is grace, how could we not eagerly anticipate his return in all that it's going to usher in? How could we not want to live godly lives that honor our great God and Savior while we wait for him?

And as we eagerly wait for and we focus on the blessed hope of Christ's return one day, as we eagerly anticipate this, we will more and more say no to sin and say yes to godliness. And there's a purifying effect for this hope. As we fixate on this great hope, this confident expectation of Jesus's return, we are purified and we become more like the one that we're waiting for. The Apostle John wrote to Christians of the purifying effect of this hope in first John 3 verses 2-3, he wrote, "Beloved, we are God's children now and what we will be has not yet appeared." There's that word again. And so, we're living between the already and the not yet.

As Christians, there has been a massive change in who you are, however you are not yet who you'll be one day. John goes on to say that when he, Jesus, appears, we shall be like him because

we shall see him as he is. When Jesus returns and we see him, we will finally and fully be conformed into the likeness of Jesus. This means that we will have glorified bodies, we won't ever be sick or get old or die and we won't have any weaknesses or any imperfections. Now, I have to say, I don't have any imperfections. My wife I know would attest to that. I have arrived and achieved, I'm the perfect husband, but for the rest of you who still have some imperfections, no more imperfections for you.

But the best part is we will be totally free from sin, continually filled with the Holy Spirit, completely pure and holy and righteous, reflecting the glory of Christ forever. And John says in verse 3 that everyone who thus hopes in him in Jesus purifies himself as he is pure. Purifies, again, is in the present tense here and it's actually the present active tense. And so it means that as we set our hopes on the return of Christ and all that it ushers in, we are continually purifying ourselves in this present age.

God has only started this wonderful sanctifying work in us that he will one day bring to fulfillment when Christ returns. The reality is I don't think most of us think about this blessed hope nearly enough as we go about our daily lives. I think maybe particularly as American Christians because we do have it relatively speaking much easier than most places in the world.

Is the future appearing of Christ in glory the supreme object of your hope? Do you meditate on it? Do you remind yourself of it? Are you eagerly waiting for it? This is a terrible analogy, but I really think we need to be more like junior high students. Junior higher, I mean, I know that's something you should never say, it can't ever possibly be true, but in this case, I do think we should be like not junior high boys maybe, they're kind of a nightmare, but at least junior high girls.

What are they like when they're waiting for summer vacation and it's a couple weeks out? The teachers can't even get them to focus. They're looking out the window, they're thinking about what they're going to be doing all summer. They're so excited they're bouncing off the walls. It's everything the teacher can do just to try to control the class and get them to focus and get done because summer vacation is about to begin. Now, cut me some slack here. We are in the School of Grace, and when Christ returns, it will be our summer vacation. And how much more should we be eagerly waiting for our summer vacation with Christ forever than junior high students eagerly wait for their summer vacation?

This world is not our home as much as we typically try to make it our home, our citizenship is in heaven. And while we're here, we need to live be looking at all times in two directions. Now, this may be physically impossible to look in two directions at one time, but spiritually it's a necessity for us. We look back toward verse 11 and God's grace vibrantly displayed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we look forward at the same time to verse 13 and how through God's grace, Jesus will once again appear, and we will be completely and finally conformed into his image. And we look both those directions at the same time while we live in verse 12, with grace training us to live godly lives in this present age.

Colossians 3:1-4 says that you are to seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on earth. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you will also appear with him in glory. So ask God to help you to focus your minds on these things as you study them in his Word and as you meditate on them, read books like Randy Alcorn's Heaven, which fleshes out a bit of what heaven is and what it might be like. Listen to solid teaching on what's to come. After all, how can we be eager about our blessed hope if we don't know a lot about it?

And in verse 14, it's with this blessed hope in mind that Paul returns to Jesus's first appearance. Jesus is the one, verse 14 says, "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself", let's pause there. Remember, we are to put off sin and we are to say yes to godliness, and he has freed us. He redeemed us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself, "a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." The one that we're looking forward to meeting one day is the one who gave himself to redeem us. And to redeem, it's an amazing idea, amazing reality of what God did, to redeem means to set free by payment of a price.

We were slaves to sin before God saved us according to Titus 3:3. And Jesus freed us, he paid the price, he paid the ransom through his amazing grace and his work on the cross, and he rescued us from the Father's judgment and wrath. And he didn't just do it by the way to provide forgiveness, although for sure he did it for that reason as well. He also freed us from bondage in order to purify for himself a people for his own possession. Now, this carries the idea of a prized or treasured possession, this people who are zealous or eager for good works.

Now, did you get that? Jesus redeemed us to be a people eager for good works. So he didn't just go, "Okay, I've accomplished it. They're forgiven, I'll see him in heaven one day." No, there's an intention behind it. Yes, we are saved and forgiven and redeemed, and he did that so that we will be as children and be with him forever, but so that in this life we will be eager for good works. And that brings us to our final point today, *point #3), Be Eager for Good Works in Light of Grace. Be Eager for Good Works in Light of Grace.*

So just like we shouldn't wait for Jesus's return like we're at the MVD just passing time until it happens, we get our number called, we're not just to do good works. I think we think in those terms too much. We are to be eager, eager for good works. And the fact that we don't have to earn or keep our salvation shouldn't lead us to be complacent. Christ's redeeming grace should stir in us a grateful love for him that leads us to live obediently to him and to be a people eager for good works.

The word here for eager is literally enthusiastic, so can you think of something in your life that you are particularly enthusiastic about? So we have hiking enthusiasts. Maybe that's some of you in here. Food enthusiasts, that would be me. Food is one of the joys of my life. I love food. My son-in-law is a car enthusiast, Pastor David is a car enthusiast. There are travel enthusiasts. I wish I could be that. If I had enough money, I would be a travel enthusiast. That sounds amazing to me. I love to travel.

After an awe-inspiring description of our salvation by grace in Ephesians 2:1-9, Paul points us to good works in verse 10 when he writes, "For we are his workmanship." The idea there is a master workman creating a masterpiece. Do you know that's what he's doing in you? It doesn't matter what you've done or what you do, his work is relentless as he shapes you more and more into the image of Jesus, but as the master workman. We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we might walk in them.

Isn't that amazing? God prepared good works beforehand. This is how much he cares about this. He created good works for you in your life, that you might walk in those good works. That is the intention he has in your life. Jesus in Matthew 5:16 said, "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Can you imagine? "Your good works glorify God and are a light to those who also desperately need to be redeemed through his grace.

If you're a believer to the degree that you live in light of these things, in light of grace, in light of these Gospel motivations, in light of who you are in Christ and what he's done for you, to the degree that you live in light of these things, to the degree you know and believe, you have to know and believe them and understand them and keep them at the forefront of your mind, that will be the degree to which you will grow in godliness and there will be a growing eagerness in your life for good works. However, the reality is that you can't claim to be redeemed if there is no transformation in your life. Faith without works is dead as we see in James 2:14-26. Or you may be a Christian who isn't really growing much in godliness and good works, and that might be because you don't know enough about these things. You don't know enough about grace, you don't know enough about a second coming, you don't think about these things enough, these are not the motivations you live in, or perhaps you don't truly believe them.

So, which of those options best describes you? Are you growing in grace as you think about these things and meditate on these things? Do you look at your life and you see there's really no transformation even though intellectually you believe these things? Or do you maybe just not know enough? Do you have other motivations at play that are wearing you out?

None of us will achieve perfection in this life. None of us. In fact, the longer we've been a believer, the more we realize how imperfect we are, the more we become like our perfect Savior, the more we realize over years and decades, I mean, we have so far to go in our own godliness. So yes, none of us will achieve perfection. But the question is, is your life characterized by a growing godliness and eagerness for good works? Because if you're a Christian, you will grow as you live in light of the redeeming grace of Christ and his return one day.

Now, here's the deal with our growth in this life. It's like the stock market. Have you ever seen those charts for the stock market? What do they do? If you look at years and decades, they go up and they go down, and up and down, and up and down, and there's big down, there's big up. But what do they tend to do over years and decades? Trend upward. That's how our sanctification is in this life. This process of us becoming more like Jesus. It is just like that. It's up and down. But

as a believer, we will see a growing Christlikeness in us, a growing qualities that characterize us imperfectly, but that we could say characterize us.

If you look at the parable of the Seeds and the Sower, you see that the first three seeds aren't Christians. There's either no growth like the first seed, or a little bit of growth that seems genuine, that when the pleasures or the sufferings of this life come in, it just withers away because it wasn't real. It's the fourth seed that is the Christian in Jesus's parable. And with the fourth seed, it's not if it will grow, it's only a how much is it going to grow? 40, 30, 60, 100-fold.

So as we grow, we become more and more eager for good works. So just what are good works? What are we talking about here? Well, the Bible is filled with good works for us to live out, commandments of God on how we're to love God and love our neighbor. But for them to truly be good works, they need to be done out of a sincere faith in Christ and for His glory. And when they are, they are pleasing to our Father in heaven. It absolutely blows my mind to consider that what we do is pleasing to our Father.

Some Christians will mistakenly say that we can't please God any more than we already please them. So they think, "Okay, we are loved and accepted by God fully through Christ, his love for us, his acceptance never wavers, never changes." And that's true. So they'll say sometimes, "So that means he's always as pleased with us as he possibly can be." But that's not biblical because we know that when we sin, what happens? We grieve the Holy Spirit. Gods not pleased with us when we sin. And first John 3-22 says that when we keep his commandments and do what pleases him, and so this to me should excite us to think our Father loves us and we can live in ways that are pleasing in his sight that bring honor and glory to him. He's not a distant God, he's our Father and he loves us and he delights in us according to verses like Psalm 1:47 verse 11. So let's not grow weary of doing good like Galatians 6:9 says, but to be eager for doing good works.

C.S. Lewis is maybe one of the most quotable Christian authors ever in my opinion and I want to close with one of my favorite quotes of his. He wrote that, "It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." For our purposes tonight, the offer of a holiday at sea is living in light of grace, which leads us to live godly lives eager for good works, filled with hope, as we eagerly wait for the return of our King. And that is so much better than making mud pies in a slum. Amen.

Let me pray. Father, thank you for just the amazing hope we have in you. Thank you, Father. Lord, we end up doing what we do for so many other reasons. Lord, I pray that you would help us more and more as your children to truly find your grace, amazing. That we would worship you because of this grace that you have lavished on us, that we would live in light of your grace, and that as we do, we would live more and more godly lives that we would just be so eager for the return of our blessed Savior and that we will live a life of good works.

And Lord, we thank you that this doesn't rest and depend on us. Thank you for granting us your Holy Spirit, placing him within us to give us strength, wisdom, that love for you desire to honor you. Thank you that you forgive us when we don't and we repent. Thank you that you help us, that we can approach your throne of grace with confidence and that you are with us today, tomorrow, and forever. I thank you that we will all be together one day with you forever and ever and ever through your amazing grace. And we thank you that we have a savior who has given us grace upon grace, and it's in his name we pray. Amen.