

**FOCAL Read Together Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men**

# Grace Bringeth Salvation

Titus 2:11-15

When I was a little boy momma used to tell us, "If you'll go out and pick some blackberries, I'll make you a cobbler". I'm sure some of you don't know what a "cobbler" is. The short definition is "it's a pie". The better definition is "it's like manna from Heaven"! Momma would take a large broiler pan, the blackberries we picked, some flour, water, sugar, lard and love, and "cobble" all this together into a large pie.

I knew there had to be a God because of the wild blackberry patches. If you were careful you could go out and pick enough blackberries for a cobbler in about an hour: Thirty minutes if you wouldn't eat every other blackberry! How great is the Grace of God! His Grace has appeared to all men. His Grace is all around us in His creation. If God charged us for air we couldn't afford to pay the bill. We draw air into our bodies without even thinking about it, air more precious than the finest painting in the Louvre in France. The atheist uses God's air to curse His graciousness - and yet God keeps on providing Grace. God gives us Light. The Bible says:

**Genesis 1:2-3 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. {3} And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.**

Grace moved in a dark place, and brought with it Light. From that point on God created and arranged all things so that they were beautiful and perfect. Every plant,



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every bird and beast, everything was made and given to man. When the Psalmist David looked at creation and the wonder of it he said:

**Psalms 8:3-4** When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; {4} What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Oh, marvelous Grace that made all we see. We do not deserve life, yet God gives us life. God put man in a perfect Garden, and man denied God. Did God destroy mankind and start over again? No, for Grace loves to save. Grace promised a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15), and then covered man's sin (Genesis 3:21) before Justice fulfilled the promise of God. As man apart from God grew wicked, and as "**every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was evil continually**", Justice demanded that balance be restored to the earth. A universal flood would be unleashed, and all things would be washed clean. Grace intervened, and gave man 120 years (**Genesis 6:3**) to repent as Noah built an Ark. Noah found Grace (**Genesis 6:8**), as did seven other members of his family. All others perished apart from Grace.

Grace appeared to Abraham, a Gentile from Ur of the Chaldees, and promised him a mighty blessing (**Genesis 12:1 ff**). Grace appeared to Israel, that nation that was born out of Abraham, freeing her from her Egyptian captors. God is gracious and justice. His Grace proceeds His Justice. His arm is stretched out to you. God says:

**Exodus 34:6-7 ... The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, {7} Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.**

that He is **gracious**. If you cry out and receive His grace, then you shall be saved. But if you reject His Grace then He will **visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children unto the third and fourth generation.**

God's Grace is before you, but if you reject that Grace then all that is left is His Justice. Those who rejected the Grace of Noah's Ark found the Justice of God's Flood. Those Egyptians who rejected the Grace of God were buried by the hand of Justice in watery graves at the bottom of the Red Sea. The Israelites who refused to accept the Grace of God and cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land found themselves wandering and dying under God's Justice for forty long years. **The Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men**, but not all men will be saved.

Every wild blackberry patch has both blackberries and thorns. I never picked thorns on purpose, though there were times that I accidentally strayed into the thorns and suffered for it. **The Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.** We can choose to pick the blackberries, or we can choose to pick the

thorns. We can choose to get on the Ark with Noah, or we can choose to stay on the ground. We can choose to cross the Red Sea and the Jordan River believing God, or we can choose to cross them cursing God. We can choose to believe what God has said:

**John 3:18 He that believeth on {Jesus} is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

and believe that salvation is a matter of faith in what Jesus Christ did for us, or we can choose to reject faith in the only Begotten Son of God. Blackberries or thorns, the choice is yours. Will you choose to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved, or would you rather choose God's justice?

### **1. God's Grace Brings Salvation**

**FOCAL 1 Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men ...**

The Bible tells us that it is the **Grace of God that brings salvation**. We are not told that it is the Law of God that brings salvation, but Grace.

We are not told that the **Grace of God brings us the opportunity to try and be saved**, but that the **Grace of God BRINGETH salvation**.

Nothing else brings salvation but Grace. Why is this?

The Bible tells us that:

**Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

We ALL - universally - **come short of God's glory**. We come short of God's glory in that *we sin and God does not sin*. We are sinners. God is not a sinner, nor can He be tempted with sin.

**Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.**

God is pure, but we are filthy. We do things against the glory of God, yet God never denies His own nature. We do.

**Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

We also come short of God's glory in that **we die**. We are born dying. God never dies, but we, because of our inherent sin nature, die.

We sin, but God does not sin. We die, but God does not die. We deny the Law - which is the nature of God - but God does not deny Himself.

**2 Samuel 14:14 For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered**

up again ...

**ILLUSTRATE** A Sunday School teacher was testing her class to see if they knew how to get to Heaven. She said, "If I sold my house and my car, and all my possessions, and gave all the money to the Church, would that get me into Heaven? The children said, "No!". If I cleaned the Church building every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven"? Again the kids yelled out, "No!" The teacher, smiling, said "What if I was kind to all the animals, and loved all the little children and loved my husband, too - would that get me into Heaven"? Again the kids cried "No!" Bursting with pride the teacher said, "Well then, how can I get into Heaven?" One five year old boy yelled out, "You gotta be dead".

God never dies, but we die - and can't do one single thing to change that. The Psalmist asked:

**Psalms 89:48** What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.

We prove our deadness by the way in which we violate the Laws of God. God said "Thou shalt not" and we - ignoring Him - do as we will. The Pharisees were keepers of God's Law. Jesus said of them:

**Matthew 5:20** ... except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

How can my righteousness *exceed that* of the Pharisees? The Pharisees studied the Law, just as many people have studied the Law. The Pharisees sought to be righteous, just as others sought to be righteous. What did the Law do? The Law said "Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet that which is your neighbor's", but we as dead things failed in all these things. Jesus told the Pharisees, "Certainly you do not kill. But the Law doesn't stop here."

**Matthew 5:22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Hatred of your fellow human being is - in the eyes of God - the same as murder, for both stem from lovelessness and a dead heart.

Jesus told the Pharisees, "Certainly you do not go out and commit adultery. But still, you have not kept the Law, for"

**Matthew 5:28** But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Do you want to be saved in your own power? Do you

want salvation of the Law and not of Grace? If you refuse Grace - if you, like the Pharisees - choose works, then you need to do as Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:29-30** And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. {30} And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Systematically *cut off* every body part that leads you into sin if you want to save yourselves. Pluck out your eyes, cut off your hands - for the Law has no power to save you!

Where is the Power of Salvation? Look again at our focal text:

**FOCAL 1** Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men

It is the Grace of God - His Free Gift - that BRINGS salvation. What is the promise that God has given unto you, dear one? He has said "You are unable. You may be willing, but you are unable. You are dead, you are crippled, lame, halt, blind, leprous, unable. I must bring you salvation. My Grace must bring you salvation - else it cannot be." The Bible plainly tells us that:

**Galatians 3:24-26** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The Law is the hand of God that strikes us, that beats us, that proves us sinners. The Grace of God is the hand of Love, reaching, teaching, and healing.

The Scripture says that salvation comes to those who

**Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

"call on the Name of the Lord". Grace brings salvation. Just as Israel called for God out of Egypt, the believer calls for God out of this present evil world. **Grace bringeth salvation.** This is the grand theme of Scripture:

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.

and,

**Titus 3:4-5** But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us ....

No believer can boast before God. Our salvation was brought to us. **Grace bringeth salvation.** The Apostle plainly stated:

**Romans 3:27-28** **Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. {28} Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

Oh unsaved man, put down your pride and call upon God. Ask Jesus Christ to save you from your sins. Ask Him to be your King and Lord, ask Him to take your life and *take over* your life. Surrender to Him. Do not make a commitment - a commitment means partly that which is yours and partly that which is His.

I have searched the Scripture, and I do not believe that there is one instance where you find the word "commit" used in relative to salvation.

The Bible says that we "commit" sin (**Luke 18:20; Matthew 5:27; James 2:9, and others**), we "commit" things worthy of stripes (**Luke 12:48**), but we do not "commit" salvation. We surrender to salvation, for **Grace bringeth salvation.**

## **2. God's Salvation Brings Changed Lives**

**FOCAL 2** **Titus 2:11-12** **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {12} Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly**

**lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

God's Grace brings salvation, and salvation is a **supernatural act of God.** Salvation changes the vessel that it encounters. The Bible tells us that - as Christians - we are "new creatures".

**2 Corinthians 5:17** **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

As a new creature you have been given a *new life*. **Old things are passed away.** Whereas before you were a Son of Adam, now you are a Son of God. Whereas before you were following the spirit of this age, you now follow the Holy Spirit of God.

Whereas before you were under a Law written in stone, your stony heart is now changed, and you follow a Law of love. The Bible says that the God Who is love now indwells us expects those who are His to live by His love.

**Romans 13:8-10** **Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. {9} For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. {10} Love worketh**

**no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

The intent of the Law was to teach us that we needed to love - and that we all - as dead things - were unable to love. Jesus taught this when He told us:

**Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. ...**

The way to LIFE is love. This is the straight and narrow path that the Lord wants us to walk on.

He went on further to say:

**Matthew 7:13-14 ... Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: {14} Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

There is a WIDE gate that leads to destruction. This gate is the way of self and selfishness, the way of "me first" above all else. But the **Grace of God** teaches us to deny that pathway. We are to

**FOCAL 2 Titus 2:12 ... denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

Do we do this in our own power? No, but we surrender to the power of God. We were saved by faith in God. On the day the Christian calls on Jesus the Bible says that we become new creatures. We are changed, quickened. Earlier I quoted:

**Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

but failed to quote - as Paul Harvey would say - the *rest of the story*. The Bible goes on to say that:

**Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

The Christian is **God's workmanship**. The Master is working on you and in you if you are *born again*.

It is inconceivable that a Christian - **the workmanship of God** - would be unconcerned over sin in his life. The believer has a changed heart, a changed being, a changed attitude toward the world. We are **taught of Grace to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously, and justly in this present world**. Earlier I also quoted

**Titus 3:4-5 But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us ....**

but did not quote *the rest of the story*. The text goes on to say:

**Titus 3:5-7** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; {6} Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; {7} That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**According to His mercy He saved us BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION** - by the action of the Holy Spirit in bringing us New Life or making us "born again". **God does a work in every Christian. The text says that the Christian goes through renewing of the Holy Ghost.** Every Christian is *indwelt by God the Holy Spirit*. This indwelling comes at the moment of salvation, the moment you surrender to Jesus Christ.

The Christian is saved *from* sin, removed *from the curse* of the law, and directed by Love.

We are told:

**Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

This is the promise of the Son, who told us that

**John 14:16-17** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Do Christians sin? Yes, they do. Do Christians fail God? Yes, they do. **But God teaches us, the Grace of God directs us.**

The Christian will not dwell long in sin before it - like a canker - begins to eat at him. You are God's people, His workmanship, and His children. Our focal text goes on to say:

**FOCAL 3** Titus 2:13-14 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; {14} Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Jesus Christ gave Himself for us.** When they came into the Garden of Gethsemane to take Him, His spoken word caused the guards to fall to the ground (**John 18:6**). When brought before the High Priest the guards beat His face (**John 18:22**). Though no fault was found in Him, Pilate had Jesus scourged - beaten with a whip (**John 19:1**). A crown of thorns was pushed down onto His head (**John 19:2**), and He was mocked and beaten. Look

at Him hanging on the Cross. Do you see what He gave? Look at His face. He said:

**Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**

For every Law you broke, Christ was beaten. For every sin you committed He shed blood. There is no Christian that I know of who can lightly go out and sin. There is no true Christian who can look at the Blood and not wince at our sins.

The believer, the New Creature, knows that Jesus **gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity**. God is at work in the believer. It is **Christ Who will purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works**.

That a man call himself "Christian" does not make him so. A "Christian" is a New Creature. A Christian is "born again". A Christian is "quickened". A Christian looks with anticipation for the Second Coming of Christ, our Lord and King.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**FOCAL Read Together Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men**

**1. God's Grace Brings Salvation**

Titus 2:11; Romans 3:23; Psalms 99:9; Isaiah 64:6; 2 Samuel 14:14; Psalms 89:48; Matthew 5:20; Matthew 5:22; Matthew 5:28; Matthew 5:29-30; Titus 2:11; Galatians 3:24-26; Acts 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; Romans 3:27-28; Luke 18:20; Matthew 5:27; James 2:9; Luke 12:48

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**2. God's Salvation Brings Changed Lives**

Titus 2:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 7:12; Matthew 7:13-14; Titus 2:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:4-5; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 8:9; John 14:16-17; Titus 2:13-14; John 18:6; John 18:22; John 19:1; John 19:2; Isaiah 50:6

The Christian is saved *from* sin, removed *from the curse* of the law, and directed by Love.

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