

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD'S GRACE

(Titus 2:11-14)

The gospel of God's grace in Christ is like a fuel in our soul which the Holy Spirit uses to inflame and rekindle our love and worship of God. The more we reflect, understand and rely on the grace of God, the more we are drawn to our knees in humble adoration of the God who saved us. This is why our archenemy, Satan, is hell-bent on doing his best to make sure that the church of Christ loses its grip on the pure truth of the gospel of grace. Satan understands that if he succeeds in distorting the church's view of God's grace, such distortion will weaken our devotion to holiness and godliness. If our church is going to flourish, grow and triumph over Satan's assaults, we need to have a biblical understanding of the grace of God. Titus 2:11-14 provides us with three essential workings of God's grace which empower us to live in holiness and usefulness as witnesses of Christ.

1. *God's grace* _____.

The foundation for all Christian conduct is the truth that God's grace has saved us (Titus 2:11). The word grace refers to God's unmerited, unearned and undeserved favor toward unworthy wicked sinners who deserve nothing from God but His wrathful judgment and condemnation. Paul teaches that the grace of God has appeared in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ through His incarnation. The purpose of His appearing is to bring salvation to all types of people without exception. This truth reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's saving grace (Titus 3:4-5).

2. *God's grace* _____ *to live in godliness and holiness.*

The grace of God which has saved us also trains us and brings us to the school of grace where we are instructed and disciplined to live lives that are pleasing to God (Titus 2:12). God's grace in Christ transforms us and trains us into this process of sanctification where we are made more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ. Negatively, God's grace trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions (Romans 1:21; Colossians 3:5-10) Positively, God's grace trains us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives.

3. *God's grace points us to the* _____ *of our Savior's return*

As believers who are saved and are being sanctified by the grace of God, we look forward to and eagerly wait for our blessed hope. Paul identifies this blessed hope as the second coming of Christ or the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). The divine impetus and motivation for godly living is this blessed hope of our Savior's return (1 John 3:3). The One who will come in power and glory is the Lord Jesus, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness. The Lord Jesus purchased us and made us His own so that we may become zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

As believers, we should always be expecting Christ's return and live like those who will see Him face to face.