GRACE, GODLINESS AND GLORY

(Titus 2:11-13)

When Paul wrote his pastoral letter to his son in the faith Titus, his purpose was to equip this servant of Christ to prepare and train the churches in the island of Crete to be faithful proclaimers of the gospel of grace to the unbelievers in their region. As we meditate on Paul's instruction to Titus, we will consider three defining characteristics of God's grace. These distinctive features of God's grace will teach us this essential lesson: **In order to serve as effective witnesses of Christ, we need to have a biblical understanding of God's grace.**

1. The grace of God brings _____.

God's grace is the settled determination in the heart of God to do us infinite good when we deserve His infinite wrath. This unmerited favor or grace of God towards unworthy sinners became visibly manifest in the person of Jesus (Titus 2:11; 2 Timothy 1:10). God's grace that appeared in the person of Christ brings salvation to all types of people without exception. Regardless of your race, gender or social status, however great your sin is, if you genuinely repent and wholeheartedly trust in Jesus Christ alone and His redeeming work on the Cross, you will be saved – all because of the wondrous grace of God in Christ (1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 3:4-5).

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2. The grace of God trains us to live _____.

God's grace not only sets us free from the condemnation and judgment of sin. It also trains us to renounce ungodliness and resist worldly passions. Furthermore, God's sanctifying grace instructs us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives (Titus 2:12; Romans 1:21; Colossians 3:5-10). In other words, God's grace compels us to be intolerant of sin in our lives and motivates us to pursue and cultivate a life of godliness and holiness.

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3. The grace of God calls us to wait for the _____.

As believers of Christ, we look back with gratitude to the grace of God that appeared in Jesus at His first coming when He purchased our redemption. And we look forward with hope to the glory of God that will appear at the second coming of Jesus when He completes our redemption. As Paul reminds us, we *"wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13). This blessed hope of Christ's return is the summation and fulfillment of all longings and yearnings of our heart (Philippians 2:10-11; Luke 21:27-28; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 1 John 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). Our constant prayer must therefore be, *"Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!"* (Revelation 22:20)

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