

## Titus 2

When you talk to people, much is made about the Grace of God. Emphasis is placed on God's grace and Ephesians 2:8-9 is often cited. ***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.*** At times the discussion gets to the point that if any mention is made of men needing to accept the offered gift, then strong objections are made. No work done by man is accepted as affecting a man's salvation they claim and base their claim on v9. Yet, the Bible is clear that it is the obedient who are saved. Look with me at Hebrews 5:9. ***Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he (i.e. Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;***

First let us consider what grace is by offering a simple definition. Grace is "Unmerited Favor." It's giving you something that you don't deserve. There is an acronym that is sometimes used that reads: **God's Riches At Christ Expense**. It's the idea of blessings being bestowed when anger was owed. There are several components that are associated with grace such as mercy, love and kindness; but faith is also a key element in receiving God's grace.

Even Ephesians 2:8 states that grace comes through faith (*by grace are ye saved through faith*). But what does that mean; where does faith come from? Some claim that faith is something imposed on an individual and a person cannot believe unless God makes them believe. But Paul stated that faith comes by the word of God. ***Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

So regarding faith, what does Jesus demand of us? Short answer is obedience. ***Matthew 7:21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*** On another occasion in answering Judas (not Iscariot) how men would recognize Him after He is gone. ***John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*** Notice the end of verse 24 that Jesus' teachings were from God the Father and not his own. God didn't have to give us this word, but he did so as an act of grace. Thus we keep that word because of our love for what He has done for us.

As we noted Ephesians 2:8-9 a few minutes ago, let us not overlook ***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***

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**them.** God created us to do His works, not works of merit but obedience. By grace we are saved through faith and faith is one of those works. *John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

Now to our text in Titus 2. From this passage we learn two things about God's grace; one it brings salvation and two it teaches us. God's grace brings salvation - *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.* Notice that this salvation is available to "all men." This is because God's has a love for all mankind (John 3:16). God wants all to be saved but it's not unconditional salvation. He expects people to repent (2 Peter 3:9). But to the saved, God's grace is sufficient even in the face of adversity. There was a time in the life of the apostle Paul that he had an adversity that he called a thorn in the flesh. He prayed that it be removed but the answer was "no." *2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation.* How many sources of salvation are there? Well the answer is but one. A person is either saved or he is lost. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:13-14 that the way of salvation is narrow and is available only to those who find it. *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.* So while God's grace is available to all men, not everyone is going to accept it, because a person has to do something in order to receive it – i.e They have to obey God's plan for salvation. Salvation comes through the word of God - Romans 1:16

God's grace teaches us. *Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;* It tells us how to live; it lays requirements on us; it restrains us; but through the written word. When Paul and Barnabas persuaded men to continue in the grace of God. *Acts 13:43-44 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.,* how was

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that done? Look at verse 44 ***(44) And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. They taught the word of God as did Jesus. John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*** Jesus tells us that a person is to continue in the word. That carries the idea of keeping or obeying the word. So when Paul was persuading them to continue in the grace of God; he was persuading them to keep the word of God which tells them how to live.

Grace is a gift extended to those who do not deserve it. God offered mankind love and salvation, when He didn't have to - Romans 5:8-10. He gave us teaching on how to live, when He didn't have to - 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

God's grace is:

1. Christ dying for us
2. Christ's law for us
3. Eternal life - Romans 6:23
4. Righteousness - Romans 1:17

If we don't obey, we have rejected God's gift and are lost - 2 Thessalonians 1:8

Jesus offers the water of life, but a person still has to drink of that water to receive its benefit. ***John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*** Therefore, grow in grace. ***2 Peter 3:17-18 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. (18) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.***

Where are you in your spiritual growth? Invitation