

## September 21 The Grace of God Titus 2:11-13

Call to Worship Scripture: Psalm 8:1-4; Hymn: 71 “How Majestic is Your Name” into 349 “He Keeps Me Singing”; 457 “Lord, Be Glorified” 360 “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” 11:00 a.m. “Grace to Grace” Hillsong or “Peace” by Bethel; “Set a Fire” Harborside Music

Purpose Statement: In our Scripture Titus 2:11-13 I want to talk about the Grace of God or *Amazing Grace*. The grace of God is inexhaustible. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In Revelation the Lord Jesus Christ said “may the grace of God be with you.” Jesus in a description was full of grace and truth. The question is “what do we mean about the grace of God?” The grace of God is the unmerited favor of God. God is giving us what we don’t deserve. Grace is like a vessel, precious cargo. Grace from heaven is given to you and me through salvation. What do we bring to others? How do we experience God’s grace and live it?

OUTLINE: Story: A man asked his wife what she wanted for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! What do you want? Her response “*I’d love to be 7 again.*” On the morning of her birthday he got her up bright & early to go to a theme park. What a day. Every ride. Tower of Terror, Batman, Pirate. Everything thrilling. 5 hours later she stumbled out of the theme park with a headache, stomachache, & dizziness. They went next to a McDonalds where her husband ordered her a big mac, extra fries, & a chocolate shake. Next to the movies with popcorn, Pepsi, & m & m’s. Finally they walked home & she collapsed into her bed. He leaned over & said, “*Well dear. What was it like to be 7 again?*” With one eye open she said “*Is that what today was all about. You idiot, I meant my dress size.*”

How should we live our lives? Do we live life with grace? Is (***Amazing Grace***) your theme song?

In the history of the Christian Church, one of the most outstanding objects of God’s abounding grace was *John Newton* who became known as the second founder of the Church of England. He wrote *Amazing Grace*: His mother died when he was 7 years old, but she had taught him many verses of Scripture. He was raised in the home of a relative, & became an apprentice seaman. Wild & dissolute, he deserted from the British Navy and ran away to Africa, as he wrote in his memoirs- “*That I might sin to my fill.*” He had the reputation of being able to curse for 2 hours straight without repeating himself. In Africa he fell in with the Portuguese slave trader, & while this man was absent – *John Newton* was treated like a dog by the chief black woman of the trader’s harem. For months he graveled in the dirt & picked up his food with his mouth from the ground, being lashed by a slave if he touched it with his hands. So famished he decided to attempt an escape. He reached a spot on the coast where, with a signal fire, he attracted the attention of a passing ship. The master thinking that he was a native wishing to sell ivory, sent a small boat which took him to the ship. As a skilled navigator he became first mate; but while the captain was ashore one day, John broke out the ships rum & go the whole crew drunk. The captain when he returned struck John so violently that he fell overboard & would have drowned in his drunken condition, had not a sailor speared

him in the thigh with a boathook, making a wound so great that ever afterwards *John Newton* could put his fist into the scar.

Weeks later, while the ship was returning to Britain, a great storm arose. She passed north of Ireland and, off the coast of Scotland, almost foundered. Newton, who had been manning the pumps for days, cried out to God, & was wonderfully save. Of course this storm William Cowper writes: *God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.* No wonder why John Newton was known as a great preacher of grace. He learned that where sin abounded grace did much more abound; grace overflowed; grace was infinite.

Grace is not withheld because of sin. The Bible is full of wisdom about the grace of God. 200 Scriptures about grace are in the Bible. In Genesis 6:8 *“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD”*. Noah is finding grace in the eyes of the Lord. It shows God’s **(unmerited)** favor and mercy toward Noah amidst widespread corruption and impending judgment. In the end of the Bible is Revelation 22:21 *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with God’s people. Amen.”* speaks of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. From Genesis to Revelation Jesus is full of grace and truth.

**Question: What is the grace of God?** The grace of God is God’s *unmerited favor* that we do not **(deserve)**. Because of the mercy of God He withholds the judgement that we all

deserve. We do not deserve His favor, His mercy, His salvation. It’s a work of grace. 1) **Grace is like a vessel.** A vessel brings something. A ship is a vessel & brings precious cargo. When you take food to someone what you bring it in is a vessel. Trains & semi’s are vessels because they are containers that brings cargo. As a great ship set sail from heaven & when she arrived on the shores of earth she unloaded her cargo, precious cargo, that we every received, salvation. Precious cargo is salvation. Sometimes we are vessels because we contain the Holy Spirit of God, He lives in us, We are vessels. Those who bring to others.

Titus 2:11 *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”* The grace of God is a vessel. Salvation is the cargo that it carries.

How are we vessels? Because we have the **(Holy Spirit)** of God. We are those who bring to others. Who are vessels? Wisemen came bearing precious gifts; Abigail’s husband Nabel made David furious in dealing with food. ... She brought food for David. Abigail heard what David was going to do. David did not carry out his treat of destruction. The animals were vessels. The means of transporting something. What happened when God’s vessel comes to us? Salvation is God’s great blessing given to us. We deserve judgement from God. He gave us grace that brought about salvation. 2 Samuel 9 where David ascended on the throne... His purposes were realized. David got to a point about no wars, not busy, a smooth transition. However, enjoying being a King, he had sadness. Johnathan

was killed in the battle with Saul as it made it possible for David to reign as King. They wanted to co-reign. David missed Johnathan. It didn't turn out as planned. We make plans, set our sights, establish our goals. Many times it doesn't turn out that way. Whatever you plan be flexible and establish positive projections to do, be & get to. You know something could always disrupt your plans. Plans are never in concrete. David became King by himself.

Johnathan helped David become King. David could not thank Johnathan or appreciate him anymore since he died. He wanted to show kindness to Johnathan's son M... who was crippled by the nurse who took care of him. Years later as a man. Lived in an obscure area, a wilderness. M... lived there. David sent his men to get M.... Think about M... on the porch. Crippled. And in the wilderness. Dust on horizon. A whirlwind. People coming on animals. He realized soldiers of the King were coming. He was afraid. M... What does this mean? Will David execute me? Is this the last day of my life? Judgement. They brought M... to the King. What will happen? Execution? In David's presence. David said, "M... fear not." What did Jesus come for? The men who brought M.... to the King were the grace. M... was invited to be part of the royal family. Found hope, life. Grace of God treated as a vessel.

2) **The grace of God is like a teacher.** Vs. 12. *"It teaches us to say, 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, & to live self-controlled; upright & godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the*

*glory of our great God & Savior, Jesus Christ."* The negative & positive of teaching. If you have no negative you cannot define a positive. Modernists only want positive without negatives. Car batteries got negative & positives. What are the Ten Commandments? Thou Shalt or Thou Shalt Not? How are we a well rounded child of God? Do we understand our Bible? Do we understand what God desires us to be or not? Where does God want us to go & where does God not want us to go? What does God want us to say or not say? How does God want us to react or not react? The Bible teaches about growth in grace. How are we growing in the grace of the knowledge of Jesus Christ? We (**grow**) by feeding on the Word of God, not the world. Do we study and incorporate the Word of God in our lives? How best do we learn? Repetition. Learning is not a cakewalk. How slow do we really learn? Hands on learners. I remember the first time I changed a lightbulb on Caren's white Topaz car. It was an experiment. She got that car before we were even married. In PR with the Contemporary service downloading of sermons. Scott said "Dad, here is a power point 'How To'" *I'm going to stand over you until you got it.*" He said, *"Do it again, dad."* *"Practice it until you got it!"* Why are we called on to (**forgive**) people so often? It gets easier with practice. If you refuse to forgive, you'll be bitter. When people offend you it's hard to forgive. To forgive it goes against our grain. **"Totally Forgive."** Strip yourself of pride. When you forgive you feel good because you did the right thing. People will offend and offend & you need to

forgive & forgive. You only grow when you forgive & forgive again. When you forgive you will feel the peace of God. We need to learn & apply things in our life. Trials come with our health, finances, etc... why so many trials? We learn from every trial & grow in grace. The Lord is with us. You know that you are on the highest mountain or the lowest valley in your life. God is still with you. Hebrews 13:5. God will never leave you. It's said 5 times. God says "I will never, no never forsake you." The more trials you go through – if you go with God, He gives grace as we grow.

3) **The grace of God is a promise.** Vs. 13 What do we anticipate? What do we look forward to in life? Are you excited for vacation? One more week. The grace of God teaches us to look for the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. It keeps you going in your trials. We will have tougher times as we get older. The older you get the more homesick for Christ you become. Why? Trials will be over. (1 Timothy 5:1). Paul writes to Timothy. The older men in the church are like fathers. The younger like brothers. We all have two families. Physical family and spiritual family. Funerals: We lose people close to us even in the church. We lose a brother or sister in the Lord. The church family is a family. Funerals are always personal. One of these days Jesus will be back.