

THE GREATNESS OF GRACE **(Titus 2:11-14)**

1.The capacity of grace (Titus 2:11).

- a.Paul, by inspiration, wrote that God's grace has appeared to all men, emphasis on all.
- b.We mentioned that some teach that God's grace will cover all sin, but the truth is that it can cover all sin, not will cover all sin.
 - i.The capacity of God's grace is amazing.
 - ii.Think of all the sins mankind has committed from the sin of Adam and Eve to any sin that is being committed at this moment.
 - iii.God's grace has the ability to cover each of them.
- c.You and I face numerous temptations, which Peter described as many colored (1 Peter 1:6).
- d.He later was inspired to write that there is also many colored grace (1 Peter 4:10).
- e.For every color or type of temptation, there is a grace to meet it.
 - i.Imagine that!
 - ii.Think of all the various temptations that exist.
 - iii.There is plenty of grace to deal with each one of them.
- f.The capacity of grace is beyond our comprehension.
- g.Any person can be saved by the grace of God.

2.The connection of grace with knowledge (Titus 2:11-12).

- a.The grace that appeared to mankind teaches us that some things must be avoided and others accepted into our lives.
- b.The only way grace can teach is through the medium of the New Testament.
 - i.This grace is in the Person of Jesus.
 - ii.The New Testament is His teaching.
- c.Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:45).
- d.We cannot learn about or from God's grace apart from instruction.
 - i.This instruction requires us to understand it.
 - ii.It also requires us to obey it.
- e.Notice again what Paul wrote: there is a certain way that must be lived.
- f.Some things need to be avoided while other things must be accepted.
- g.Notice what verse 13 says (Titus 2:13) - it allows us to look for the coming Christ with anticipation.
- h.I have to have knowledge of God's grace and then put into practice what that grace teaches in order to look forward to the Lord's return.

3.The conditional nature of grace.

- a.The Calvinist teaches that God saves some by grace and those chosen cannot resist it: Irresistible Grace.
- b.The universalist teaches that God is going to save all men by grace and that no one can do anything about it.
- c.Both of those doctrines are false to the core because they miss the conditional nature of God's grace.
- d.Noah is an illustration of this conditional nature of grace.
 - i.Genesis 6:8 tells us that Noah found grace in the eyes of God.

- ii. Genesis 6:22 tells us that Noah did all that the Lord commanded him to do.
- iii. Hebrews 11:7 says that Noah built the ark by faith, thus he obeyed God.
- e. We surely realize that God would not have saved Noah, in other words offered grace to Noah, if Noah was not obedient.
- f. This does not mean that Noah earned the grace that saved him.
 - i. In no way is grace earned or merited.
 - ii. If we could earn it, we could brag about it and that can't be done (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - iii. We aren't saved by our works, but we are justified by God's wonderful grace (Titus 3:5-7).
- g. You and I, at our best, are simply unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10).
- h. We could never repay the debt we owe God for Jesus taking our sins by His death on the cross.

4. Coming into grace (Romans 5:1-2).

- a. Paul tells us very plainly how you and I come into contact with God's grace (Romans 5:1-2).
 - i. It is the same way Noah received grace.
 - ii. We faithfully act on the knowledge we've been given through God's word.
 - iii. He had God's word revealed to him directly while you and I have it revealed to us through the New Testament.
- b. You and I, and everyone else come into grace through means of our faith.
- c. This is what Paul revealed to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:8).
- d. James describes very pointedly for us the fact that you and I must have an active faith (James 2:21-26).
- e. We just noticed Ephesians 2:8 but notice also Ephesians 5:26.
 - i. One says saved by grace through faith.
 - ii. The other says that sinners are cleansed by the washing of water with the word.
 - iii. Saved and cleansed are two terms that represent the same idea.
 - iv. Nearly all credible commentators have written that washing is a reference to baptism.
- f. From this it's very evident that in order to come into God's grace, you and I must be baptized in water.
- g. Peter tells us that couples need to have knowledge of one another in order to be joint heirs of the "grace of life".
 - i. Eternal life is the result of grace.
 - ii. This eternal life is obtained when one puts to death the old man of sin through immersion and is brought back to life as a new creature (Romans 6:3-4).
- h. We noticed Titus 3:5, 7 earlier.
 - i. We are saved through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit in verse 5.
 - ii. We are justified by grace in verse 7.
- i. We come into God's grace by being obedient to His saving message.

5. Continuing in grace.

- a. Once one comes into grace through obedience, but one must continue in grace.
- b. It is possible to fall out of God's grace (Galatians 5:4).
 - i. Those brethren were leaving the gospel system and moving towards the Old Law.
 - ii. Paul told them that if they did that they were fallen out of grace.
 - iii. Some have tried to teach that these people were never saved.
 - iv. You can't fall out of something in which you've never been.
- c. The truth is, you and I can receive God's grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- d. This is why Paul urged some new converts to continue in God's grace (Acts 13:43).
- e. We can fall out of the grace that we came into by faith so we must continue in God's grace and never allow ourselves to leave it.

Some of this outline is not original but do not know the original source.