

From Grace to Good

Lesson 7

Titus 2:1-15

August 29, 2021

Living Good in Response to Christ's Grace

Introduction

As Paul wrote to Titus, Titus was pastoring a church in Crete that had behavioral problems. Paul's direction to Titus was to teach his church about righteous living by instructing them in theological truth. By grounding their faith in the correct doctrine of the truth and grace of Christ, Titus would teach the church members in Crete how to avoid ungodliness and lead purified lives out of thankfulness and hope in Christ.

This instruction applies to the entire church: both older and younger folks, both men and women, and both free and slaves. (Slavery was common in Rome at the time, and slaves were probably a large part of Titus' congregation.) For everyone in Titus' church, the message was the same: a solid understanding of sound doctrine and recognition of Christ's grace are the best defense against all forms of ungodliness.

We all face temptations as we live our lives at home, at work, and church. However, when we truly understand the grace that Christ extended to us through His death on the cross, our lives will be different and in an obvious way. Bitterness will be replaced with thankfulness. Fear will be replaced with hope. And selfishness will be replaced with loving-kindness. A deep understanding of the grace of the gospel is the best antidote to ungodly living.

Memory verse: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."—Titus 2:11-12

Pray and read Titus 2:1-15. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What did Paul tell Titus to teach? (Titus 2:1)
2. What are the kinds of things that Paul said to teach the older and the younger men? (Titus 2:2, 6-8)
3. Likewise, the older and younger women? (Titus 2:3-5)
4. What characteristic of God did Paul say brings everyone salvation? (Titus 2:11)
5. What did Paul say the grace of God has taught? (Titus 2:12)
6. Why did Jesus give himself up for us? (Titus 2:13-14)
7. How was Titus to encourage and rebuke? (Titus 2:15)

What does the passage mean?

1. Given the characteristics that Paul lists for older men and younger men, how would you describe the character of a godly man? (Titus 2:2, 6-8)

2. Likewise, given the qualities that Paul lists for both older and younger women, how would you describe the character of a godly woman? (Titus 2:3-4)

3. How does God's revealed grace enable His people to live the way that Paul described? (Titus 2:1-14)

4. How does living godly lives in this present age prepare us for the coming age? (Titus 2:11-14)

5. Verses 9-11 might sound like Paul condoned slavery because he encouraged slaves to be obedient to their masters, but the opposite is true. Paul called slave-trading a sin in 1 Timothy when he listed it with other ungodly acts such as murder and lying. Furthermore, the early church shocked the existing culture by mixing slaves with their masters in worship services and saying that God's grace is available to all people (including slaves and slave owners). Why do you think Paul said that slaves should be obedient to their masters? (Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 1:10, 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-11)

Applying the passage

1. John Stott said that "Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues." Think and pray for a few minutes about how you've seen God's grace this week and what impact it had on your behavior. (Titus 2:1-15)

