

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE -

10.29.2023

PART 34 - GRACE AND GLORY

I. INTRODUCTION

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

II. THE APPEARING OF GRACE AND GLORY

- In our last study, we looked at the ripple effect of sound doctrine.
- Paul gives examples of what that looks like addressing particular groups in the church.
- He addresses men and women, old and young, and bondservants.
- And all of them are to be examples to one another of godliness; that is the essence of true discipleship.
- The whole of the Christian life is the setting in which the gospel-jewel is displayed.
- Who we are and how we live our life as followers of Christ can either adorn and decorate the gospel or detract from and discredit the gospel.

- Paul's emphasis is on how sound doctrine works its way out, having a ripple effect in the life of the believer, their home, the church, and their

vocational life.

- Godliness is the aim of the believer. It is the one of the things Paul lists as the aim of his apostolic ministry in the greeting of this letter; the godliness of God's elect (1:1).

- Paul knew that the word of God working in the people of God would produce the holiness of God in their lives.

- Those who possess genuine saving faith, will have that faith authenticated by the godliness it produces in their lives.

- What follows in v11-14 is both the reason and the motivation for the conduct and character God's people must have that is consistent with the sound doctrine Titus is to teach God's people.

- The conjunction "for" (11) tells us that this is connected to Paul's instructions in v1-10.

- And v15 Paul commands Titus that this is the content of the sound doctrine that he must teach.

- He must teach that the grace of God has appeared and the glory of God will one day appear.

- Pay close attention to what Paul is saying, grace and glory are not two abstract concepts.

- Grace and glory are a person—Jesus Christ. He has appeared in grace and will appear in glory.

- He is speaking of Christ's first advent, his first appearing; his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

- And the future event, Christ's Second Advent, he calls the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, that is his future return at the end of the age.

- The grace of God and the glory of God is Jesus Christ.

- Christ's first appearing revealed the grace of God in the Son.

- Christ's second appearing, will reveal the glory of God in the Son.

- These two bookend events are revelations of the grace of God and the glory of God.

- NT writers favor the word "appearing" instead of "coming" or "arrival."

- Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- 1 Timothy 6:14 Paul writes that Timothy is "to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

- The Greek word for "appearing" is where we get our word, "epiphany."

- It means "to come into view, to become apparent, to show."

- What was hidden from view now shows itself.

- The word is more significant than just referring to Christ's coming again in glory.

- Christ is God's glory right now. Christ is reigning in glory now—not just then.

- Now his reign and glory is hidden, it is not apparent to everyone.

- But one day, that glory will not remain hidden, it will be revealed. All will see what we know to be true by faith.
- At the appearing of his glory, everyone will realize what we know now.
- Christ is Lord now! One day, everyone will realize that truth.
- Our glorious future is already a reality, we are just waiting for it to come into view.

III. IN THE SCHOOL OF GRACE

1. GRACE THE SAVIOR

- Grace appeared visibly in Jesus Christ.
- God's decree of salvation in eternity past, his determination to save some through Jesus and show them saving grace, has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior.
- Paul writes that grace has appeared, "bringing salvation for all people."
- The word "all" does not mean every single person without distinction. It does not mean every individual will be saved. Paul is not teaching universalism.
- In 1:1 Paul tells us his apostolic missionary aim is with a view to the saving faith of God's elect.
- "All" means "all kinds of people."
- Grace brings salvation to men and women, young and old, slaves and free.
- God saves all kinds of people and we need to live in a way that commends the gospel to all kinds of people.
- That's why Paul says that Titus must teach and declare these things, God's saving grace is the reason and motivation for godliness.
- We must live in such a way that the gospel shines with extra luster because God's saving grace has appeared in the person and work of Christ!

2. GRACE THE TEACHER

- Now we live between grace and glory; between these two appearings, this is the present age.
- The reason and source of the godly life are the grace and glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ.
- V11 is behind us and v13 is ahead of us and we live in light of both of those realities, grace and glory.
- These two realities are the engine of the Christian life.
- Because godliness is the aim of the believers life, we need to be trained unto godliness.
- And the grace of God motivates us to godliness, it schools us in and for godliness.

- We don't just need grace to prepare us for the future glory.
- Grace also shapes our lives in the present.
- The gospel is good news for the last day but it's good news for today and every day until that Day.
- Grace trains us by bringing us into conformity with the character of saving grace—who is Jesus Christ.
- Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, to be like him. Grace trains us to be like him.

a. GRACE TEACHES US THE GODLY LIFE

- Grace trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.
- Grace teaches us to say “no” to what is detrimental to a life of grace.
- Paul is clear, grace isn't license to live licentiously.
- On the contrary, we are to say “yes” to living self-controlled, upright and godly lives.
- Grace teaches us to control ourselves and our passions.
- 3:3 Paul writes that our former way of life before grace became our teacher was one marked by foolishness, disobedience, and being enslaved to various passions and pleasures.
- But the grace of God enables us to have mastery over our carnal passions and fleshly desires.
- It trains us how to live uprightly before others and to be godly and relate to God rightly.
- Grace compels us to holiness.
- This is why understanding the gospel of grace matters greatly.
- We are saved by grace not by works.
- But that does not mean that once we are saved, no works are expected from us.
- God's grace results in living out God's requirements.
- The requirements don't save us but once we are saved, we understand those requirements are meant to keep us free from the danger we had been in.
- The deeper we grow in grace the more we are motivated to greater heights of obedience.
- It doesn't sound logical, but this all a consequence of the appearing of the grace of God.
- Grace trains us by giving us a true apprehension of the magnitude and repugnance of our sin.
- Grace trains us by giving us a true apprehension of the magnitude and glory of our Savior.

b. GRACE TEACHES US TO WAIT ON GLORY

- Grace also teaches us by creating in us an expectancy of the appearing of glory that stimulates faithfulness in our day to day walk with the Lord.
 - Grace teaches us to persevere in times of trials, difficulty and hardship because of the future glory that is before us.
 - Paul calls this “our blessed hope.” This hope is not wishful thinking but a certainty that is just waiting to be manifested.
 - 1 John 3:2-4 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.
 - John writes that what we will be has not been fully revealed, but at his appearing, we will both be like and see him as he is—that’s glory!
 - And that hope is motivation for a life of godliness and holiness.
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- How do we live in the grind of the day-to-day life of this present age between grace and glory?
 - How do we persevere when it gets extremely difficult to live this Christian life?
 - Romans 8:18-25 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
 - Our present age troubles, sufferings, hardships, as bad as they may be, will not compare with future glory.
 - Grace teaches us to wait patiently for our hope, to endure and persevere and remain steadfast as we march through our present age.

3. GRACE OUR REDEEMER

- Paul has told us WHAT grace teaches us and now in v14 he tells us HOW grace teaches us.
- The best way to motivate God’s people to a life of godliness is not by emphasizing the good works they must do for God but rather emphasizing the good work God has done for them.
- 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- Paul knows that living the godly life in the present age will prove to be costly to believers.
- Paul reminds them of what God has done for us in Christ.

HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR US

- The statement is one that reflects his unparalleled love for us.
- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- How could we not live for the one who loved us with a love that compelled him to give himself for us willingly and sacrificially in order to rescue us.
- We don't have to earn his love, he has already given himself for us, he already loves us.
- 1 John 4:19 we love because he first loved us.
- This act was a gift that we did not earn nor did we deserve.

WE GAVE US A NEW IDENTITY

- We have been ransomed from our captivity to sin by the blood of Christ.
- On the cross he bore the guilt of our sins, becoming the object of the fury of God's wrath, our sins being punished in him, so that we could be made righteous and our sins would be forgiven.
- We have been purchased and set free. We have been set apart as his very own. We are Christ's!
- We live holy and godly lives because we belong to him, we are his treasured possession, bought with his own blood, delivered from our captivity to sin to live a new life that displays the goodness and glory of God to the world.
- Because of our new identity, Christ's people, we will be eager to do good works.
- Who we are leads to what we do.
- Christ gave himself first, to redeem us from all lawlessness, so we can now say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions.
- Christ gave himself first, to purify for himself a people of his own possession, so we can now say "yes" to living self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age.

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?