

THE GRACE OF GOD

TITUS 02:11–15

Introduction

The great message of the grace of God involves five significant points.

- I. The grace of God brings salvation (v. 11).
- II. The grace of God teaches us how to live (v. 12).
- III. The grace of God teaches us to look for the return of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (v. 13).
- IV. The grace of God is demonstrated in the death of Christ (v. 14).
- V. The grace of God is a message to be proclaimed through preaching, encouraging and rebuking (v. 15).

TITUS 02:11–15 GRACE (CHARIS)

Probably the most meaningful word in the language of men. The Bible means something far more than men mean by grace. To men the word “grace” means three things.

1. Grace is that something, that quality within a thing that is beautiful or joyful. It may be the fragrance of a flower, the rich green of the grass, the beauty of a lovely person.
2. Grace is anything that has loveliness. It may be a thought, an act, a word, a person.
3. Grace is a gift, a favour that someone might extend to a friend. The favour is always freely done, expecting nothing in return, and the favour is always done for a friend.

However, when the early Christians looked at what God had done for men, they had to add a deeper and much richer meaning to the word *grace*. For God had saved sinners, those who had acted against Him. Therefore, grace became the favour of God showered upon men — men who did not deserve His favour. Grace became the kindness and love that God freely gives to His *enemies* — men who are...

- “powerless” (Rom. 5:6).
- “ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).
- “sinners” (Rom. 5:8).
- “enemies” (Rom. 5:10).

No other word so expresses the depth and richness of the heart and mind of God. This is the distinctive difference between God’s grace and man’s grace. Whereas man sometimes does favours for his friends and thereby can be said to be gracious, God has done a thing unheard of among men: He has given His very own Son to die for His enemies (Rom. 5:8-10). (See Jn. 21:15-17; Eph. 2:8-10.)

- a. God’s grace is not earned. It is something completely undeserved and unmerited.

Eph 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Titus 3:4-5 *But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

- b. God's grace is the free gift of God. God extends His grace toward man.

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Eph 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.*

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

- c. God's grace is the only way man can be saved.

Rom 5:15 *But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

1 Cor 1:4 *I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.*

2 Cor 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Titus 3:6-7 *[Salvation] whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

4. Grace means all the favours and gifts of God. It means all the good and perfect gifts of God, all the good and beneficial things He gives us and does for us, whether physical, material or spiritual (Jas. 1:17).

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Eph 2:7 In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. □

I. Titus 02:11 Grace Brings Salvation

The grace of God brings salvation. What does the grace of God mean? Among men grace means the favour and blessing that one person bestows upon another person. But God's grace means something far more. God's grace is the grace that brings salvation to man. God's grace is Jesus Christ, the gift of the Saviour to the world. God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, saves the person...

- who is in rebellion against God.
- who stands against God.
- who sins against God.
- who lives an ungodly life.
- who is empty.
- who has any lack or need.
- who curses God.
- who opposes God.
- who lives contrary to God.
- who is lonely.
- who is powerless.
- who is without purpose and meaning.

God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, reaches down to those who have rejected God: who are doing their own thing and living like they want; it reaches down to those who ignore and neglect God and pay little attention to what God says.

The point is this: God's grace, the gift of His Son to the world, is not deserved. God's grace is not merited. No person deserves the favour of salvation that is in Christ. There are three reasons why we do not deserve God's grace.

1. We come short of God's glory in that we sin. God does not sin or go contrary to His law, but we do. We sin and transgress God's law. God never acts against His glory and nature, but we do. We do all kinds of things against the glory of God's nature; we often shame and curse, neglect and ignore, abuse and reject Him. God dwells in the glory of His perfection; we live in the shame of corruption. Stated as simply as possible: we come short, ever so short of God's glory.

Isa 53:6 We all, [just] like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Isa 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Rom 3:10-18 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

2. We come short of God's glory in that we die. God does not die, but we do. The glory of God's nature is that He lives forever, but not us. The shame of our nature is that we die; we do not live forever. We have to go through the terrible and agonizing and painful experience of death. We come ever so short of God's eternal glory.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once.

1 Pet 1:24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall."

2 Sam 14:14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

Psa 49:10 For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others.

Psa 89:48 What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?

Psa 90:5-6 You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning — though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

Psa 103:15-16 As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Eccl 3:20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.

Eccl 8:8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

Isa 40:6-7 A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

3. We come short of God’s glory in that we have violated the laws of heaven and are doomed to the prison and judgment of hell. When we die, we do not cease to exist. We exist forever. The very fact that we come short of God’s glory makes us *short of heaven*. We are not perfect; therefore, we are not fit to live in a perfect place, that is, in heaven. We are doomed and judged to live outside heaven, away from God’s presence in a place called hell. And we must always remember why: if we choose to live without God in this present world, then we condemn ourselves to live without God in the next world. If we reject the privilege of living with God in this world, then we reject the right to live with God in heaven.

Mat 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Mat 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

2 Pet 2:9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Pet 3:7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

But this is the glorious news. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, has brought salvation to us. God’s grace, the gift of His own dear Son, saves us from sin, death and hell. We do not deserve it, but God loves us beyond imagination. He has given His very own Son for us — to save us. He did it because He is gracious. His very nature is the embodiment of grace, of favouring and blessing those who do not deserve it. And note: His salvation is for all men — no matter who they are nor what they have done. The person may be a murderer such as Paul or an adulterer such as David, but God’s grace is sufficient to cover any and all sins. God will save any person. His grace, the

Lord Jesus Christ who brings salvation, is now available to all men. All men can now be saved — saved from sin, death and hell — no matter who they are.

Luke 3:6 “And all mankind will see God’s salvation.”

Acts 2:21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Acts 15:11 “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Rom 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

1 Tim 2:4 [God] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 Tim 1:9-10 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers — and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

Psa 10:04 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

II. *Titus 02:12–13* Grace Teaches Us How to Live

The grace of God teaches us how to live. It teaches us to do two things.

1. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts or passions, that is, to reject, renounce, give up and have nothing to do with ungodliness and worldly lusts or passions. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us “to say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly lusts [passions]” (Beck, *The New Testament in the Language of Today*).
- a. *Ungodliness (asebeia)*: anything that is not like God, not holy, righteous or pure; anything that does not honour God by word or deed, that does not show reverence and worship toward God; anything that does not obey God, that violates God’s commandments and goes against His will. The grace of God, the Lord Jesus Christ,

teaches us to deny ungodliness, to give up and to turn away from everything that is ungodly and does not honour and praise Him.

Mat 16:26 “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

- b. *Worldly lusts or passions* (kosmikai epithumiai): all the desires of this world that are not fit for heaven and could not be presented to God; all the desires that push us away from God; all the desires and lusts of the world that stir us...
- to look when we should not look.
 - to do when we should not do.
 - to get more when we should give more.
 - to be selfish and vicious when we should be sacrificial and kind.
 - to be sensual and immoral when we should be disciplined and pure.
 - to seek the recognition of men when we should seek the recognition of God.
- c. *Worldly lusts or passions* are those desires that crave the possessions of this world, that attach us to this world, and that will remain in this world when we leave it. We will go away and move on, but they will be left behind.
- d. *Worldly lusts or passions* are the desires that crave the sensual and selfish pleasures of this world, the very things that we would never want God to see.

The grace of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to deny worldly lusts and to give up and turn away from everything that we cannot take with us and present to God when we meet Him face to face.

Mat 16:26 “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Col 3:20 *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

James 4:4 *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

2. God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.
 - a. Self-controlled (sophronos): temperate and disciplined. It is restraining desires, lusts and appetites. It is never giving in to excess — to the lust for more and more. It is controlling everything and using it for its proper purpose:
 - => It is controlling the desire for sex and using it for marriage.
 - => It is controlling the desire for food and using it for health.
 - => It is controlling the desire for material things and using it to meet both the needs of one's own family and the desperate needs of the world.

Acts 24:25 *As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."*

1 Cor 9:24-27 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself win not be disqualified for the prize.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Prov 21:17 *He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.*

Prov 23:1 *When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you.*

- b. Upright (dikaios): doing right, treating others like we should, doing good to them, giving them their due share. What an indictment! How selfish we are in our hoarding and banking while a world dies from starvation, disease, war, evil and sin. Every person is due his share. We are to live righteously, giving and seeing to it that every man is treated right, that every man receives his due share. If they are well-off physically and materially, we are to treat them righteously, just like we would want to be treated. If they are needy, poor, destitute, hungry, diseased, lonely, bed-ridden and

sinful, we are to do right toward them and meet their needs. They are to receive their due share of this earth just as we are.

1 Cor 15:34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

Phil 1:11 Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

- c. **Godly (eusebos):** to be like God; to live as God would live on this earth; to live in the consciousness that God lives within the very body of the believer — that the believer's body is the very temple of God. It is living and moving and having one's being in God. It is living just like God says to live, obeying Him in all things.

1 Tim 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

1 Tim 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

2 Pet 3:11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

III. Titus 02:13 Return of Jesus Christ

God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to look for the return of the Lord. This is a great verse on the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Greek points out its greatness even more:

"Looking for the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Kenneth S. Wuest. *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*).

The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ are not two different things; the blessed hope *is* the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will appear in all the glory and majesty of His Being. What will be so blessed about His return? The word “blessed” (makarios) means to be filled with happiness, prosperity, richness, benefits, the highest good - all the great and glorious benefits imaginable. Therefore, the blessed hope of the Lord’s return is to be filled with all that you can imagine and more...

- all the *happiness* imaginable and more.
- all the *prosperity* imaginable and more.
- all the *richness* imaginable and more.
- all the *benefits* imaginable and more.

If you can imagine the highest good and all the richness of life possible, the appearing of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ will be that and more – much more.

1. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious union*: we will see Christ for the first time and be united with Him forever (Jn. 14:3).

John 17:24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

1 Th 4:17 *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

2. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious reunion*: the dead in Christ will arise and we who live will be reunited with our loved ones and friends forever.

Rom 8:16-17 *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

1 Th 4:17-18 *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

3. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious transformation of body*, we will receive our new incorruptible and eternal bodies.

1 Cor 15:42-44 *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

1 Cor 15:53 *For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.*

Phil 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious life of happiness*: we will receive perfect joy and freedom from trials, pain, suffering, evil and death.

Mat 13:43 “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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

Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

5. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious remaking of the heavens and earth*: we will receive a perfect world of love, joy and peace.

Rom 8:21 That the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

6. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious reward*.

2 Tim 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.

1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

7. The return of Jesus Christ will mean an *eternity of ruling and reigning*: we will receive the position and responsibility of serving Christ through all eternity.

Mat 26:23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me."

Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

8. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious dwelling place and mansions (many rooms).

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

IV. Titus 02:14 Grace in the Death of Jesus Christ

the grace of God is revealed in the death of Christ. Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us." What does this mean? It means that Jesus Christ died for us. The word "for" (huper) means that He died in our behalf, for our sake, in our place, as our substitute. It means that Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself, and paid the penalty for them. He bore...

=> the verdict of sin, the pronouncement of *guilty* for us.

=> the condemnation of our sins for us.

=> the punishment of our sins for us.

What was the verdict, the condemnation, and the punishment which He bore for us? The guilt of our sins which is death. Jesus Christ died for us. He died as our substitute; He died for us, and because He died for us we never have to die. This is what Scripture means when it says that Jesus Christ gave Himself for us. This is how God demonstrated His grace to the world: He gave His Son to die for the sins of men.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But note a most critical point: why Jesus Christ died for us. He died for us for three critical reasons.

1. Christ died to redeem us from all wickedness. We are guilty of wickedness, that is, of what has just been covered — of ungodliness and worldly passions, of lawlessness, of disobeying and transgressing the law of God. We are sinners — short of God’s glory — and we cannot keep from sinning and being short of God’s glory. We have been kidnapped, captured and captivated by lawlessness and imperfection. Therefore, we need to be redeemed (lutroo), that is, set free and delivered. The ransom needs to be paid so that we can be delivered and set free. This is why Jesus Christ gave Himself for us: to redeem us. The death of Jesus Christ was our ransom. His death sets us free from sin. How? God accepts His death for our death. When we believe that Christ died for us — really believe — God accepts our belief as the death of Jesus Christ. God takes our belief and counts it as the death of Jesus Christ. This means that we have already died, that we actually died with Christ when He died. God identifies us with Christ, with His death. Therefore, we are set free from sin and its penalty. We are delivered from the penalty of sin which is death. By faith in Jesus Christ we are redeemed, that is, set free from sin and death. (See note, *Redemption*, Eph. 1:7.)

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

Col 1:14 *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Titus 2:14 *[Christ] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Heb 9:12 *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

1 Pet 1:18 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

2. Christ died so that He might have a people that are His very own, a very special people as His own possession. This is seen in the word “own” (periousion). The word means set apart, possessed over and above, especially selected and reserved for. When a person really grasps what Jesus Christ has done for him, that person can only surrender all he is and has to Christ. The person wants to follow and serve Christ, to do all that Christ says. The person separates himself from the world, sets his life apart

to follow Christ, and Christ takes the person and by the power of the Holy Spirit sets the person apart to be His own very special possession. Through the death of Jesus Christ, the believer becomes the very special possession of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Exo 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.

Deu 14:2 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.

Deu 26:18-19 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

1 Sam 12:22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

3. Christ died to stir good works. Again, when a person really grasps what Jesus Christ has done for him, the person is stirred to give his life to Christ — to do all he can to serve Christ and to tell everyone in the world that the Saviour has come to save men. The believer works and works, doing all the good he can in order to reach everyone he can with the glorious message of redemption.

Mat 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

1 Tim 6:18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

1 Pet 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

V. *Titus 02:15 Proclaim the Grace of God*

The grace of God is to be proclaimed. It is to be proclaimed in three ways.

1. We are to teach about the grace of God: preach, teach and bear witness to it. There is no argument about the grace of God, about the Lord Jesus Christ; God does love the world. He has sent His Son into the world. Therefore, we are to teach the message of His grace — of the Lord Jesus Christ — utilizing every method of speech there is, and we are to do it day by day.

Acts 5:20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”

Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Jer 1:7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.”

Jer 1:17 “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.”

Ezek 2:7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

Ezek 1:17-19 As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not turn about as the creatures went. Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around. When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.

2. We are to encourage people in the grace of God. People are lonely, empty, without purpose, discouraged, distressed and without hope. They need to hear the glorious message of God’s grace, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they need to hear about the wonderful life God gives us now and eternally — all through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Tim 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Heb 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Heb 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

3. We are to rebuke people in the grace of God. There is no excuse for men rejecting the grace of God in their sin. God has done too much for us in Christ Jesus His Son. A man is a fool to reject eternal life, the glorious redemption and hope which Christ gives. Men need to be told the truth, rebuked and put under conviction by our rebuking them in the grace of God.

Luke 17:3 *“So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”*

Eph 5:11 *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

1 Tim 5:20 *Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.*

2 Tim 4:2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.*

Titus 2:5 *To be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. ■*