

TITUS 2:11-15

A. Introduction

1. Titus is one of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote, known as the Pastoral Epistles.

These are letters addressed to individuals who were church leaders, one of whom was Titus.

2. Why Titus?

Titus is a great book for us to study together because it gives us a model for how to lead a local church that is healthy in terms of what it believes and how it behaves.

In Titus 1:1-4 we saw that a healthy church is one where people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians as they hear the gospel preached.

In Titus 1:5-9 we saw that a healthy church needs qualified leaders – men as elders who are godly in their conduct, character, and convictions.

In Titus 1:10-16 we saw that a healthy church has elders who confront those who are deceiving church members and church members who are being deceived.

In Titus 2:1-10 we saw that a healthy church has elders who ensure that whole households are taught how to live as healthy Christians in all areas of life.

3. But they will never do this unless they understand grace.

Right beliefs leads to right behaviour.

The only reason why church members can live godly lives is because of grace.

The only reason why church members will live godly lives is because of grace.

B. Without grace saving us we could never live godly lives

1. Grace has come to save us because of our ungodly lives.

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

Grace has appeared in Jesus Christ to rescue people from their sins.

Every sinner who puts their trust in Jesus will be saved.

Not only that, every sinner who puts their trust in Jesus will also be changed.

2. Grace has come to teach us how to live godly live.

“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 2:12)

It teaches us to say “No” to sin.

It teaches us to say “Yes” to righteousness in our relationships with ourselves (self-controlled lives), with others (upright lives), and with God (godly lives).

God’s grace in Christ delivers us from sin’s power enabling us to live in a way that before we could not.

We are to live this way now – in this present age.

C. Without grace saving us we would never live godly lives

1. Grace gives us a new hope.

“While we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

We are waiting for the Lord Jesus to return.

We live this way now because we want to be ready for that day.

We have a new hope.

2. Grace gives us a new love.

“...who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness.” (Titus 2:14)

Jesus died for us taking the punishment we deserve for our sin.

We live this way now because we love Him and are thankful to Him for all that He has done for us.

We have a new love.

3. Grace gives us a new identity.

“...and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:14)

We are Jesus’ people.

We live this way now because that is who we now are.

We have a new identity.

D. Application

1. A healthy church is community that understands grace and is shaped by grace because it is taught grace by its leaders.

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

They are taught the doctrine of grace – what to believe.

They are taught the duty of grace – how to behave.

2. We must teach both the doctrine and duty of grace.

If we teach only the duty it will lead to legalism – that is, we need to obey God’s commands in order to be saved.

If we teach only the doctrine it will lead to antinomianism – that is, we don’t need to obey God’s commands because we are saved.