

## God's Amazing Grace

Author : Mike Forfar

**Titus 2:11-15** 11“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good deeds. 15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.” NASB

Here the Apostle Paul gives a good description of the working of the grace of God in the lives of believers. It brings salvation to all men and is a power in the lives of God's professed people while we wait for the second coming of Christ.

### Titus 2:11 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men”

The grace of God brings salvation to all men, not just a select few, not to just one nation. God does not show favouritism but regards all people equally. This grace is not just for the Christian world either but has been offered since sin entered the world.

Speaking of God Paul says

**2 Tim 1:9** “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity. NASB

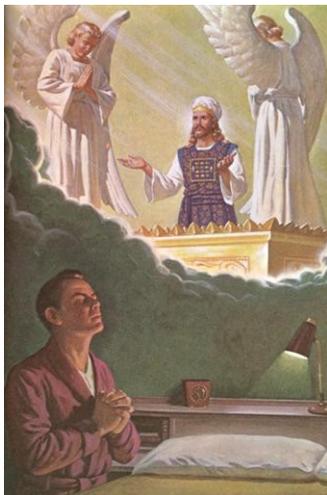
In the days of Noah the world was so evil that God destroyed it by a flood but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

**Genesis 6:7-8** “So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” NKJV. Noah and his family were the sole survivors on account of God's mercy.

**Jeremiah 31:2** “Thus says the LORD, “The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness – Israel, when it went to find its rest.” NKJV

**Exodus 31:17** “Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” NKJV

From these verses we understand that the grace of God that brings salvation has been with us since sin entered the world and was granted us from eternity past. Noah, Moses and ancient Israel during the forty years wandering in the wilderness, all were under the grace of God. This same grace is available to us.



**Hebrews 4:14-16** “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” NASB

In this world we live in God's kingdom of grace. We do not live in the visible literal kingdom of God yet. When we need God's grace we are told to confidently come to the throne of grace. We receive grace from Jesus our high priest. We do not need any earthly priest because for the Christian Jesus Christ Himself is our priest. The grace of God that we need comes directly from God to us through Jesus Christ. We do not obtain grace from the performance of religious ceremonies and we cannot buy it.

## God's Amazing Grace

---

[Titus 2:12 "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age"](#)

Grace instructs us to live a godly life, to deny worldliness, and to live righteously in this present ungodly world. However there has always been certain false christians who think that God's grace covers their wilful sin and allows them to live as they please.

**Jude 4** "For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." NIV

According to Jude – the Lord's brother, there were some people who became christians but who were false christians. These people didn't accept God's moral code and thought that the grace of God was a license to live immoral lives. False christian's who live like this deny Christ by their works.

God's grace is not a license to sin but is a transforming power to instruct us to live godly in this present age.

**Titus 3:3** "For we also were once foolish in ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another." NASB

Here Paul is describing the condition of natural man without the grace of God. However a person who has been transformed by the grace of God is to live a different life.

### **Instructions for Christian Living**

**Eph 4:17-24** "So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. **20** That, however, is not the way of life you learned **21** when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." NIV

**Eph 4:29-32** "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." NIV

### **Paul's Conversion**

The study of the former life and conversion of the Apostle Paul, the author of the letter to Titus, is an interesting example of the inward working of the grace of God. Paul who was also known as Saul of Tarsus was extremely zealous in his persecution of the early church.

**Acts 8:3** But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison." NIV

**Acts 9:1-2** "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem." NIV



Before Paul became a disciple of Jesus he was zealous to kill and imprison any person who believed differently than he did. While travelling to Damascus he was given a vision of Jesus from heaven which converted him to Christianity. After his conversion on the Damascus road he preached to the Jews in Damascus that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah but soon discovered the same evil spirit shown to him.

**Acts 9:22-23** "Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. **23** After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him." NIV

And again when Saul returned to Jerusalem the Hellenistic Jews tried to kill him.

**Acts 9:28** “So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. **29** He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him.” NIV

It is a sad part of sinful human nature to want to kill anyone who does not believe the same as we do. First we try to show people where they are wrong and if that doesn't work we become angry and violent. That anger can lead to wanting to kill the other person. Saul and the Jews were full of this evil spirit but after his transformation by the grace of God Saul's attitude changed.

**2 Tim 2:24-26** “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” NIV

### **Grace to preach the Gospel**

**Ephesians 3:7** “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.” NIV

**1 Cor 15:9-10** “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” NIV

Paul says that the grace of God made him the hard working apostle that he was. This grace was a transforming agent that gave him humility and the desire to further the gospel.

**Acts 4:33-34** “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales (34) and put it at the apostles feet and it was distributed to anyone who had need.” NIV

Note that the grace of God powerfully worked in the minds of the believers so that they not only preached about the resurrection of Christ but they also laboured for the needs of the people.

### **While at a church council at Jerusalem**

**Galatians 2:8** “For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised[Jews], was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. **9** James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. **10** All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.” NIV

When Paul travelled to the first church council held at Jerusalem he meets the other apostles. They recognise the grace of God given to him to preach the gospel to the non Jewish world while Peter James and John went to the Jews. They asked him to continue to remember the poor while preaching the gospel. Something that he says he was eager to do. This attitude by Paul is a big transformation from the man who wanted to drag off to prison any person who became a christian.

### **Titus 2:13 “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”**

The second coming of Christ the 'blessed hope'. Paul instructs Timothy and us to live godly lives while wait for that event.

**1 Tim 6:10-15** “...Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **11** But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses... I charge you **14** to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which God will bring about in his own time...” NIV

## God's Amazing Grace

---

---

### Titus 2:14 “who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed”

Paul here tells us that one of the main purposes of the grace of God is to redeem us from every lawless deed. The greek word translated 'lawless deed' is (gk: Anomia) it means transgression of the law. Therefore to be a wilful lawbreaker is to act contrary to the gospel. In his letter to the Roman church Paul compares law and grace showing that the spirit and the grace of God leads to obedience to the law of God.

**Romans 6:14-16.** “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? NKJV

**Galatians 5:18.** “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.” NKJV

Notice the Apostle Paul's parallel from Galatians 5:18 and Romans 6:14-16.

Under Law	Led by the Spirit
Under Law	Under Grace
slaves	slaves
sin (the transgression of the law)	obedience
death	righteousness - (immortality)

It can be seen here easily that for Paul to be under law is to be a slave of sin that leads to eternal death. To be under grace is to be a slave of obedience to the law that leads to righteousness - the opposite of death. A person who is saved by grace will be redeemed from every lawless deed, he will cease to willfully sin and will obey God's law.

**Galatians 2:21** “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.” NIV

**Galatians 2:16** “Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ...” NIV

Righteousness – the promises of God. And Justification – a declaration of innocence by God. Are given to us through the grace of God alone. The law cannot give us anything because the law is an educator not a saviour. The law teaches us what sin is and condemns those who transgress it. But Paul is not saying that the law does not need to be obeyed. He is simply saying that you cannot be justified by the law. Paul is clear that God will justify by His grace only those who by that same grace become slaves of obedience.

### Titus 2:14 “and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good deeds.”

Two other versions of the bible translate this verse like this:- “zealous of good works” KJV; “eager to do what is good” NIV. It is interesting how many times the bible tells us that the followers of God must do good works. This is not an option but is a command of God.

**Eph 2:8-10** “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of our works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.” NASB

The performance of good works by a Christian is an evidence of the inward working of the grace of God. Just in the same manner that a fruit tree grows fruit. These works are our duty as Christians and are demanded by God. Our works do not earn our salvation. Being saved will always only be due to God's mercy.

**Titus 2:7** “In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.” NASB

## God's Amazing Grace

---

---

In writing to the Christian minister Titus, Paul encourages him to be an example to other Christians in the performance of good works, pure doctrine, and sound speech. This will put our opponents to shame as they will not be able to find anything bad to say about us.

**Titus 3:1** “Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.” NASB

**Titus 3:8** “This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.” NASB

**Titus 3:14** “Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.” NASB

**1 Tim 6:17-18** “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.” NASB

**Heb 10:23-24** “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.” NASB

**Titus 1:16** “They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.” NASB

While the performance of good works are an evidence of our transformation by the grace of God the performance of bad deeds or works are an evidence that a person has not been converted and is devoid of the grace of God. Being zealous of good works is not a “works trip” as some people call it. Doing good works is what we are commanded by God to do. The prophet Isaiah gives instruction as to what good works are.

**Isaiah 58:6-11** “6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. 11 The Lord will guide you always;...” NIV

According to the prophet Isaiah good works consists in looking after the needs of our fellow man. Making sure they have food and clothing. Do not oppress anyone nor falsely accuse them with malicious talk. We should treat others the way we would want to be treated if we had to live life as they live it.

**Titus 3:4-7** “But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” NASB

Salvation is given to mankind on the basis of God's mercy not on any merit of good works that we may do. This process of salvation from sin and its consequences is done through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit who transforms and renews our minds so that we desire to do good works for the benefit of our fellow man. Grace does not replace God's law rather it gives us the desire and enables us to obey God's law. It is necessary that we focus on being filled with the Spirit of God first to give us the desire to do that which is good. Then we are justified by His grace. That is - we have the acceptance of God the record of our sins removed and we are made heirs of eternal life.

**Titus 2:15** “These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.” NASB