

THE EFFECTS OF GRACE
Tit 2:11-14
Liptovský Hrádok, 29th November 2015

Tit 2:11-14 Ἐπεφάνη γὰρ ἡ χάρις τοῦ θεοῦ σωτήριος πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις ¹² παιδεύουσα ἡμᾶς, ἵνα ἀριησάμενοι τὴν ἀσέβειαν καὶ τὰς κοσμικὰς ἐπιθυμίας σωφρόνως καὶ δικαίως καὶ εὐσεβῶς ζήσωμεν ἐν τῷ νῦν αἰῶνι, ¹³ προσδεχόμενοι τὴν μακαρίαν ἐλπίδα καὶ ἐπιφάνειαν τῆς δόξης τοῦ μεγάλου θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ¹⁴ ὃς ἔδωκεν ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν, ἵνα λυτρώσῃται ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀνομίας καὶ καθάρῃσιν ἑαυτῶ λαὸν περιούσιον, ζηλωτὴν καλῶν ἔργων

Tit 2:11-14 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.

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0. INTRODUCTION: THE CENTRE OF CHRISTIANITY

- **1Cor 15:10** ...his grace toward me was not in vain...

0.1. GREAT SUMMARIES OF THE GOSPEL

- "Probably no other passage in all of God's Word so completely summarizes the subject of Christian conduct."¹
- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life
- **1Tim 3:16** Great indeed, we confess, is the **mystery** of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.
- **Phil 2:6-11** [Jesus] ...though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even

¹ STROMBECK, J. F. *Disciplined by Grace*,

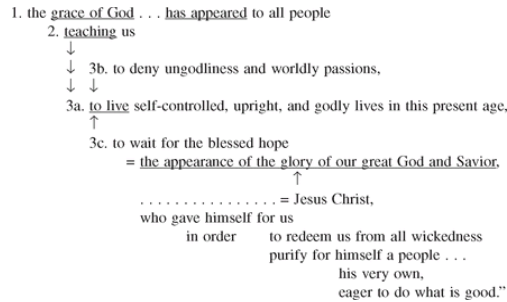
death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

0.2. DEFINITION OF “GRACE”

- χάρις – grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill, favor
- ...grace, in respect to salvation, is a summary of all God has done to effect the salvation of man. It includes all of His acts which show favor to undeserving mankind. But God’s grace is more than mere passive pity. It expresses itself in real, concrete acts of love (Rom. 5:8)²

0.3. TEXT STRUCTURE³

- “...a densely packed statement of theology...”⁴



1. THE SURPRISING GRACE

- surprise of sth unexpected, but quite possible
- surprise of sth expected, but quite impossible

1.1. THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF GRACE

- (ἐπιφαίνω) essential meaning is to appear suddenly upon a scene, and it is used particularly (a) of divine interposition, especially to aid (**Gn 35:7** there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him [ἐπεφάνη αὐτῷ ὁ θεὸς] when he fled from his brother)

1.2. GOD, THE JUDGE AS GOD, THE SAVIOUR

- **Rom 3:26** ...to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus

1.3. THE UNIVERSALITY OF GRACE

- “to all people” – meant for all people – all are called to believe

2. THE REDEEMING GRACE

- God’s grace as POWER → **2Tim 2:1** ...my child, be strengthened by the grace (ἐνδυναμοῦ ἐν τῇ χάριτι) that is in Christ Jesus

2.1. THE CROSS

- “gave himself” (ἔδωκεν ἑαυτὸν)
- complete surrender

2.2. REDEMPTION

ἵνα λυτρώσῃται ἡμᾶς

- “for us”
- the powers of slavery (lusts; fear of death; demonic powers)

² Centerville Road Church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida

³ TOWNER, P. H. *The letters to Timothy and Titus*, 2006.

⁴ TOWNER, P. H. *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 2006.

3. THE TEACHING GRACE

- **Ps 130:4** But with you there is forgiveness, **that you may be feared** (לִמְעַן תִּירָא)
- “For salvation does not consist only in a change of relation to God, in justification, pardon, adoption, but also in a change of character in us, in regeneration, sanctification, and holy living.”⁵
- “teaching” ⇒ educating, correcting,

[AUGUSTINE → PIPER] [Confessions IX,1] How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose! ... You drove them from me, you who are the true, the *sovereign joy* (*summa suavitas*). [There’s the key phrase and the key reality for understanding the heart of Augustinianism.] You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure [*omni voluptate dulcior*], though not to flesh and blood, you who outshine all light, yet are hidden deeper than any secret in our hearts, you who surpass all honor, though not in the eyes of men who see all honor in themselves. – This is Augustine’s understanding of grace. Grace is God’s giving us sovereign joy in God that triumphs over joy in sin.

3.1. GIVING UP (DENYING)

ἀρνησάμενοι

- (1) irreverence (τὴν ἀσέβειαν) – the “most modern attitude”
 - Impiety, all wrong thoughts about God, and the actions that follow from it, which marked the heathen life, (**Jude 15-18** ...all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed (ἐργῶν ἀσεβείας αὐτῶν ὧν ἠσέβησαν) in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. ¹⁷But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.")
- (2) worldly lusts (τὰς κοσμικὰς ἐπιθυμίας) - **1John 2:16** ...all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world.

3.2. EMBRACING (LIVING)

- self – others – God
- (1) wisdom, prudence (σωφρόνως) → fearing God; knowing nature
 - “...with self-control, with respect for the rights of others, with true piety towards God.”⁶
- (2) justice/righteousness (δικαίως) → lawfully;
- (3) godliness/reverence (εὐσεβῶς) → seriousness; caution; focus...

3.3. WAITING

- ...for the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- salvation (1) past, (2) present, (3) future

4. TO REMEMBER

- The grace of God is the foundation of everything else in Christian life.
- The grace of God can be received in a moment but begins a lifetime of growth, learning and change.
- The grace of God is loving and waiting relationship with Jesus expecting his coming.

⁵ HARVEY, H. *Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles*, Philadelphia : American Baptist Publication Society, 1890.

⁶ LOCK, W. *Pastoral Epistles*, Edinburgh : T & T Clark, 1959.