

## The Grace of God Teaches Us Trey Sullins

The exceeding riches of the grace of God are evident all over the earth and all throughout time. Ephesians 2:4-7 shows God's grace is one factor allowing access to salvation. Usually grace is considered closely with salvation. However, the word "grace" refers to undeserved favor or goodwill. When thinking of grace in this manner, there are many things which God has done for His people that are not deserved. One such instance is found in Titus 2:11-14 where the Bible says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." The grace being referenced here is the Word, Jesus Christ, who came to this earth bringing the will of God. The passage also reveals the great things which the Word taught to man so that man might be saved.

The grace of God teaches a denial of ungodliness and worldly lusts. The word "ungodliness" refers to the characteristics, actions, and lifestyles that are the opposite of God. "Worldly lusts" is a reference to the desires and passions that are distinctive of the world. The proper Christian response taught by the grace of God is to deny these things. Rather than choosing to serve the self and the sins of the world, the righteous must live a life that abstains from these things. Matthew 16:24-25 is one example where the grace of God, Jesus, taught people to deny themselves: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." The basic pattern is one where the individual Christian considers God's will before their own desires. If this is done, then all ungodliness and world lusts will be denied by that person.

The grace of God teaches a proper life. After a person removes and denies the bad things of this world, they must replace them with the good things of God. The text specifically mentions living "soberly, righteously, and godly." The word "soberly" refers to a sound mind which thinks and acts correctly in life. This sober mind is trained by the word of God. The word "righteously" refers to living justly and uprightly. It is the idea of living according to the good moral pattern which is laid out by God. Finally, "godly" is the idea of living with the characteristics that describe God and His followers. When these qualities are applied, people will be matching exactly to what God desires of His creation.

The grace of God teaches Christians to have great hope. The phrasing "looking for" is the idea of anticipating and awaiting something with great confidence. The substance of the hope is the glorious appearing of our God and Savior Jesus Christ! Second Peter 3:10 tells that this appearing will come as a thief in the night so that no one knows the day or the hour. Because of this Christians should always be ready for that time. Furthermore, this hope which we have by the grace of God should bring great joy. Paul in Romans 15:13 wrote, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." With a great hope from God Christians can strive to live right in the sight of God.

The grace of God brings so many blessings to mankind. Christians should never forget all that He has done and provided. God's people must choose to do as the grace of God teaches us by putting off ungodliness, putting on godliness, and living with the hope of God.