

Grace's Training School

Grace—part 9

August 25, 2019

*Titus 2:11 For **the grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 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, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ 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.*

1. Grace not only saves us, but it also trains us! This week we'll look at five ways we are to be trained! The word "training" is the Greek word from which we derive our word "epiphany." The meaning is "a light bulb finally lit up in our head." Or, "We finally saw and realized what we should have seen all along!"

2. Only the experience of grace that can change our human nature!

DAY 1: Grace teaches us to "disown" sin.

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3. The simple English translation, "say 'No'" comes from the Greek word to "**disown**."

4. What is assumed is that even though we have come to salvation in Christ, have tasted the fruits of salvation, the changes in our character, the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), amazingly, we will be tempted to go back to our previous lifestyles that once brought us to our knees in brokenness and repentance in the first place. Do not be surprised when that happens. Paul tells Titus this will happen!

5. When tempted grace tells us to *disown* the temptation. What strikes you about *disowning*?

6. Temptation:

- a. Glamorizes our old sins,
- b. Minimizes its bad effects to our memory,
- c. Causes us to become blind to the emptiness, loneliness, shame, etc. we experienced,
- d. Blinds us to the consequences our ungodliness inflicted on others,
- e. "Enchants" us with the message, "But *this time*, we'll be smart about it."

7. Paul highlights two areas of temptation. What do you think he means by each of them?

a. "Ungodliness."

b. "Worldly desires."

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Grace teaches us to live with self-control

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

1. Grace teaches us to live with self-control. The Greek word means to live "**soberly**." We usually think of "sober" living as living without alcohol or drugs.

2. But the ancient idea of living soberly is much deeper than that!

3. To be sober-minded means any or all of the following:

- a. Recognize the seductive powers of temptation on us.
- b. Remember the awful consequences of turning away from God.
- c. Remember the awful consequences of turning back to the ways of the world.
- d. Remember that sin, though forgiven, always has consequences, toward ourselves and others.
- e. Remember that even when we think we sin "in private," the ramifications *eventually and always* have public consequences!

4. In the founding of our nation, the constitution was written on the basis of several truths. One of them was that the more man governs himself the less "the long arm of the law" is needed. In our current time when you hear the term "self-government" you may think of "government of the people, by the people and for the people." But two hundred and fifty years ago "self-government" meant *the individual governed himself!*

5. Below are a few more verses regarding "living soberly." Underneath each verse, jot down why living soberly is so important.

1 Peter 5:8 (RSV) Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.

*1 Peter 1:13 (RSV) Therefore gird up your minds, **be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

¹⁴ *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,*

¹⁵ *but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;*

¹⁶ *since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Grace teaches us to live righteously

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

1. When you think of being “upright” or living righteously, what comes to your mind?

2. The Greek word for “upright” is the word “dikaios.” It means the quality of being “right,” or true to form. In the old English it was translated “rightwiseness.” It has several different usages.
 - a. It is used of God. God is righteous (Romans 3:5). It is sometimes used as a synonym for God’s faithfulness and truthfulness.

 - b. God’s righteousness is most seen at the cross.

 - c. Jesus used the term to depict that one was righteous if they conformed to God truth and God’s will.

 - d. Righteousness is used to describe the sum total of what God expects from people.

 - e. Sometimes the word is used of right *action*.

 - f. To live righteously is to “do right by people.”

3. Which of the items above grabs your attention? Why?

4. How have you seen someone else live righteously?

5. How are you seeking to live righteously?

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Grace teaches us to be godly.

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

1. To live godly, or be godly has several different meanings.
 - a. It means to be reverent toward God, to revere God.
 - b. It can mean to be devoted to God.
 - c. It can mean to be God-centered, to have God “in your cockpit as your pilot.”
 - d. It means to be like God in His character, to reflect His character in our relationships and lives.
 - e. To be godly can also mean to use everything we have in God’s service. For example:
 - * We use our hands to serve Him and others,
 - * We use our words to tell others about God,
 - * We use our feet to walk in God’s ways,
 - * We use our mind to think rightly about God and His ways.

2. What strikes you from that list, above?

3. Peter gives us some insight into godliness and why it is important. Under each of the two sections below, jot down what Peter is saying about godliness.

*2 Peter 1:3 (RSV) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature.*

2 Peter 1:5 (RSV) For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

*⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with **godliness**, ⁷ and **godliness** with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What is your biggest takeaway regarding godliness?

DAY 5: Grace teaches us to be eager to do good.

*Titus 2:11 For **the grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² **It teaches us** ... ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ 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.***

1. When we think about “doing good,” we usually think of some action, done occasionally. “Maybe I’ll help out at the soup kitchen on Thanksgiving.”
2. What Paul is describing is something very different. Grace teaches our hearts to be “eager to do what is good!”
3. How does this change how you normally think about “doing good?”

4. When an opportunity presents itself to you to serve, how do you normally respond?

5. What’s the difference between “eager to do good” and your normal response?

6. We also can “do good” by our conversations with people. Acts of service tend to be rarer. They can touch the heart of someone and occasionally they do. But virtually every day, you have “opportunities” to “do good” in your conversations with people, however brief.
7. In your day-to-day living do you associate your conversations with “doing good?”

8. Let’s wrap up the week. Glance back at the 5 headings and pick the one aspect of grace that strikes you the most. Jot it down, here.

9. What is a way you can remember this aspect of grace beyond this week?