

January 16, 2005
A.M. Service
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“All You Need To Know” (Titus 2:11-15 NLT)

The following was submitted to me by John Dobrie:

For those of you who just thought you knew everything, here's a refresher course... Now you know everything :

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven (7) times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty (50) years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one (1) olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
(Since Venus is normally associated with women what does this tell you!)

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.

So did the first "Marlboro Man."

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six (6) feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush. (I keep my toothbrush in the living room now!)

Turtles can breathe through their butts (rear end).

Now you know everything there is to know...Of importance, that is.

Not really. There is much more to know and things of much more importance. Actually, today I want to speak to you about “All You Need To Know.” Not everything you can know but all you really need to know. (Titus 2:11-14 NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, **13** while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.

In my opinion these verses tell us all we need to know. In these verses Paul talks about the Grace of God. First he mentions the Grace of God that brings salvation (or redemption):

Grace of God - Salvation

(v11) “For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.”

What is the grace of God?

It is the unmerited or undeserved, favor and kindness of God toward all people, but especially toward those who respond to His infinite love through Jesus Christ. It describes the gifts or favors of God given and shown to us, not because we earn it or deserve it, but freely given because of His love. The Greek word stresses that it is given to anyone and is given freely.

What is received by the grace of God?

Salvation! “...The grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation...”

This salvation is described in v14 – “...free ... from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.” By this grace of God we are forgiven and free from every kind of sin and can be free of it’s power over us, cleansed, put into a right relationship with God, even call children of God, which we are now and forever, for this salvation is for eternity. We have been redeemed. That means that through Christ God has bought us back. He created us we should belong to Him and live for Him, but we walked away from Him. We lived life according to our will and strategies. Our sin separates us from God. We can’t do anything on our own to make ourselves right with God. We can’t be good enough or religious enough. We would be separated from God forever...if it weren’t for the grace of God. He redeemed us.

Who can benefit from the grace of God?

Paul described the recipients of God's grace when he says, "the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation *to all people*." Jesus gave His life instead of us, to take the punishment (instead of us) we deserved and He did that for everyone, He died for the sins of the world. John 3:16 (NLT) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

This does not mean that all have heard the message of Christ or that all have accepted the message of Christ for salvation. Rather, it means that this grace is available to all people – no matter of status, position, color, gender, nationality, race or creed, God's salvation in Jesus Christ is available to all.

Who has revealed the grace of God?

Notice in (v14) that the grace of God has been revealed through Jesus Christ ("Jesus Christ... He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right."). John 1:14 (NIV) – "The Word (Christ) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of *grace* and truth."

Christ was full of grace and truth. Jesus is the embodiment of the grace of God. Through Him God's grace is perfectly and completely revealed. He was the sinless Son of God who died on the cross to become the perfect sacrifice for sin. All He did and all He said reveals God's grace. The grace of God has been revealed to all people in Christ. And that grace continues to be revealed today in the written record of Christ in the Bible.

Grace of God – Sanctification (purification)

Though God's grace is available to all people, it is at work only in the life of the person who responds to the message of salvation in Christ and in the person who is willing to surrender their redeemed self completely to the reign of Christ in their lives. Eph 2:8-10 (NLT) "God saved you by his special favor (grace) when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

First our sins are forgiven and we receive eternal life as a gift of God's favor (grace) when we put our faith in Jesus. We are not saved by trying to do good things. We are saved by our faith in Jesus, but we are saved to do the good things God created us to do. So, secondly, we must offer ourselves to God, to be completely devoted to obeying Him. Rom 12:1-2 (NLT) "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is." When we receive God's special favor of salvation we want to respond to that grace by obeying Him, not because we must, not because we are compelled, but we want to obey God spontaneously. Those who turn to God by accepting Christ and understand the true meaning of God's grace (favor) – who understand what it cost Christ to save us will respond to God's love. We will "do the good things He planned for us" to do – You will not "copy the behavior and customs of

this world, but let God transform you ... changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.” Jesus does not save us to keep us the way we are. He wants to change us to be like He is. The theological term for this process of becoming more like Jesus is sanctification or purification – our lives are to become more and more pure or godly, like God, like Jesus. True faith will produce godly living. This is why James says, (James 2:17 NLT) – “So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all--it is dead and useless.” And this is why in our text Paul writes (v14) “Jesus ... gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, *totally committed to doing what is right.*” The Christian, then, who truly understands God’s grace in saving him will desire to conform his life to the will of God. So, the Christian must understand the grace of God if the grace of God is to instruct or teach them. We can only respond to salvation in Christ when we know that Jesus died and rose from the dead for us. And we can only respond to His will when we know how He wants us to live. This is why the Bible teaches us both what Christ has done and how we should live our lives in view of what He has done. In our text Paul gives a summary of how Christians should live. This is why he says, “For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **(v12)** *And we are instructed ...* That instruction is for our sanctification, purification, or growth in Christ-likeness. First he tells us what we should stop doing or what we should turn from, then he tells us how we should live instead. (v12) “We are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God...” Again, Paul is not giving us specifics, although if you read the rest of Titus you will find that he does give specifics. But here he is summing up how to live the Christian life – giving it to us in a nutshell. (We will get back to that next week.)