

January 30, 2005  
A.M. Service  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“All You Need To Know” (Part II)  
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.

There are a lot of things we can know in this world, but in my opinion these verses tell us all we really need to know and that is: Grace of God.

### **I. 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.

#### ***What is received by the grace of God?***

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

#### ***Who can benefit from the grace of God?***

“The grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation *to all people*.”

#### ***Who has revealed the grace of God?***

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.”).

The grace of God is not just for our salvation, the forgiveness of sin to make us children of God, the beginning of a new spiritual life, but it is also for our sanctification, our continued spiritual growth.

### **II. Grace of God – Sanctification (purification)**

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. (v12) *And we are instructed ...*

The grace of God saves us and instructs us. That instruction is for our sanctification, or growth in Christ-likeness. The commands of God are meant to show us the way to live in response to the love and grace of God. This is true in the Old Testament and in the New. In the O.T. God had delivered His people from slavery then He gives the Ten Commandments. The people were instructed on how to live godly lives, to be like God (Who said, “Be holy for I am holy.”). In our text Paul is not giving us specifics of how to

live the Christian life, but a summery. We have to know the Bible to know the specifics. In the Bible we have general principles (“Love God and Love your neighbor”) and we have specifics ([Eph 4:31-32 NLT] “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”).

Our laws today are general and specific. Like “obey the traffic laws” – general and “You must signal when changing lanes” – specific. So, in our text, Paul sums up in general how the Christian life is to be lived by first telling us what we should stop doing or what we should turn from, and then telling us how we should live instead.

### ***What does the grace of God instruct us to turn from?***

(v12a) “We are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures.”

#### **1. Godless living**

Godless living includes everything that a person does without taking God into account. It covers all things contrary to God. Godless or ungodly living means a lack of love for God or a total disregard for God. A godless person focuses only on himself. A godless person will not acknowledge his dependence on God as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. We live in a time when many people totally reject God’s influence in every area of their life. But a Christian who understands God’s grace, who has been saved by it and instructed by it, acknowledges his dependence on God and desires to live a holy /godly life.

#### **2. Sinful pleasures**

Sinful pleasures represent the *result* of godless living. This is not only a way of thinking but also a specific life style. It describes the life style of a person who seeks to cater to his every selfish desire regardless of what God’s law says. It is a person who is rebellious against God’s will. Paul described people like this: (Titus 1:10, 12-13, 15-16 NLT) “For there are many who rebel against right teaching...(v12) One of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, ‘The people of Crete are all liars; they are cruel animals and lazy gluttons.’ [and note that Paul agrees with them] (v13) This is true...(v15 - 16) Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are defiled. Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live...” The result of living without God in the world is gluttony, greed, dishonesty, drunkenness, lust, sexual immorality, hatred, violence, anger, malice, and revenge; together with the excessive love of riches, power, and fame.

Grace teaches and enables us to say no outwardly to non-Christian activities and inwardly to non-Christian desires.

### ***How does the grace of God instruct us to live?***

(12b) “We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God....” We must not only turn from godless living and sinful pleasures, we must replace these negative characteristics with positive ones:

### **1. With self-control**

This is the opposite of allowing our selfish desires and passions to run wild. It means bringing our human feelings and desires into conformity with God's expectations. It means letting our reason, now under the authority and influence of the Holy Spirit, govern every desire. To Americans freedom means being able to do anything I want to do. The problem is that if someone is godless, i.e. doing things without taking God into account then what they want to do is usually selfish, evil and hurtful to others. Doing whatever we want is not freedom it's anarchy, disorder, chaos, rebellion. Freedom is be permitted to live as God wants us to, exercising self control to turn from sinful acts and live ...

### **2. With right conduct**

Doing what is right in every situation to every person. (Luke 6:31) "Do to others as you would have them do to you." The Christian who is living this way is exemplifying the life of Jesus Christ. It's omitting what your not suppose to do and not omitting what you are suppose to do. A knowledge of God's Word will instruct us of what is right, self-control must be exercised to act right and we act right ...

### **3. With Devotion to God**

This is our motivation, a commitment to be devoted to God at all times, in all places and in all circumstances. The opposite of an ungodly life is a life of devotion to God. A godly person orders his life around Jesus Christ. A sanctified life is a life of complete or entire devotion to God.

The grace of God that has been revealed to us in what Jesus has done for us, and has brought us salvation, instructs us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We are to live holy and godly lives in this evil world empowered by God with self-control (in respect to ourselves), with right conduct (in respect to others), and (in respect to God) with devotion to God, (v13) while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

## **III. Grace of God –Glorification**

We live the way we've been instructed because of the love of God that has purchased our salvation and because of the hope we have of eternal life. Christians look forward to when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. Before Jesus returned to heaven He promised He would come again to take all of His children to be with Him. (John 14:1-3 NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." 1 Cor 15:52 (NLT) tells us that, "It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die." Phil 3:20-21 (NLT), "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will

take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere.” In the meantime we are in the process of being changed. As we have seen, the grace of Christ teaches us to become like Him even before we get to heaven. Though we will never be perfect on this earth, yet we are being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom 12:2). Jesus *is* coming again and so John wrote, (1 John 3:2-3 NLT) “Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.” This was Paul’s message. The motivation for changing our lifestyle is the grace of God – His unmerited favor toward us, forgiving our sin and giving us a glorious hope. We should desire to please Him because of this grace that saves us, sanctifies us and gives us hope of being with Him forever when Jesus returns. After all (v14), “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.” This is all we need to know.