

January 22, 2023

Life Changing Grace

by George Slover

“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,” (Titus 2:11-12)

Experiencing the grace of God is life changing. It has the power to turn one from a course of rebellion and destruction to a path of obedience and hope. The Cretans were a powerful example of the ability of God’s grace.

The reputation of the Cretans was not good. Paul says, “One of them, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.’” (Titus 1:12) In chapter 3 Paul reminds them of their past life. They were known for their foolishness and disobedience following their own passions and pursuing selfish pleasures. Accepting God’s grace involved a renunciation of this past life. “Ungodliness” and “worldly lusts” (Titus 2:12) express the epitome of all that is sinful and wrong! This kind of life was to be renounced!

A rejection of the worldly life is not enough! Grace compels one to adopt the right course of life. In chapter 3 Paul reminds them to live lives that are submissive, obedient, gentle, and ready for every good work. To live “soberly” (2:12) is to hold a mastery over our passions and impulses. To be “godly” is

a claim of the presence of God in our everyday life.

This means a radical change took place in the lives of the Cretans. Old habits are hard to break and new ones difficult to begin, but God’s grace and kindness was the life changing motive that prompted them to take this painful step. “Hope” (Titus 3:13) would encourage them to persevere!

As we grow in our appreciation of God’s love, it will prompt us to live God approved lives.

Those Nagging Claims

By George Slover

“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12)

The above passage is among many bold claims made by the apostles of Christ – i.e. “our message comes from God and not from man”. Other such claims are found in John’s writings: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-- things which must shortly take place.” (Revelation 1:1) Peter makes a similar claim: “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

Gospel Meeting - Killeen, each Friday through Feb 3

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:19-21) These are bold claims!

However, the apostles, through the power of God, offered evidence to back up those claims. “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.” (2 Corinthians 12:12) Surely such signs were done in the presence of their enemies. Had they not been convincing, the apostles would have lost all creditability!

In addition to the signs they performed, the apostles readily abandoned long held beliefs and practices of their former religion. These men, before preaching Christ, followed institutions that had been in vogue for more than 1500 years – i.e. animal sacrifices, Sabbath keeping, and many other traditions of Moses’ law. Not only did the New Testament writers abandon such treasured beliefs, but so did thousands of other Jews!

What compelled them to make such a dramatic shift? Instead of animal sacrifices they honored Jesus as the Lamb of God. Instead of Sabbath keeping, they assembled on the First day of the week. And instead of following a physical king, they honored Jesus as the spiritual ruler of their hearts!

Such compelling evidence gives one every reason to believe, and no reason to doubt the validity of the New Testament and its authors! Christ is risen indeed! Christ is Lord!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back.

Robert and Cathy Moore are in Mexico.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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