

**The Grace
of God
that
bringeth
Salvation**

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for ... [Titus 2:11-13]

The grace of God:

Few today make time to consider the existence of the God of glory let alone ponder upon the greatness of His character. Despite His goodness being experienced by every individual daily, many would rather deny Him than confess Him. Man continually strives with his Maker in lifestyle and conduct contrary to that purposed by God in the day he was created. Men call it "liberty of expression": the Bible calls it "bondage to sin." Yet men are inexcusable for God has not left Himself without witness.

The life sustaining God has for centuries continued to demonstrate forbearance toward man as He has given him opportunity to seek and know Him. None of us are worthy of such divine favour or attention from an essentially righteous and sin hating God who is of ***"purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity"*** (Habakkuk 1:13). Periods of limited grace shown by men to fellow man are insignificant compared to that grace being exercised by God toward His rebellious creatures and yet it is only on such grounds that God could initially move toward us in His kindness. This grace was shown by His Son, the Lord Jesus who brought grace and truth to the people of this world when He came to sojourn among mankind for around thirty three years. ***"The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"*** (John 1:17).

That bringeth salvation:

Have you ever found yourself in a situation from which you needed to be saved being powerless to help yourself: maybe danger of drowning or attack by violent individuals. The peril is obvious to all that have. You may take precautions to safeguard yourself from such situations or other dangers such as catastrophes or acts of terrorism and yet be precariously unconscious of the spiritual peril that you are in by virtue of your sin. God's purpose through grace is to bring wayward sinners back into vital union with Himself: a position once enjoyed by man.

It cost God immensely to send His co-equal Son into the world as a Man, to die the shameful death of the cross, not on account of His own sin but as a sacrifice for ours. There is no other basis that God can or will receive us; there is no scope for boasting or self effort in the face of the cross. There is no other name upon which we can call for mercy except upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ who God raised up bodily from the dead the third day. ***“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”*** (Acts 4:12).

Hath appeared to all men:

The One true God sees all as ***“one blood”***. There is no racism or respect of persons with Him: there is no favouritism toward male or feminine gender, toward great or small, rich or poor. This grace, which can bring all mankind into the good of God's ***“so great salvation”***, is for people of all ages, ethnic groupings, languages and cultures. The whole world is ***“guilty before God”*** (Romans 3:19).

Salvation is therefore on the same ground for us all and made available to all as we each have the same need: ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”*** (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Teaching us ...

The grace of God cannot be abused in the sense that we should not think we can receive God's gift of salvation by grace and continue in a habitual life of sin. If the gift of salvation and the blessing of eternal life is to be made real to you through faith in the Lord Jesus, there will firstly need to be an accompanying change of inner attitude toward God and Sin; a denial of ungodly behaviour and worldly lusts. This the Bible calls repentance: grace demands it. The result will be a change of lifestyle controlled by a sober mind, righteous conduct and inner reverence and humility toward God.

Looking for ...

Above all a sure heavenly hope will be planted in your immortal soul: ***"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"*** (Titus 2:13) knowing that when our little life on earth is over, a much better place is reserved for us where Christ is. One of the further privileges of the true child of God is the ability through prayer to ***"come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"*** (Hebrews 4:16). This is particularly poignant in that the needed grace in the trials of the Christian life come from the Lord Himself who experienced such trials during his life on earth and He is able to sympathise in a way that no other could.

However be warned. God will not always be reaching out in grace for ever. Further, the Bible warns of deceivers, ungodly men, who change ***"the grace of our God into lasciviousness (indecent, excessiveness), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ"*** (Jude 1:4). Such men are already condemned to Hell. Let us ensure that we escape that fearsome place of eternal judgment by not heeding such men and by believing upon the Saviour God and entering into the blessings of the grace of God as it is in truth.