

The Training of Grace

Titus 2:11-14

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I. The Necessity of Grace

How do we continue serving the Lord with gladness throughout the course of our lives? The solution is to rely wholly and completely on *the _____ of God at work*. Our salvation from beginning to end is in the hands of God.

II. The Plenitude of Grace

The supply of God's grace isn't limited. He pours out His Spirit like _____ on the dry ground and causes it to flourish with green grass. Paul emphasizes that the grace of God *has been* at work, *is* at work, and *will be* at work.

III. The Training of Grace

Paul tells us in verse 12 that the *grace of God is teaching us*. The word *teaching* is the Greek word **παιδεύω** – training. The grace of God is _____ us now.

A. To deny

1. Ungodliness

Ungodliness is whatever does not reflect the _____ of God.

2. Worldly Lusts (cf. Ex. 20:17; Prov 4:23)

Worldly lusts are those sinful _____ that lead us to practice ungodliness and to act in a sinful manner.

Notice, therefore, that it is not only *actions* which are sinful but the *lusts* or *desires* which give birth to those actions. We are not only to deny certain external behaviors – sanctification is not simply an external process – we are to deny the internal desires and passions which give rise to those actions.

We are to repent of our heart sins not just our actions. *The Book of Common Prayer* teaches us to pray in repentance for the “*devices and desires of our own hearts.*”

B. To live

1. Sensibly

The NASB translation is best with “*sensibly*.” The Greek word is *sophronos*. The meaning behind the term is *to live in accordance with the way God has made the world*. To live *sensibly* is to live in harmony with the _____ order; to do that which is fitting considering one’s calling and station in life. The standard behind *sophronos*, in other words, is God’s created order.

- Soberly - To live *sensibly* is to avoid drunkenness.
- Romans 1:26-27 - To live *sensibly* is to embrace the sexual difference between male and female and to rejoice in it.
- 1 Corinthians 11:14 - A *sensible* man rejoices to cut his hair; a *sensible* woman to grow hers.
- Acts 17:29 - The man who lives *sensibly* avoids idolatry.

2. Righteously (cf. Ex 20:1-17; Ps 40:6-8)

To behave *righteously* is to live in accordance with God’s revealed law. Psalm 19 rejoices that *the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul, The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple... The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether*. Paul reminds Timothy that “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for... instruction in righteousness...*” (2 Tim 3:16-17). Righteousness is summarized in the ten commandments. The standard behind *righteousness* is God’s _____.

3. Godly

To live *godly* is to reflect God’s own _____ in our own. So what is the standard? The preeminent standard is the revelation of God’s character in the Person of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus. Paul writes in Romans 8:28-29:
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

IV. The Word of Grace

A. Cease your excuses! (1 Tim 4:7-8)

“... exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” (1 Tim 4:7–8)

B. Cease your despair! (Mt 11:28-30)

V. Conclusion