

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE *VERSES*

RESTRAINING GRACE

TITUS 2:11-14

Text: Titus 2:11-14

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¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Introduction:

The “I” in the acronym of Calvinism stands for “Irresistible Grace.”

“Irresistible Grace” to the Calvinist means that God, when He decrees that He is going to save someone, will certainly do so, and His grace is “irresistible.” In other words, the person who God has decreed to save, is going to be saved, and will not be able to resist the grace of God.

This idea is also false, because God in fact desires all to be saved.

1 Timothy 2:4

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

If He desires all people to be saved, and if He could save them by His irresistible grace, then in fact all people would be saved. The Bible, of course, is clear that there will be many people who will not be saved. The clear truth is that GOD's grace is "Resisible", and many people do in fact resist His grace, and God's grace is "RESTRAINING."

The grace of God offers salvation to ALL PEOPLE, not just some; since all are not saved, it is obvious that people can resist God's grace. The Gospel by it's nature is an offer of salvation for all people everywhere; Christ died for all. But God's grace can not only be resisted, people can in fact INSULT the Spirit of grace.

Such was the case those in Crete.

The grace of God was an abused doctrine in Crete, so Paul paused to give his admonitions a doctrinal foundation. There are some who would turn grace into

license, teaching that Christians can live in sin since they are no longer under the Law. Of course, the believer is not under the Law but under grace, but grace brings an even greater responsibility.

We know that grace frees us from the bondage of false religion and sin.

Grace also takes on a new facet in the Christian's life – restraining us from the things of the world.

I want to share some thoughts and consider the three lessons restraining grace teaches us.

Note:

1. The Gift of Grace (vs. 11, 14)

Titus 2:11

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Titus 2:14

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Note:

A. Grace Brings Salvation (vs. 11a)

- Salvation is through Christ (vs. 14a)

1 Peter 1:24

²⁴ For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

- Redemption is accompanied by salvation (vs. 14b)

Romans 3:24

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Grace Bought Our Salvation

- It's for all men

Titus 2:11

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

The Bible says “whosoever” may come.

John 3:15-16

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 4:13-14

¹³ *Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

- It is free for all men

Romans 6:23

²³ *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Notice not only the “Gift of Grace” but also:

2. THE GUIDANCE OF GRACE (VS. 12)

Titus 2:12

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Note:

God’s grace teaches us. Grace does not become dormant after salvation but is actively teaching us how to live a life of faith.

The word teaching means:

(1) To train children; to cause one to learn;

(2) To chastise or castigate with words, to correct

Quote:

“God Grace Not Only Redeems Us, But It Also Reforms Us and Rewards Us.”

Grace guides us:

A. Away From Ungodliness (vs. 12a)

Titus 2:12

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Illustration:

I've learned that if you give a pig and a boy everything they want, you'll get a good pig and a bad boy.

“DENYING” means to: “not accept, to reject, to refuse something offered.”

God's grace refutes the world's lifestyle.

“UNGODLINESS” is not only irreverence, but a lack of total recognition of God’s presence. It is “to ignore His influence, existence, or expectation.”

Christians can live an ungodly lifestyle in ignoring God’s words, ways, and will in their lives.

B. Toward a Sanctified Life (vs. 12b)

Titus 2:12

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

We should live soberly

We should live righteously

We should live godly

Notice not only the “Gift of Grace” and the “Guidance of Grace” but also:

3. THE GOODNESS OF GRACE (VS. 13)

Titus 2:13

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

A. We Have an Expectation of Christ (vs. 13a)

- This expectation is an anticipated time – “looking for”
- This expectation is a happy time – “blessed hope”

There is no greater incentive for Christian living than the second coming of Jesus Christ.

B. We Will See the Exaltation of Christ (vs. 13b)

Titus 2:13

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

- A Glorious Appearing
- A Personal Appearing

Close:

Grace will save you, but many have refused it. Grace will restrain you and guide you.

God's grace will encourage you with the fact that Jesus is coming again.