

## The Grace of God

### Titus 3:3-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Someone said that grace is “God’s Redemption At Christ’s Expense.” I’m excited today to tell you what the grace of God can do in your \_\_\_\_\_. I believe you’ll get excited, too. We know the Lord’s Way is the right way, and we search the Scriptures because we know the Bible is always \_\_\_\_\_.

When you say salvation is a \_\_\_\_\_, some people think it’s too good to be true. They figure they must \_\_\_\_\_ their way to heaven by doing some great thing. They can’t imagine God giving us His \_\_\_\_\_, the forgiveness of our sins, and a home in heaven. Today, we’re asking the question, “What does it \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved by the grace of God?”

Someone has taken the word grace and made the acrostic “G-R-A-C-E” “God’s Redemption At Christ’s Expense.” This is a fairly \_\_\_\_\_ description of grace. The word grace (in Greek *charis*) means “\_\_\_\_\_.” The distinguishing factors of God’s grace are twofold: first, God’s grace is a gift and is not \_\_\_\_\_; and second, God’s grace is undeserved. Usually we think of having to \_\_\_\_\_ a place of favor with others, but God gives us his favor as a gift.

God accepts, loves, and blesses the person who stands in His grace. In spite of one’s past, when a person is \_\_\_\_\_ in the blood of Jesus Christ, he stands in a right relationship and in the favor of God. Even though we \_\_\_\_\_ to be punished for our sins, God graciously \_\_\_\_\_ us and no longer holds our transgressions against us. In Christ, we became \_\_\_\_\_ creatures, transformed into children of God, and transferred into the kingdom of God. In Christ, God hears our \_\_\_\_\_ and gives us every spiritual blessing.

#### **Our scripture reading today comes from Paul’s letter to Titus, chapter 3, verses 3 to 7.**

You can’t \_\_\_\_\_ God’s grace; it’s a gift. In Romans 4:4 the apostle Paul says, “Now when a man \_\_\_\_\_, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his \_\_\_\_\_ is credited as righteousness.” Grace is not a \_\_\_\_\_ for our labors, a \_\_\_\_\_ for our winning a competition, or an \_\_\_\_\_ for our meritorious efforts. Grace is a gift. When a man can earn no wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award, yet receives a wondrous gift, he has been given unmerited \_\_\_\_\_ or undeserved \_\_\_\_\_. That’s what God, in his love, has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-10 helps us to understand how God has \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us. **Read what the apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:1-3.** Sin causes a person to be spiritually \_\_\_\_\_. It’s not merely an inappropriate act; sin \_\_\_\_\_ one spiritually.

**Read Ephesians 4-7.** I’ve found that some of the most wonderful sections of the Bible begin with the word “\_\_\_\_\_.” We were spiritually dead, but that’s not the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story. God, rich in mercy and love, \_\_\_\_\_ us by His grace.

**Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** We're saved by grace through \_\_\_\_\_. It takes both. We're not saved by grace alone or by faith alone, but by grace through faith. Grace reflects \_\_\_\_\_ that God does in our lives to bring us home to Him. Faith reflects our \_\_\_\_\_ of trust and love and obedience to the grace that He's given us.

God's grace \_\_\_\_\_ through faith. God desires that we appreciate his great gift by \_\_\_\_\_ to him in faith. **Read what Paul said in Titus 3:3-5.** God chose to \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us as an act of loving kindness. How does He wash us?

This washing that regenerates and renews is when we are born again in \_\_\_\_\_. By faith, when we \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_, God washes us clean from sin and causes us to be born again into His family. The faith that matters to God is a faith that is \_\_\_\_\_ to trust God enough to accept His teaching and His blessing by obediently responding. In Galatians 3:26-27, the Bible says, "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through \_\_\_\_\_. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have \_\_\_\_\_ Christ."

This means the faith that saves, the faith that Paul had in mind, which responds to grace is an \_\_\_\_\_ faith. We are sons of God by faith, but this is a faith that will \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_. For it is in baptism that God causes us to be \_\_\_\_\_ and we "put on Christ." In baptism, God grants to us all the blessings and favor that goes with being a Christian. What a great God we have! Baptism is not, as Paul said, some \_\_\_\_\_ that we do to earn salvation. It's how we lovingly \_\_\_\_\_ Him in faith because He asks us to be baptized.

Obedience is not the same thing as \_\_\_\_\_. Let's say I had a treasure worth \$100,000 hidden in my backyard and I told you that I would give it to you, provided you go and \_\_\_\_\_ it up. Do you really believe that that \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of digging earned that \$100,000 for you? You met a \_\_\_\_\_ for a gift by obeying my words. You didn't earn the gift; you merely received it by doing what I \_\_\_\_\_ you to do. That's how it is in salvation. We don't earn salvation by repenting or being baptized; we merely \_\_\_\_\_ with God's conditions for receiving the gift.

In Numbers 21, the children of Israel, while wandering in the wilderness, came to the land of Edom where they grumbled and spoke against God, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food (that is, the manna)." The Lord became \_\_\_\_\_ and "he sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. The people repented and confessed their sin. They asked Moses to intercede for them with God, and Moses asked God to \_\_\_\_\_ the serpents."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "You make a fiery *serpent (that is, out of bronze)*, and you set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he \_\_\_\_\_ at it, he will live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and he set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he \_\_\_\_\_ (Numbers 21:8-9). All they had to do was to look by \_\_\_\_\_ on the serpent. They didn't earn their healing, but they did have to comply with God's \_\_\_\_\_. Obeying is not the \_\_\_\_\_ as earning. Obedience is an act of faith and trust that God will keep his \_\_\_\_\_.

In John 9, Jesus encountered a man who was born \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus wanted to heal this man and show the power of God, so He spat on the ground, and he got a little of the dirt, and He made clay of

the spittle, and He applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, \_\_\_\_\_ in the pool of Siloam” (which translated means Sent). So he went away and he washed, and he came *back* \_\_\_\_\_ (John 9:6-7). Who would argue that washing in a pool is the \_\_\_\_\_ as earning his eyesight? The man earned nothing, but he believed strongly enough to \_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus told him to do. Faith is not merely accepting. It is trusting enough to do what the Lord asks us to do!

Let me make it very clear that the Bible does not teach that baptism is how we \_\_\_\_\_ salvation. But the Bible does teach that baptism is \_\_\_\_\_ to salvation—just as looking on the brass serpent was necessary, just as washing in the pool of Siloam was necessary.

God \_\_\_\_\_ us to see if we really love Him and believe in Him. These tests are God’s \_\_\_\_\_, not ours. He gave them to us; we didn’t make them up ourselves. When we meet God’s conditions, we say to Him, “We trust You enough to \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_ of us. We know that You will keep Your \_\_\_\_\_.” God’s grace is so wonderful, and we must \_\_\_\_\_ cheapen it or presume upon it. People presume on God’s grace by \_\_\_\_\_ the conditions or by setting those conditions aside. They presume God’s \_\_\_\_\_ whether they respond rightly to Him or not.

Some people think the grace of God means I can \_\_\_\_\_ to Him any way I want to. They think grace has \_\_\_\_\_ conditions at all. Do you think the blind man would have argued with Jesus about doing it, and wanting to do it his \_\_\_\_\_ way if he really wanted to see? Do you think that the Israelites would have argued about looking on the serpent? Why then does anyone argue about repentance or baptism today? Wouldn’t it be better just to \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ Him?

The New Testament contains the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This new covenant contains what God \_\_\_\_\_ His people and what God \_\_\_\_\_ of His people. In this covenant God is the benefactor who gives \_\_\_\_\_ to us than can ever be \_\_\_\_\_ or earned. If we \_\_\_\_\_ our blessings, they include salvation, continued forgiveness of sin, eternal life, the right to pray, and son-ship. I tell you if we lived for thousands of years, we could never \_\_\_\_\_ God for what He has done for us. God doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ repayment. God expects love, loyalty, and obedient faith from His children.

Jesus said, “If you \_\_\_\_\_ Me, you will \_\_\_\_\_ My commandments” (John 14:15). Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My \_\_\_\_\_; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23). Faithful obedience is not some \_\_\_\_\_ of legalism or works righteousness or anything else; obedient faith is \_\_\_\_\_. Paul said, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith \_\_\_\_\_ through love” (Galatians 5:6). When we love the Lord and we want to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, we’re willing to do everything He asks and do it the \_\_\_\_\_ that He wants it done. We won’t argue with Him about it.

So, when the Lord asks us to believe, we’re willing to \_\_\_\_\_ Him and His word completely. When the Lord asks us to \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins, love turns us away from sin that

\_\_\_\_\_ God. We couldn't imagine continuing to \_\_\_\_\_ the God who's been so good to us and blessed us. When Jesus asks us to \_\_\_\_\_ Him before others, we'll gladly say to the whole world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is Lord and He is the Messiah, the Christ!

When Jesus says to us in Mark 16:16, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be \_\_\_\_\_," we believe Him. We're baptized because we \_\_\_\_\_, because we \_\_\_\_\_, and we do it to \_\_\_\_\_ God. The Bible says, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into \_\_\_\_\_, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). If the baptism of the New Testament is immersion, and it is, then I will be immersed without \_\_\_\_\_ so that I might be able to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

In Acts 2:38, the Bible commands us to "repent and be baptized." That commandment is in the \_\_\_\_\_ voice, not the active. The active voice is used when the subject \_\_\_\_\_ an action, but the passive voice is used when the subject is being acted \_\_\_\_\_ by someone else. In baptism \_\_\_\_\_ performs the action of saving us; and we are passive, \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace and forgiveness. Let God's grace work on you in baptism. Let God cleanse your soul; let God bury you and then raise you up with Christ; let God give you newness of life; let God add you to His church. God does all this \_\_\_\_\_ we're baptized into Christ and His death.

Sometimes people say, "Well, you don't have to be baptized to be saved!" But, they're missing the point. God works His grace on us \_\_\_\_\_ baptism into Christ. If you love Christ Jesus, and I know you do, let Him save you through the \_\_\_\_\_ that regenerates. That washing God gives you is in \_\_\_\_\_.

God gives laws for our \_\_\_\_\_. God doesn't give laws to \_\_\_\_\_ or to enslave us. He doesn't dream up \_\_\_\_\_ laws just to prove that He is in charge. No! God gives us His laws to \_\_\_\_\_ us from troubles in life. Even the law of God is gracious to us. As a loving parent, God's concern is for our \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 103:13 says, "Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, so the LORD has compassion on those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him." Everything God does, He does to favor and bless us. When we understand that, we'll see God with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.

**Read Titus 2:11-14.** God wants to bless you richly by \_\_\_\_\_ you with His Word, the Bible! Let Him do it.

Where are you in your life, your spiritual life? Do you have a close, loving, peaceful relationship with God? Are you at \_\_\_\_\_ in your soul? God hasn't left you; it may be that you've left God. You can draw close to Him again by \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, by \_\_\_\_\_ His Word. So \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus, and \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins, step out and \_\_\_\_\_ Him before others, and be \_\_\_\_\_ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). It may be that as a Christian brother or sister you've wandered away from \_\_\_\_\_, and you've wandered away from the \_\_\_\_\_, and you need to come back home. My friend, do it today! Let God's grace back into your life.