

## **A REASON TO BE DIFFERENT**

### **Titus 2:11-14**

When God redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, He had a purpose: He called them to be His people.

They were to be distinct among nations—to “stand out in the crowd!”

Because they failed to fulfill this mission,

God sent them into captivity, to learn to serve Him and glorify Him

After Christ’s death, God calls new group to Himself.

He wants His new people to live distinctive lifestyle in pagan world

Paul presents appropriate lifestyle for godly people, in pagan society.

**See ourselves as God sees us and live accordingly.**

**God wants us ALL to adorn our doctrine with our practice.**

While specifics of that lifestyle differ from one group to another,

we all ought to demonstrate that God has changed our lives!

Our attractive lifestyle attracts other people to Jesus

Basic question: ***WHY SHOULD WE LIVE THIS WAY?***

In short: such a lifestyle is the logical response to

God’s grace, demonstrated to us in Christ’s death.

**GOD’S GRACE HAS APPEARED 2:11** *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people”*

Motivation for a godly lifestyle: *God’s work of grace in our life.*

Popular definition: *“unmerited favor.”*

Rom. 5:8: *“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!”*

God gave us a gift we don't deserve: He gave us life.  
 God gives us salvation through death of Christ => we're different.  
 When we understand grace, it won't lead to  
 libertinism.

Grace *isn't* a license to sin.

Grace motivates us to *gratitude* for all God has done for us  
**Basis of Paul's appeal: God's grace HAS appeared.**  
 He's not presenting a legalistic way to earn something from  
 God.

God *already* demonstrated favor, *without merit* on our part.

His grace is the source of salvation, for all people.

That salvation comes to all who trust His Son.

Eph 2:8-9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
 This is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result  
 of works, so that no one may boast.*

**That grace of God—salvation offered to all  
 people—has already come!**

God's grace—that appeared in Christ—makes a difference in our  
 life!

**God's grace in our life produces fruit. =>**

**THE FRUIT OF GOD'S GRACE 2:12-13** *"Training us to  
 renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live  
 self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,<sup>13</sup> waiting  
 for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God  
 and Savior Jesus Christ"*

[NIV: "It teaches us to say 'No'"]

**God's grace has taught us to leave our old lifestyle**

**NEGATIVE FRUIT: God's grace teaches us  
to "Just say NO!"**

God's grace leads to rejection of lifestyle we used to follow  
**God's grace teaches us: say "NO!" to ungodly living.**

-To ungodliness--to all **activities** that reflect lack of godliness.

*Activities that leave God out of our lives*

**God's grace teaches us: say "NO!" to worldly desires**

-things people whose lives are rooted in world desire

Not only has God's grace changed our **activities**.

He's also changed our **attitudes**.

Grace trains us to say "No" to desires that characterize world.

*"Me first!" "I want what I want when I want it!"*

Self at center of the universe.

God's grace *has* negative side. We *left* old lifestyle.

**God's grace also has a *positive* side**

It isn't just seen in what we *don't* do.

It's also seen in positive side of what God has done in our life:

**God's people are often thought of as negative.**

Our reputation is often based on **things we *don't* do.**

*"We don't smoke, and we don't chew!*

*And we don't go with girls who do!"*

God's people should be known for what God *has* done for us.

*Positive effects of God's grace set us apart from the crowd!*  
**God's grace has taught us to live a new lifestyle--**  
**POSITIVE FRUIT:**

**God's grace teaches us: SAY "YES!"**

**God's grace teaches us: say YES to God's perspective**

–live in accordance with ***God's perspective***

Live so we demonstrate that we understand how God views life.

He's given us new way to see life, new way to see ourselves.

Our focus is no longer on US, but on GOD!

We see ourselves as HE sees us; live based on His perspective.

**God's grace teaches us: say YES to righteousness**

–treat others justly

Pagan culture teaches everyone to watch out for themselves.

“Watch out for #1!” “If we don't, no one will!”

The grace of God teaches us to watch out for each other.

–treat others as we want to be treated–deal with others fairly.

**God's grace teaches us: say “Yes” to godly living**

–“rightly religious”

In contrast with “ungodliness” mentioned above--same root + “a”

In contrast to people who live *without* taking God into account, we live *aware* of God's presence–He *cares* how we live.

**We live this way now, because we know what the future holds 13** *“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”*

We have a hope.

Climax of God’s plan will be fulfilled when Christ comes again  
 In chaos of life, God’s people has hope, in generation without  
 hope, *we look forward to our Lord’s return!*

Confusion floating around about our Lord’s return.

Skeptics laugh at the thought. Some set dates.

Saints *wait--expectantly*—looking forward to His coming.

*What NOT to do about it—*

Don’t set dates

Don’t quit work and move to a mountain top.

*What TO DO about it—*

Watch expectantly for His coming.

Live as though He might come *today*—while you wait!

Let that hope purify your life!

*Be sure you’re ready for His coming!*

We’re careful how we live now, because we’re  
 waiting for Jesus’ glorious appearance

Shackleton left men on Elephant Island in the Antarctic, intending to go back for them, but was delayed and couldn’t return as planned. When he finally set out, water had frozen; he was cut off from them. 3 X he tried but was blocked by ice. Finally, he found narrow channel. Guiding ship to island, he was surprised to find men alive and well. They had belongings packed and ready to board, soon they were on their way home. Out of danger, he asked how they were ready to go.

Every morning leader rolled up his sleeping bag and shouted,  
 "Get your things together, men. The boss may come today."

***He may come today! Are WE waiting?***

***How does that wait affect OUR life this week?***

**PURPOSE OF GOD'S GRACE 2:14** *"Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."*

**Jesus gave Himself to free us from wickedness**

He "redeemed" us. => He bought us, so He can set us free.

"Free will" isn't a biblical concept. People aren't free!

Scripture says we're *SLAVES of sin!*

Jesus gave Himself, He paid with His own blood, to free us!

**Jesus gave Himself that he might purify a people**

He wants His people to be ...

**A people that is totally His**

**A people that is eager to do good works**

God desires a pure people.

We're contaminated by culture; you can hardly see difference.

It's no new insight to observe that our culture is on a downhill slide.

1939: 4-letter word in *Gone with the Wind* created a scandal  
 When television first began, *married* couples slept in twin beds!  
 We allow "entertainment" into our homes we never would  
 have permitted a generation ago.

What saddens God's heart: His people go along with our culture

Abortion rate among people in evangelical churches is not significantly different from those in general culture.

Pornography on television, Internet and elsewhere is rampant!

Abuse—both sexual and physical— is common!

Unfaithfulness—even among pastors has become epidemic!

### **How has God's grace made our lives different?**

Several years ago I read report from evangelical conference.

Nearly ½ ordered pay-per-view, “adult” movies in rooms.

Jesus gave himself to *PURIFY* a people for Himself.

**He set us free so we could serve Him.**

**He set us free so we could be pure.**

**He set us free so we would be eager to do what is good.**

**GOD'S GRACE HAS APPEARED**, to establish in a pagan world, a people that belong to Him--eager to live for Him.

In **pagan culture** of Paul's day, where pagan gods surrounded, but made no difference in people's lives, they needed to see:

***God's grace has appeared, by looking at lives of God's people.***

In **our times**, when people no longer believe in absolute truth, people need to see: ***God's grace has appeared, by looking at lives of God's people.***

*How will they see it? What difference does it make?*

When God's grace produces in God's people what it was sent to teach us:

... when we leave old lifestyle

... when we live new lifestyle

... *then*, people will note that ***the grace of God has appeared, and will be attracted to the One Who came to reveal it!***

**Let me make clear: basis of this lifestyle is God's *grace***

It isn't another legalistic attempt to "*play by the rules*" and somehow please God.

If you've never trusted Christ and received God's grace, that Jesus came to give, you'll never be able to live this kind of life. We must trust HIM! I want to invite you to do that this morning.

Having received that gift of life by His grace, we're reminded that God's purpose was to make us different--to free us from the old lifestyle and give us NEW LIFE!

**If you've received God's grace. If you're trusting His Son, ...**  
the grace of God that's appeared should be producing it's fruit in us  
It teaches us to say "No" to the old lifestyle of ungodly living and self-centered attitudes.

It teaches us to say "Yes" to new lifestyle of discernment, righteousness and godly living.

*Have you received the grace of God?*

***WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE –IN OUR LIFE?***