

## THE AGE OF GRACE

### Titus 2

**Introduction:** There is the stone age, the iron age, the bronze age and so on. Different periods of the history of mankind have been named, labeled, identified with different titles depicting what that particular time produced. Today our world is living in the "age of grace." This is not the title scientists would give our age, but it is the title the Bible and Christians have given it. God started everything and has always had a say in what took place. So in our age and time, under God's hand, He is showing the human race - GRACE.

### I. GOD IS THE GOD OF GRACE

1. "Grace" means: free favor, unmerited, undeserved favor.
2. God's grace is free, full, unmerited, undeserved and includes all there is of love, mercy, blessing, benefits of every sort, all bestowed on man without price.
3. God's grace is blessing, mercy, measureless love which no person in any wise, under any circumstances can merit, deserve, buy or earn in any fashion - ever!.

### II. GOD'S GRACE IS REVEALED THROUGH AND IN JESUS CHRIST

1. From the lips of Jesus came words of loving compassion and tender sympathy.
2. From the deeds of Jesus such as giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, making the lame to jump like a deer, cleansing a leper with just a word, raising the dead and to those weary, Jesus showed God's grace.
3. Everything Jesus said and did, He revealed God's heart and God's grace to mankind.
  - Every step Jesus took, every breath of air He breathed, every word He spoke showed much love and mercy which was as perfect as His life was.
4. It was not the life Jesus lived, but His death that God tells the lost to look upon.
  - On the cross Jesus died as a sacrifice for sin.
  - By His sacrificial death Jesus satisfied the law, the government, the being of God for God had said, "*...the soul that sinneth, it shall die...*"
5. Jesus represented mankind in his sins, the sin of nature, the sin of transgression, all which caused God's anger, wrath, and hate to be poured down upon sinful mankind.
  - The death of Jesus was not accidental but was ordained by God even before the first man.
6. The cross displays the righteousness of God, His unchangeable wrath, His unending determination of ceaseless judgment against sin and the punishment of it.
  - God was so satisfied with what Jesus and the cross did that He could hold back judgment from a guilty, sin loving world and deal with it in undeserved favor, mercy and GRACE.

7. The grace of God was proclaimed by the wrath of God.
  - Out of His wrath and hatred against sin, the sword of justice was thrust deep into the very being of God's own Son, Jesus.
  - Out of His holiness and perfect-ness, God was forced to turn His back upon His own Son until the blackness and darkness fell upon Jesus and drowned Him under it's overflowing billows.
  - The GRACE of God was then made manifest - revealed.

### **III. GOD'S GRACE BRINGS SALVATION TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS**

1. Salvation from the penalty of sin can be had only by accepting Jesus as one's personal substitute.
  - The Levitical law of ceremonial cleansing required a pure, spotless lamb to have a rope tied around its neck, led to a priest, where the priest placed his hand upon the lamb's head then confessed one's sins and while doing so, took a knife and cut the throat of the lamb. Blood was shed and the sinful person was pronounced clean, leaving free of judgment.
  - Just so one is to look back by faith to the cross of Jesus and to claim the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as one's sacrifice for his/her sins, then one may turn to God and tell Him that he/she is a sinner and that he/she accepts His divine condemnation of his/her being a sinful being and that he/she claims God's crucified Son as his/her substitute. Immediately God will accept that person and that person is then legally clean in God's eyes, not guilty but forgiven, justified, and accepted as being righteous.
  - THIS is undeserved mercy and free favor. THIS is grace, pure and unqualified GRACE.
2. People have no righteousness of their own and could not even dare offer their best righteousness for in God's sight it is no better than unclean, filthy rags.
  - God does not ask goodness from people. God does not want goodness. God wants GOD-NESS - His own quality, His own character.
  - People talk about "self-respect" and those whom they don't care to be around for their character is not up to one's own standards. So, neither can God accept those who are not like Him, holy, spotless and pure.
3. No person can get by without paying the penalty of sin and neither can he/she live according to the standard of God's righteousness. Every person must pay the penalty and that is death.
  - However, God has provided the sacrifice for sin and He will accept the death of Jesus Christ as full payment of the penalty. When a person believes in Jesus, when a person accepts that sacrifice, then that person's account is paid in full in the eyes of God.
  - Undeserved mercy, free favor, who can doubt it? Grace, pure and unqualified grace, who may dispute it?
4. Salvation also saves one from the power of sin.
  - Freedom from the power of sin does not come by nature or automatically. It is to be found in Jesus Christ alone. It cannot be bought or earned. There is nothing one can ever do to cause one to deserve it.
  - Freedom from the power of sin comes only as a GIFT as are all of God's gifts, they are to just be received.

- The power to live over sin, the life that is full of righteousness and truth can only be received by faith, simple, child-like faith. *"...for the wages of sin is death, but eternal life is the gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."*

## CONCLUSION:

1. Undeserved mercy, free, full and unmeasured favor of God is GRACE - Grace beyond degree.
  - This GRACE and salvation is offered to all and all who receive God's grace are to tell of it to others.
2. We are living in the age of Grace.
  - Iniquity runs riot, lawlessness is multiplied, sin runs unchecked and waves of shame sweep over truth and righteousness.
  - People blaspheme the name of God, raise their hands in proud disdain of every claim and yet there is no thunderous judgment breaking forth to smite those who dare do such things.
  - The heavens are silent, no miracles, no intervention, no angel wings bursting through the sky. Why? Where is God?
3. God is dealing with us in GRACE and is waiting to see what we will do.
  - Will you ignore this time of GRACE?
  - Or will you accept what it offers before God's judgment does begin to fall upon sinful mankind.