



## TITUS 2:11-14

*11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It [God's grace] teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

### START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

### START THINKING

1. How has your understanding of God's grace deepened throughout the Grace Series? In what ways has this understanding influenced your relationship with God?
2. Steve said God's grace enables us to look forward with hope. Discuss the tension between living in the present age with its challenges and temptations while also eagerly awaiting the future glory promised by God. How do you strike a balance between being present in the world and not being of the world?

### START SHARING

Read Titus 2:11-12.

1. This Scripture emphasises the role of grace in enabling us to say 'No' to the sinful nature of our flesh. What are some practical steps or strategies you use in your life to resist temptations and say 'No' to behaviours that do not align with godliness?
2. This verse implies saying 'Yes' to living a godly, self-controlled, and upright life. In what area of your life at this time do you find this most challenging? How does God's grace empower you to maintain your commitment to doing things His way?
3. On Sunday, Steve said that we need self-control in different stages of our lives for different reasons. What is the No. 1 area you need God's grace to help you be more self-controlled?

### START PRAYING

Pray for one another's needs.

## START DOING

How can you actively share God's grace with others this week, especially those who might be struggling to accept it? In what practical ways can you demonstrate grace, love, and forgiveness to people in your community, workplace, or family?

## NOTES FOR LEADERS

Love in a Gift Pack is our annual outreach to bless children who don't usually receive a gift at Christmas. Our aim is to bless 1500 children, so please consider purchasing a gift pack before the end of November.

You can pay via EFT into the Nation Changers Bank Account and we'll put together the gift pack for you!

Nation Changers Bank Details

Name: Nation Changers

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Hillcrest

Code: 045726

Account number: 250805057

Reference: LOVE

Remember there is a Tax benefit for your company or personal Tax. An 18A Tax Exemption Certificate will be sent on request.

Thanks for making a difference!



This Sunday, Steve shared the final message in our Grace Series.

In Week 1, we discussed that God's grace can't be earned - only received. Steve used the waterfall analogy to explain how God's grace is more than enough. In Week 2, Jax shared how when grace flows through us, it should make us kinder and less judgmental.

A question that is often asked is, is it possible to abuse God's grace?

We recently defined grace as the Divine power of heaven extended towards me.

- Grace enables us to be what we could not otherwise be.
- Grace enables us to do what we could not otherwise do.
- Grace enables us to see what we could not otherwise see.

There is a powerful passage about God's grace in Titus 2:11-14: *11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It [grace] teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

This scripture teaches us that:

1. God's Grace rescues us
2. God's Grace transforms us

True grace can't be abused so much as misunderstood. Grace offers salvation. We are adopted into God's family. Our legal status has changed, and this can't be undone. When the true grace of God continues to work in our lives, it transforms us.

### 1. Grace teaches us to say 'No'

[The grace of God] *teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions ...* Titus 2:12

Greek word, 'sarx' = the flesh (sinful nature). At its most basic, it's our 'animal' nature.

It is self-centred, greedy, gobbles up, always wants more, is self-protecting, lustful, arrogant, proud. Sarx has appetites that say, "Feed me!" These appetites are for the things that will damage and destroy us.

Paul is showing us that God's grace - the divine power of heaven extended towards us - is to help us say 'No' to what will damage and destroy us.

In 1 John 2:16, we read, *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

To illustrate this, Steve used a video of a lion chasing off a pack of hyenas. The hyenas and vultures (scavengers of the soul) represent ungodliness and worldly passions in our lives (the flesh). The lioness represents us trying to deal with these things on our own, and the Lion = the Lion of Judah helping us! The roar of the lion's grace over us. This is how to deal with the sinful nature. We live too easily with the hyenas and vultures in our souls.

### 2. Grace teaches us to say 'Yes'

[The grace of God] *teaches us .... to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age ...* Titus 2:12

The divine power of heaven is extended towards us to say yes to a GODLY, UPRIGHT, SELF-CONTROLLED life:

- godly = Christ-like
- upright = not bent over
- self-controlled = self-controlled!

**Yes, to godly...** walking with Christ. Guided by His Spirit and our conscience. Allowing His roar to be over our lives.

**Yes, to upright...** We get bent over by the flesh - by what others think of us, temptation, the devil, etc.

*The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on **Straight Street** and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul ...* Acts 9:11

**Yes, to controlling ourselves.** Our words, thoughts, and actions. So many of us hide behind statements like: "That's just the way I am". This is a problem! [Pride, sexual temptations, gossip, slander, laziness and hard work.]

The statement "self-controlled" is used to 4 different kinds of people in this chapter:

*Teach the **older men** to be ... self-controlled ... Likewise ... the **older women** ...*

*urge the **younger women** ... to be self-controlled ... encourage the **young men** to be self-controlled.* Titus 2:2-6. Different kinds of self-control are needed at different stages of our lives.

### 3. Grace causes us to 'look forward'

*11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It [grace] teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age 13 while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.* Titus 2:13,14

Imagine if, two years from now, we could be living in this country with:

- no load shedding
- no crime
- no potholes
- economy so strong that all basic needs would be free:
- food, fuel, electricity, water, schooling, medical
- no corruption at any level of society or government
- no poverty
- no inequality

And Bafana, the Proteas and the Springboks would never lose again - every time you watched a match they would always win.

How would you describe your anticipation of that day? LOOKING FORWARD with hope!

There is a day coming (and we don't know the exact date) when we will live in a country with

- no load shedding - Christ will be our light
- no crime - Christ will be our peace
- no potholes - roads will be paved with gold
- No need for anything.
- no corruption at any level of society or government- a perfect King ruling over us.
- no poverty
- no inequality

And we will be celebrating the greatest victory of all: the victory of Christ over all sin, death, evil and the devil.