

Final Encouragements:

Jim Elliot

God's grace motivated him. At age 22, he wrote, "I see clearly now that anything, whatever it is, if it be not on the principle of grace, it is not of God." Regarding living in light of the second coming, at age 20 he wrote to his 15-year-old sister, "Fix your eyes on the rising Morning Star.... Live every day as if the Son of Man were at the door, and gear your thinking to the fleeting moment.... Walk as if the next step would carry you across the threshold of Heaven."

His entire life portrayed intense zeal for the Lord and His work. He wrote (Through Gates of Splendor), "Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God."

Anonymous Poem:

My soul is like a barnyard duck
Muddling in the barnyard muck,
Fat and lazy with useless wings;
But sometimes, when the north wind sings
And wild ducks fly overhead,
It ponders something lost and dead,
Then cocks a wary, bewildered eye
And makes a feeble attempt to fly.
It's quite content with the state it's in,
But it's not the duck it might have been.

Are you concerned that you'll never be what God meant you to be? That you're preoccupied with the trinkets of this passing world? Are you "living in the barnyard" when you could be soaring?

Do you really want to fly? Do you long to soar above the pettiness and insignificance of the barnyard muck?

Then go to God's School of Grace and get trained to live the life God wants you to soar in!

Lastly:

Paul **once again** reminds us of the truth that Christian doctrine (especially the Gospel of salvation) is preached most effectively by a Christian's _____ (v.12). As the natural "Cretans" of every age watch the supernatural lives of believers, they are either repelled or attracted to Christ within the believers (that's us!).

It should be our constant purpose to *prove yourselves [ourselves] to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you [we are to] appear as lights to the world,*

Matt. 5:16: *Let your [our] light shine before men in such a way that they may see your [our] good deeds, and glorify your [our] Father who is in Heaven.*

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: God's School of Grace

Topic: Training us how to live

Introduction/Background:

Titus 1:10-16:

Titus 2:1-10 **Qualities of a sound church: Godly behavior:**

Summary of Chapters 1-2 so far:

- Paul has left Titus in Crete to put things in order and to appoint elders (1:5).
- The task was great as the people in Crete were described as:
 1. A rebellious people (1:10).
 2. Liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons (1:12).
 3. By their actions they deny God (1:16).
 4. Disobedient, unfit for doing anything good (1:16).
- Titus was to teach the older men and the older women (who were then to encourage younger women) (2:2-5).
- He was to encourage younger men (2:6).
- Titus was given some overall pointers on teaching (2:7-8).
- He was to teach bondservants (slaves) (2:9-10).

JMac and other pastors believe we should look to the reference to bondslaves here as employees, those who work for an employer. The workplace can be our greatest mission field where we should conduct ourselves to make the teaching of God attractive.

"All of our response to God's word and all of our Christian living ought to have in it the view to adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. In other words, the way we live will either adorn or besmirch the truth of God's word in the eyes of the watching world. It will either make it to be compelling, it will either make it to be sweet, it will either contribute to the perception of its truth and reality, or it will detract and take away from it." Duncan

"Who we are and how we live is to put on display the beauty of the Gospel that we have embraced, and in order for that to happen, we must be _____." Duncan

Lesson begins: Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,



For:

"In summary, the word "for" in this verse introduces Paul's explanation of why and how each group of believers just mentioned in Titus 2:1-10 can make the doctrine of God our Savior attractive. The only way to fulfill this lofty goal is by God's all sufficient grace which is His supernatural empowerment of believers to enable them to do what they cannot do naturally. The Christian life is a supernatural life and thus necessitates continual dependence on the source of life-giving grace. The isle of Crete certainly needed to see (living out of the Gospel in the lives of the genuine believers, old, young, male and female) and hear this message (in the proclamation of the Gospel) concerning the true and sound doctrine of God our Savior because most Cretans were doing what was right in their own eyes." Hurt commentary.

To all men:

"The grace of God—His loving-kindness, His goodwill, His free favor—has appeared to all men." That expression is used in Scripture in two different senses. Sometimes, it means all without, as in "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." In other passages it signifies all without _____, as it does here—to the servant as to the master, to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews; to all kinds and conditions of men." Hurt commentary.

The meat of our lesson today rests in verse 12.

God's Grace:

It (grace) teaches us: What Paul is saying is that the grace of God not only saves us (_____ grace) but operates in the lives of those who are saved, exerting its dynamic effect (_____ grace) in every aspect of the "child rearing" process -- training, teaching, encouraging, correcting, and disciplining us for our good and God's glory.

Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness (Say "no" to ungodliness):

"The most difficult part of the training of young men is not to put the right thing into them, but to get the wrong thing out of them." Spurgeon

Grace teaches us to deny worldly desires: (Say "no" to worldly desires or worldly passions):

Unknown: "If your Christian life is a drag, worldly weights are probably to blame."

"To deny carries the idea of a conscious, purposeful action of the will. It means to say 'no'. It is to confess and consciously turn away from that which is sinful and destructive and to move toward that which is good and godly. To deny (arneomai) calls for a turning away from whatever is ungodly, corrupting and destructive. By saying 'Yes' to Jesus in salvation, we are now empowered to say 'No' to the powerful, pervasive ungodly and worldly desires that continue to

bombard our mind. The same grace that saved us now trains us in God's school of holiness." J Mac

"The Spirit provides us with the energy and power to continually and gradually be killing our sins, a process never completed in this life. The means the Spirit uses to accomplish this process is our faithful obedience to the simple commands of Scripture." J Mac

Grace teaches us to live self-controlled lives (sensibly or soberly): an _____ focus.

We are to live with self-restraint, rationaly (a belief or action that is in accord with reason), soberly (this word stresses seriousness of purpose and absence of levity or frivolity), self-controlled (exercising restraint over one's own impulses, emotions and desires, a fruit of the Spirit), moderately and discreetly.

Grace teaches us to live upright lives (righteously): an _____ focus.

This means demonstrating right conduct, walking morally upright, outwardly or in a right way which is in accordance with what God requires. It's a more general description of _____ "rightness" in all aspects of life. It is conduct that cannot be condemned.

"Living righteously concerns our dealings with our fellow men. It is giving to each his due, dealing honorably with all; injuring none, seeking the good of all." AW Pink

Grace teaches us to live godly lives: an _____ focus.

This refers to holiness and devotion to God. It is to live a God-ward life. "God will enter into all his calculations, God's presence will be his joy, God's strength will be his confidence, God's providence will be his inheritance, God's glory will be the chief end of his being, and God's law the guide of his conversation." Spurgeon

Titus 2:11-14: The rest of the encouragement to Titus:

Verse 14:

Christ gave Himself for us, so that while on this planet we would be: *Eager to do what is good. (Zealous for good deeds.)*

"A disciple can be forgiven if he does not have great mental ability. He can be forgiven also if he does not display outstanding physical prowess. But no disciple can be excused if he does not have zeal. The disgrace of the church in the twentieth century is that more zeal is evident among Communists and cultists than among Christians." W. Mac Donald