

TIT 2.1



NT10: TITUS

((CHAPTER 2)) / PRAY

The Missionary's Operation Manual

-That WAS what we decided was the theme this AMAZING BOOK (several weeks ago).

-It is (IOW) the field GUIDE for all those who serve as (or support) missionaries...

-THAT is why GOD saw to it (that the Apostle Paul) would write what he does to TITUS (a missionary in the mission field of CRETE)...

-And so far in our study of the book we have learned TWO very important things---(Which SB coming up on the screen behind me now):

(first we learned...)

S1= What the missionary exists for (IOW: what his mission is) (1:1-3)

(and secondly we learned...)

S2= How the missionaries advances his mission (how he is successful to see that his work is not just a "flash in the pan"—but will have long lasting effects —and fruit) (1:4-2:10)

-Which MEANS that what we find in the remaining verses of chapter 2 (vv11-15) is something NEW (as it relates to the missionary of GOD)—and THAT is...

S3 = Why the missionary can pursue his mission w/confidence.

--(IOW) why he can focus all of his attention on preaching & protecting the sound gospel, planting sound churches and demanding sound behavior (among those who profess the faith)—AS the ESSENTIALS of HIS MISSION---AS that WHICH HE EXISTS FOR---AND EXPECT that HE WILL INDEED SUCCEED IN those things (and those things alone) (w/o marketing research or professional musicians...or making sure that in every church he plants he also plants a latte bar in the back)....

--THAT is WHAT Paul gives INSTRUCTION ON in the REMAINING verses of this CHAPTER---and there ARE TWO POINTS of INSIGHT—OR—REASONS he gives:

1. b/c of what God does w/ all those He chooses to extend His grace to.

((11))

“For” = (or “because”) = this signifies that what is about to be given is INDEED the support for has been previously said (in this case—what has AGAIN been said regarding what the missionary exists for and how he succeeds)—THIS (iow) indicates the REASON the missionary CAN be confident THAT he will be successful---even when demanding sound behavior (which was the most recent piece of instruction we looked at in the previous verses)...HE CAN (“for”) or b/c...

“the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men” → WHAT THIS DOES/DOESN'T MEAN:

DNotM =that God is saving all people---or even that His offer of salvation will be extended to all people. The vast majority of humanity through time will NEVER even hear the gospel message (let alone have the chance to reject it)—which is WHAT every person will DO---unless the GOSPEL MESSAGE (they hear) also comes with the grace of GOD. (Eph 2:1-5, 10; 1Co 15:9-10; Act 18:27; 2Ti 1:9) (Rom 1:30, 3:10-20; Joh 8:34; 2Ti 2:25-26)---GOD'S GRACE is what (then) makes the difference between one man and another ((Tit 3:3-7)).

AGAIN (God's grace) is the game changer—WHERE you have GOD'S GRACE—you ALSO have salvation (which is the correct understanding of verse 11)...

DM=wherever God's grace has appeared, it brings salvation to those individuals---it is ALWAYS effectual in that way (which is why the verse says “all men”) ((11))—God's grace (iow) NEVER fails! This (BTW) is why the Reformers believed in “Irresistible GRACE”(the “I” in Calvinism's T.U.L.I.P.)—b/c GOD'S grace is always effectual UNTO salvation in relation to those HE chooses to EXTEND it TO.

(IOW)—God always gets his man! (ex. The Apostle Paul –Act 9—“He is my chosen instrument”)

-This ALONE (however) is NOT what gives the MISSIONARY confidence in the mission field---BUT RATHER (as I state in this point)---WHAT God chooses to **DO** thru His GRACE (or w/all those He chooses to extend it to)—WHICH is more than JUST save them from the FIRES of HELL!!!!

-CONTRARY to popular belief---GOD'S GRACE and SALVATION are FAR –FAR more than just a fire insurance policy (or get out of jail FREE card)---something (IOW) which is ONLY relevant to the NEXT LIFE!!!!

-THEY are (instead) POWERFUL FORCES which MAKE radical changes in the PRESENT earthly lives of all WHO are truly the recipients of them...

--AND it is in those CHANGES—that the missionary finds GREAT confidence to continue doing what he is doing---SINCE it is only through (WHAT he has been called to DO) that such grace –bringing such changes—occurs---ESPECIALLY as it re: to the preaching of God's WORD (Act 20:32).

*THE BIG QUESTION = What are the changes (in the life of a person) who has received such grace? HOW (iow) DO I KNOW that a person has received GOD'S GRACE---WHAT (iow) are the SIGNS of GOD'S grace and (therefore) that a person is truly saved (since once more the two go hand and hand—if I have received God's grace I am saved).

**THE BIG ANSWER = is found in (vv12-14)

--(4 things total) WB the signs that God's grace has been extended to a person --and they are saved--

-These ARE HOW GRACE changes OUR present LIVES (if we truly possess it):

a) It teaches us to be obedient to Christ.

((12))

-This the put off/put on principle of obedience: put off desires/behavior which is ungodly and worldly AND put on desires/behavior which is sensible (thinking in conformity w/ Christ-2Co 10:5; Rom 15:5), righteous (doing everything for Christ-Col 3:17), godly (reflecting the person of Christ-1Co 11:1; 2Th 2:14)---OBEDIENCE to CHRIST requires/defined by both putting off (sin) and putting on (Christ-like behavior in all things)! ((Eph 4:17-32)) (Rom 13:14).

-This is what God's grace does in the lives of all those WHO are truly SAVED (it teaches us to be obedient to Christ) (and just as God's grace is always effectual so is His ability to teach—IOW—no one who is truly His will FLUNK His course on obedience! (Joh 6:45-they will be taught by God and as a result follow Christ in obedience).

b) It causes us to focus on Christ and the next life (versus self and this life).

((13))

-(IOW) if I have truly received GOD's grace, then my greatest hope...my greatest treasure and joy---the THING I focus on (NOW) is NOT self—BUT (instead) my **“Great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Phi 1:21)**

-And that for two reasons: (one) b/c I need a savior from my sins (since there is no way I will ever be able to pay the penalty for them before GOD --or appease His wrath)---AND (second) b/c I know—if that is WHO I am trusting/submitting/focusing my life on—THEN AT His **“appearing”** I will GAIN the reward of being a part of the NEW HEAVEN on EARTH (as one of God's forgiven saints)...

--THAT is **“blessed hope”** OF the person WHO has received God's saving GRACE---AND therefore what they are **“looking for”**---(IOW) WHAT they are focused on (NOW)---and that b/c this (too) is what HIS GRACE causes---this is HOW it changes us (in this present life) --we no longer focus on (ME, ME, ME)—and HOW MUCH FUN I can get out of this LIFE—BUT (instead) CHRIST—and laying up as much treasure as I can for the next life! ((Mat 6:19-21)) ((Mat 16:23-27)) (1Co 7:31)---this BTW is what ultimately motivates the missionary for GOD to go into the hardships of the foreign mission field—*Heb 11:9-10, 12:2).

c) it delivers us not only from the penalty of sin but also the power of sin.

((14))

“redeem” = (λυτρόω) = (lit.) set free from the power of something/someone else (in this case the power of sin or “every lawless deed”).

“purify” = (καθαρίζω) = to cleanse –or remove the stain (in this case the stain or penalty of our --Jer 2:22).

*It is important to note that it is NOT our sin which God removes through the work of Christ on the cross—but the penalty. We are still sinners—just forgiven sinners—b/c the penalty has been removed!).

**Why I believe “redeem” refers to the power of sin whereas “purify” the penalty of sin (and NOT vice versa): b/c Paul ties “zealous for good deeds” to the word “purify”—and the ONLY WAY our deeds CAN BE accepted by GOD (as good) is if the PENALTY for our sins is paid (even unsaved people do “good deeds”—but b/c the penalty for their sins remains outstanding—God sees it as only wickedness—Pro21:4—“the entire life/lamp of the wicked is sin”). Additionally, the idea of cleansing is frequently associated w/ the penalty of sin in Scripture (ex. Lev 16:30; Jer 33:8; *Isa 1:18—the sins become white NOT non-existent).

-In summary THEN of this point: All those who have truly experienced God’s saving grace WB be people whose lives show they are no longer HELD captive to the power of sin—instead (b/c the penalty has been paid) they will be people WHOSE lives are characterized by the power of righteousness—and righteous living (1Jo 3:7-10; Rom 6:18).

d) It gives to us a heart zealous for good deeds.

((14—“zealous for good deeds”))

-This (too) is what GRACE does---it makes us people WHO are really excited about doing those things GOD considers “good deeds”—PEOPLE who ARE bearing FRUIT for GOD in the lives of others---both unsaved--((Tit 3:1)) and saved ((Tit 3:14)).

-(So THEN) as it relates to the missionary and his mission—HERE (once more) is WHY the missionary CAN be confident: b/c these are the things GOD will produce in the LIVES of all those HE is truly saving---AND these are all THINGS which (in turn) ENSURE success for the missionary---(IOW) that HE WILL be able to accomplish what he set out to DO in preaching and protecting and planting and demanding—which is PRODUCE godliness and godly PEOPLE who are fruitful for the GLORY of GOD!

-B/C of GOD’s grace (he can be confident) that such things WILL be REALIZED (in and thru) his efforts— as long as he remains faithful to keeping doing—and only doing what GOD calls him to do---and NOT give in to the gimmicks and compromise so common in ministry TODAY.

-HE just needs to be faithful to HIS MISSION and let GOD’S GRACE take care of the RESULTS!

--AND for all those WHO truly are HIS (all those who are truly sheep and no longer goats)—this WB the results!---THESE things are what identify US (as those) who have received God's GRACE and salvation (which is why these verses are perfect for self-examination—OR—when talking to others about assurance of salvation---since THESE things WB be TRUE for all who are saved—and therefore represent a great way to check someone's spiritual temp! These verses also make for the perfect sermon on the SUBJECT of GOD's GRACE and SALVATION ("The birth-marks of the God's grace")

-Getting BACK (however) to the MISSIONARY and his confidence to JUST be faithful/committed to WHAT it is that GOD gives (here) as HIS MISSION and HOW to ADVANCE it (since that is the primary focus of our context)—there is one other thing PAUL mentions... (*The second reason the missionary can be confident is...*)

2. b/c of the authority God has granted him.

((15))

"Let no-one disregard you" = (lit.) make sure they understand that they CANNOT discount/despise/depreciate your God-given authority (This is true re: all pastors whether abroad as missionaries or not--2Ti 1:6).

*This verse makes clear that GOD has given to the Christian more than JUST the Scriptures as his/her authority (in Christ)---there are actually THREE: The Scriptures (Joh 5:39-47); The church (Mat 16 and 18) and pastors (Tit 2:15).

-It is to the Christian's MAJOR benefit to submit to the authority/leadership of their pastors (Heb 13:17)

-Which means that they need to hold them in high regard (1Th 5:13)—AND pastors (including the missionary pastor) NEED to be confident in that office/authority they have been given---and ACT like it (Ecc 10:4).

-The Scriptures are replete w/examples of God using/blessing the courageous (those who know what they have been called to do and acting like it)—this is the kind of pastors/missionaries/leaders GOD wants (Jos 1; 1Co 16)---this BTW is not arrogance—but true humility (the bible defines humility as courageous obedience to act and say what God says w/o doubt but w/full confidence)---that's (also) why COWARDS go to Hell (Rev 19)—b/c being cowardly/fearful to do what God says is rebellion (a sign that you do not trust Him—ex. The Israelites after hearing the report from Joshua and Caleb) .

SO THEN—the missionary of GOD is to FIND confidence NOT only in GOD'S EFFECTUAL GRACE which produces in the hearts and lives those THINGS the missionary faithfully preaches and demands—BUT also HIS CALLING and AUTHORITY —as God's man (in that place at that time for HIS GLORY)—and HE is to act like it-----WHICH brings US (then) to the end of another CHAPTER in this AMAZING book!

(NEXT WEEK) WE will begin CHAPTER THREE—and continue to LEARN WHAT GOD requires of those WHO SERVE as HIS MISSIONARIES---AND in preparation for that---I would AGAIN ask you to READ that CHAPTER and being reflecting on it THIS WEEK. ----→PRAY