

Grace Came, Glory Is Coming

'The Lord will give grace and glory'
(Psa.84:11)

- ✓ **After Paul and his team had preached the gospel throughout the island of Crete, he left Titus to establish churches there**
- ✓ **The inhabitants of Crete were notorious for their bad behaviour, especially their lying. 'To live as a Cretan' was synonymous with being a habitual liar**
- ✓ **Paul quoted a well-known saying from one of their own people which said, '*Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons*' (Titus 1:12)**
- ✓ **Then he said, '*This testimony is true*' (Titus 1:13)**

- ✓ **Is there any hope that people like this can change?**
- ✓ **Yes! Because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more**
- ✓ **Paul had confidence that a group of liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons could be transformed by God's grace**
- ✓ **But how would this grace come to them? Through the gospel. He said, '*... the knowledge of the truth ... leads to godliness*' (Titus 1:1 NIV)**

'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works'

(Titus 2:11-14)

- ✓ Twice in these verses Paul says that Christians experience God appearing to them in some way
- ✓ The first is in the past tense. The grace of God *has* appeared to us
- ✓ The second is in the future tense. We are looking forward to the 2nd Coming when Jesus *will* appear to us
- ✓ The two-fold appearing of grace and glory is the basis for Paul's confidence that the lives of these believers would be radically changed
- ✓ We are empowered by present grace, and we are encouraged by the hope of future glory

Grace has come

- ✓ **The same grace which appeared to us at salvation also teaches us how to live**
- ✓ **The word translated as 'teach' is *paideuo*, from which we get the word *pedagogue*, a teacher**
- ✓ **Elsewhere Paul likens the law to a *pedagogue*, 'the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor' (Gal.3:24-25)**
- ✓ **We have been taken out from under the law; we no longer need this pedagogue. We are free from the law and from people telling us what to do**

✓ **We have another pedagogue, the Holy Spirit, '...if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law' (Gal.5:18)**

✓ **He teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly lusts. The consequence is that we will live 'soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age' (Titus 2:12)**

✓ **But there is a major difference. Under the old covenant the *pedagogue* was external to us, but under the new covenant our *pedagogue* is internal. The Holy Spirit lives inside us and teaches us how to live. He leads us step by step, just like a *pedagogue***

✓ **He doesn't just teach us, He also empowers us**

- ✓ **Grace has appeared, 'the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1:17). Jesus is Emmanuel**
- ✓ **Some of the wrong concepts we have about God: 'God showed up', 'praying for an open heaven', 'Lord, be with us today', 'when you walk in the room', 'let the heavens open', etc.**
- ✓ **God is not only present in church, in devotions, in Bible Studies, etc. He is always present and always at work, even if we do not know what He's doing**
- ✓ **We don't have to do anything to get God to do something. He is already working. We just need to be available for what He is doing**

Grace is with us:

- ✓ **When we ask for guidance**
- ✓ **When we pray for the sick**
- ✓ **When we walk in the community**
- ✓ **When we are persecuted**
- ✓ **When we operate in our ministry**
- ✓ **When we face temptation or trial**
- ✓ **Grace came!**

Glory is coming

- ✓ **What we have now is just a foretaste of what is to come, 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable' (1 Cor.15:19)**
- ✓ **Just as certain as the grace of God has appeared to us in the past, Christ Himself will appear to us at the climax of this age, 'To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation' (Heb.9:28)**
- ✓ **This is our hope. It encourages us. It impacts upon the way we live in this current age**

**That's why we are exhorted to set our hope on
the glory that will be brought to us at the Second
Coming**

***'Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be
sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace
that is to be brought to you at the revelation of
Jesus Christ'***

(1 Peter 1:13)

What is that hope?

It will be the time of the restoration of all things

***'...Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,
whom heaven must receive until the times of
restoration of all things, which God has spoken by
the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world
began'***

(Acts 3:20-21)

**If we want to know how it will end, we just need
to see how it began**

**In the beginning God created us in His image,
and crowned us with glory and honour**

'Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

(Gen.1:26-28)

Glory

Glory is imparted at Justification

*'For if the ministry of condemnation had glory,
the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more
in glory'*

(2 Cor.3:9)

Glory is being revealed through Sanctification

'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord'

(2 Cor.3:18)

Glory will be manifested at Glorification

**We 'rejoice in hope of the glory of God'
(Rom.5:2)**

When God glorifies His Son at the Second Coming, we will be glorified together with Him

- ✓ **We will shine with God's glory, 'And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man' (1 Cor.15:49)**
- ✓ **This will not be self-absorbed but reflected, 'Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!' (Matt.13:43)**
- ✓ **The whole of creation is longing for our manifestation as sons of God, 'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God' (Rom.8:19)**

'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is'

(1 John 3:1-2)

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Honour

- ✓ **Revelation 21&22 is a mirror of Genesis 1-3. One corresponds with the other. Two ends of the expanse of time**
- ✓ **In the beginning God...in the end God**
- ✓ **Fall, including sickness, pain, sorrow, crying, death...no more sickness, pain, sorrow, crying, death**
- ✓ **Heaven and earth...new heavens and new earth**
- ✓ **Adam and Eve...The Lamb and the Bride**

- ✓ **In His first coming, He came to seek and to save. In His second coming He will rule and reign**
- ✓ **The kingdom is, 'already, but not yet'**
- ✓ **And we will reign with Him. We will be co-regents with Jesus over all of His creation on earth**
- ✓ ***'And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth"' (Rev.5:10)***