

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, March 13, 2016
Grace Abounding – Pt 3
Equal Not Fair
Titus 2:11-14

- Being a Christian, especially today, means being active in your faith
- How does that apply to our understanding of grace?
- Def – the unmerited favor of God

- Ill. – every person in the class given an “A” on the final exam
 - Everyone arrived early to cram in a last few minutes in preparation
 - The professor did a review; obvious much of it was not what they had studied; Professor said they were responsible for the entire text
 - Papers face down on each desk; told them to turn them over
 - Every question was answered and written on the last page, “This is your final exam. All the answers on the test are correct. You will receive an “A” for your exam grade.”
 - You are getting an A because the creator of the test took it for you; all your study, all your preparation, all of your efforts did nothing to help you get the grade you received
 - You have just experienced grace

- All are eligible to receive the grace of God that is salvation but not all will
 - We are told in the Scripture that there are two distinct destinations of eternity
 - But no one is beyond the grace of God (Paul calls himself – the chief of all sinners – I [Tim 1:15](#))
- But there is a hindrance to receiving the grace of God – our propensity to self-righteousness
 - The grace of God brings salvation but if you think you’re okay right now and just need a little bit more work your focus is on your efforts
 - *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* [Luke 5:32](#)
 - Jesus is referring to the self-righteous; specifically the Pharisees

- We must acknowledge our need for God and the danger we are in without Him
 - Charles Spurgeon – “you need to know that the rope is around your neck”
 - The grace of God cuts the rope – even though we deserve the death sentence - but we will not even make our lives available unless we understand and admit that the rope (our sin) is there

- Ill. – standing in a long line and I jerk you outside with me.
 - How would you respond? – angry; embarrassed me; tore my shirt; hurt my arm; lost my place in line...
 - Then I tell you that I saw masked men coming in the back with guns and bombs strapped to their bodies

- That one fact completely changed your attitude
 - From anger in your ignorance of the danger you were in to eternal gratitude when the circumstances were realized.
 - You were doomed unless someone rescued you
- How do we do that? Salvation comes but how do we live that out?
 - God's grace trains us... READ – **Titus 2:11-14**
1. ...to deny ungodliness and worldly desire (v 12)
 - Ungodliness refers certainly to the immoral and evil person
 - Also to the outwardly good and nice person who has no place for God in their lives
 - The word “deny” in the original language translates to “disown”
 - + We once had it but because of God's presence in our lives we no longer do
 - + What does disowning ungodliness look like and what will God do in and through us when we do?
- John Newton – sailor who became captain of a slave ship in the mid 1700s
 - + Became very sick; lost his ship; became a slave himself in W. Africa
 - + His father sent a ship captain to find and rescue him – on the return voyage he became a Christian
 - + He eventually became an Anglican priest and co-wrote a number of hymns in collaboration with the English poet William Cowper
 - + *Faith's Review and Expectation* – which the first line is “Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me...”
 - + Through his ministry a young man by the name of William Wilberforce came to know the Lord
 - + It was Wilberforce who in 1807 was instrumental in creating the legislation that would lead Parliament to end the slave trade in Britain
 - Newton disowned the ungodliness of his earlier life
 - Worldly desire is what draws us to the things that are not of God
 - + **I John 2:15-17** - *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 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. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*
 - + There is a conflict between love for the Father and love for the world
 - + “The world”: all that belongs to the world that is in opposition to God
 - + The ruler of the world's system is satan
 - + We cannot be both of the world and of the Father
 - + **Joshua 24:15** - *But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord*

2. ...to live soberly (KJV) (v 12)
 - Very simple definition – live with self-control
 - Over what? The desires and passions of our flesh that is the world John wrote of
 - Why? To be more like Jesus and live a life that honors Him

 3. ...to live righteously (v 12)
 - Upright
 - This word speaks of our goodness to the people around us
 - The flesh is about self and what I want
 - The spirit is about others – first God, next the people in our lives
 - We owe nothing good of our lives now or the future to our flesh
 - We owe everything to the spirit and the promise of our future

 4. ...to live Godly lives (v 12)
 - The word godly translates from the original language as devout
 - Giving a solemn and reverential attention to God in various ways – worship; reading His Word; especially prayer
 - But because that type of life – a life of grace – is so foreign to the world, it comes with a cost
 - *2 Tim 3:12 – In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*
 - Understanding and accepting this is why we must guard against ministries that tell us that all Christians, if you have enough faith, and believe hard enough, are positive enough in your thinking, will have a life of wealth and health and happiness.
 - NOT TRUE
 - This is what Jesus says after confirming to His disciples that He was from God and that they would desert Him...
 - *John 16:33 - I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world*

 5. ...to live right while we wait and anticipate His return (v 13)
 - Paul affirms that promise that Jesus will come back again
 - The blessed hope; the glorious appearing
 - The word “look” translate to expect
 - + not hoping like it may or may not happen
 - + full expectation
 - Returning for us – His Church
 - Returning to reign on earth for a thousand year
- **READ** – “The Concept of Grace”
 - From the first illustration
 - Everyone got the A no matter how much or how little they studied
 - Many of the students began to complain that an “A” for everyone was not fair
 - The professor took them to the parable of the workers in the vineyard –

- **READ - Matthew 20**
- God's love and grace are for everyone
- We should, as His children trained by grace, rejoice in every person's good and blessing from God for the kingdom
- God's grace is equal for everyone – can we look beyond the flesh's definition of fair and right to see others through the eyes of our loving Savior?
- God' love and grace
 - For the worst person who ever lived the same as for the very best person
 - The same for the kindest person you know to the most evil
 - The same for when you think you are doing everything right as a Christian and when you fail the most miserably
 - **Romans 5:20** – where sin increases grace increases even more
 - **Romans 6:1-4** - What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.