

God's Amazing Grace

We are saved by the grace of God. I hope that the abuse of the doctrine of grace by numerous religious groups will never discourage us from recognizing God's grace and praising Him for it. In connection with our salvation by God's grace, we see four things we do because of divine grace. Paul wrote to Titus: "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 this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (2:11-13). From Paul's words, notice four things we do as a result of God's grace:

1. We LEARN. Verse 11 & the first words of verse 12 say the Grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, TEACHING us . . . Had you ever thought of God's grace as a teacher? Well, it is! Obviously the things God's grace teaches us are important. The rest of verse 12 on through verse 13 tell us specifically what God's grace teaches, and give us the next three points . . .

2. We LEAVE. When, by the grace of God, we become Christians, there are certain things that we are to leave. Paul uses the word DENY, meaning to renounce, disown, or reject. Deny, or leave behind, ungodliness and worldly lusts. Those things may have characterized us before we came to Christ, but they are inconsistent with living as a faithful Christian. As Paul wrote in Romans 6:1, 2, we cannot simply continue to live in sin while presuming that God's grace will cover it. Instead, we are to do the third point . . .

3. We LIVE. In contrast to ungodliness & worldly lusts, we live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age. Living soberly doesn't mean we can't enjoy being a Christian or that we have to be somber all the time; it means we take being a Christian seriously. It isn't pretend, it isn't something we do for show on Sunday and then skip it the rest of the week. Righteously means, of course, doing

what the Bible says is right, living in obedience to the will of God. And godly is the very opposite of the ungodliness that we are to leave behind – to be godly is to be reverent and devout, which every Christian ought to be. One of the reasons for this is that we know this world and this life are not the end. And that takes us to the last point . . .

We LOOK. As we live soberly, righteously, and godly, we are “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Jesus promised that He would return and take us to be with Him (John 14:3). Many have tried and failed to predict just when that will occur. We must now allow their foolish failures to blind us to the fact that He WILL come again, even though we have no idea just when that will be.

So remember that because of God’s grace, by which we are saved, we **Learn**, we **Leave** (ungodliness & worldly lusts), we **Live** soberly, righteously and godly, and we **Look** for the Lord’s appearance.