

Taught By Grace

Ponder: What does grace teach us?

Scripture: "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" (Tit. 2:11-12, NKJV).

Have you ever thought of God's grace as teaching you something? Well, it does!

I usually think of God's grace in the context of receiving blessings I don't deserve. Chief among those would be salvation, as seen in the text quoted above. But since I really don't deserve anything good at all, innumerable temporal and spiritual blessings are mine only by God's grace.

What if I received what I deserve? Then God would just let me go my own foolish way with the lake of fire as my eternal destination. Fortunately, His grace teaches me. Paul's word for teach isn't the usual one in the New Testament; it means particularly to instruct and train children. It goes well beyond imparting intellectual knowledge to include correction and even chastening.

First, God's grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Satan dangles before us temptations that appeal to the flesh. If we walk according to the flesh, we'll say, "Yes! Yes!" But God's grace teaches us to say, "No!" When we think of countless benefits we enjoy by God's grace it leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). How could we be so presumptuous and unthankful as to continue living in sin?

Second, God's grace teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age. Such behavior doesn't come instinctively. It's difficult! Sometimes we fall flat on our faces. By His grace, the Lord may chasten us with a stern rebuke from a faithful Christian, a fiery trial to afflict us, or with a gentle hand as a fellow-pilgrim helps us up again.

Paul wrote that Christ "gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age" (Gal. 1:4). We deserved none of this. But for His grace we would be hopelessly doomed. Praise God for His grace that teaches us!

Hymn: "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Prayer: Merciful God, we praise You for Your grace that teaches us. Help us, we pray, to be humble children who willingly receive the teaching of Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.