



# PRISONERS OF HOPE



March 2, 2004

*“Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope” Zech. 9:12*

## The Grace of God That Teaches

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world (Titus 2:11, 12).*

There are certainly many and varied truths that are revealed to us through the Holy Scriptures. We read about the great acts of God’s creation in the book of Genesis. There is the revelation of God’s law, the Ten Commandments, in the book of Exodus. We read of great prophecies from Isaiah through Malachi. We read of the truths of heaven and hell throughout all of Scripture, the fall of man into sin, the judgments that await the believer as well as the unbeliever, the great doctrines in the New Testament, and the mighty acts of the apostles in the early days of the church. The need for the revelation for all these truths is certainly of great importance for the Christian life, but I believe the revelation of the “grace of God” is of paramount importance for the need of the sinner as well as the saint.

We want to take careful examination of our Scripture text today from Titus 2:11, 12:

*“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation.”* We notice first from this phrase that salvation for man had to be provided for by the free grace of God. The word *grace* comes from the Greek word *charis*. In ancient Greek times this word implied “a favor freely done, without claim or expectation of return.” There were some Greeks who believed that this type of grace should only be for those who were your friends and never for your enemies. The Bible reveals that God has provided this grace even for His enemies.

*And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (Colossians 1:21).*

*For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (Romans 5:10).*

Yes, the Bible reveals that man in his sin has become an enemy to God and God’s will for his life. Yes, we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have all like sheep gone astray and we have all turned to our own way, yet God has provided salvation through His only begotten Son.

*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).*

This brings us to the next phrase from our text in Titus 2:11, *“hath appeared to all men.”* Yes, God has provided salvation for man through His grace, and this grace has appeared, or been made known, through the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The songwriter says it very appropriately in these words,

“God in mercy sent His Son  
To a world by sin undone;  
Jesus Christ was crucified  
‘Twas for sinners, Jesus died.  
Oh, the glory of His grace,  
Shining from the Savior’s face!  
Telling sinners from above,  
God is light and God is love.”

O dear friend, what have you done with this precious grace of God? Will you allow this goodness or grace of God to lead you to repentance today? May God help you today to receive this unspeakable gift of salvation that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We must remember though that this grace of God is to teach us some things.

*Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.*

Yes, this true grace of God will teach us that we must now turn away from our sinful life. We are living in a day when many false teachers are turning the grace of God into lasciviousness (a license to sin). They say that since no one is perfect and since God’s grace is

free, that we really don't have to know a changed life.  
But listen to God's Word:

*For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world:  
and this is the victory that overcometh the world,  
even our faith (I John 5:4).*

*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin  
[habitually practice sin]; for his seed remaineth in  
him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God  
(I John 3:9).*

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin,  
that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we  
that are dead to sin live any longer therein? (Romans  
6:1, 2).*

O dear friend, if you have come to trust in this true grace of God, then your life should be knowing a turning away from sin and a turning unto the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul the apostle made this statement after coming to know the Lord Jesus as his personal Savior:

*I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain (Galatians 2:20, 21).*

O thank God today if we are trusting in this great Savior, having been justified by faith and having the peace of God in our hearts. Then we may also have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand through the Person and work of our precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses from Hebrews on Grace:

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man (2:9).*

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (4:16).*

*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled (12:15).*

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (12:28).*

*Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have*

*not profited them that have been occupied therein (13:9).*

### Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

— John Newton

### Our First President

In the early days of our country, a stranger once asked at the United States Congress how he could distinguish George Washington. He was told, "You can easily distinguish him when Congress goes to prayer, Washington is the gentleman who kneels."

Dear reader, do you pray? Call Upon God today!

### Please Send any Correspondence to:

Prisoners of Hope Ministry

PO Box 1166

Dunn, NC 28835

Dr. H. T. Spence, President and Director

Dr. Dennis Lowry

#### Men's Jail Ministry

Rev. Anthony Brock

Mr. Rodrigo Delgado

Rev. Brad Lowry

Mr. Phil McRae

Rev. Patrick Nighswonger

Mr. Terry Parker

Rev. David Wilson

Dr. Douglas Wilson

Mr. Justin Zeth

#### Women's Jail Ministry

Mrs. Joyce Ballard

Mrs. Barbara Blackstock

Miss Paty Corella

Mrs. Ellen Dean

Miss Amelia García

Mrs. Alice Whitley

Miss Susan Wilson