

## The Grace of God

(Titus 2:11-14)

The Bible describes numerous characteristics of God. God is a loving God – “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16). The goodness of God is declared by the Psalmist, “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness” (Psa. 107:8). God is a righteous God – “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith” (Rom. 1:17). The Bible describes the mercy of God, “For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psa. 100:5).

God is also a gracious God. Grace has been defined as unmerited favor. Concerning grace, Paul penned these words to Titus, “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; looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:11-14). What can we learn about the grace of God from the words of Paul to Titus?

### The Grace of God Manifested

Paul declares that the grace of God “hath appeared to all men.” According to Strong’s the word “appeared” means “to become visible.” God’s grace became visible to man in the fleshly appearance of the Son of God. John wrote, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). This truly is unmerited favor because man did not deserve, or merit, the Son of God; rather, man deserved death because of his sins (Rom. 6:23). The grace of God is also manifested in the Scriptures – “the grace of God...teaching us.” God has revealed His will through the pages of the Bible, and it teaches us how to live to be recipients of the grace of God. God’s grace is manifested unto all men, but only those who are obedient to the teachings of Christ will receive the salvation brought by the grace of God (Heb. 5:8-9).

### The Grace of God Molds

The grace of God molds individuals into the proper manner of life. The word “teaching” carries with it the idea of “training up a child” (Strong’s). Just as the educating and training of a child is a continual process, so grace teaching us is a continual process through which things are removed from our lives and other things are added to our lives. The grace of God teaches us that there are some things which we are to deny: ungodliness and worldly lusts. We are to refuse irreverence toward God and His Word, and we are to refuse desires connected with the immoral world in which we live. Grace teaches us the way we ought to live our lives: soberly, righteously, and godly. “Soberly” refers to self-control (1 Cor. 9:27). “Righteously” means our lives fulfill the demands of truth (Psa. 119:172). “Godly” refers to a life that is devoted to God and respects His authority (Ecc. 12:13).

### The Grace of God Motivates

Those who allow the grace of God to teach them and mold their lives into what God desires them to be will also be motivated to look for, or to await, “the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Those who are molded by the word of God long for the return of Christ because of the reward which awaits them. When we follow what the grace of God teaches us to do, then we can have assurance of eternal life in the beauties of Heaven. May we study the word of God and allow the grace of God to mold us into godly individuals longing for the return of Christ!

Chance

## Remember in Prayer

### Members:

**Janice Parsons** was discharged to her sister Bernice’s home to continue to recover from surgery.

**Glenn Terry** is at Princeton.

**Sandra Griffin** is scheduled for surgery on Thursday at St. Vincent’s hospital.

**Marie Russell** suffered a fall. She is at home.

**Sam Swiney** is at home.

**Martha Wiley** is recovering from a fall at home.

### Other Request for Prayer:

**Elizabeth Clark** (a visitor) is scheduled for surgery for breast cancer on Friday at Princeton.

**Jo Ann Dunn** (Ann Kilgore’s sister in law) she is now at home recovering from surgery.

**Rebecca Dawes** (Mary Sanford’s daughter)

**Helen Inzer** (friend of Faye Brown) and

**Dawn Kelly** (Nancy Ingram’s friend) is at UAB Bessemer doing some better.

## Shut In

**Maude Bell, Theola Brown, Ethel Gilbert, Ruby Glidewell, Ruth Parsons, Annette Roddy, Bernice Snow, Glenn Terry**

## Remember Our Troops

Please remember the following who are currently serving for our country: **Josh Baker, Kevin Black, Mark Davis, Adam Hudson, Leslie Jackson, and Chris Pridmore.**

## Sunshine Girls

Your Orphan and ICYC Support Money is due by the 15th

## Tuesday Morning Class

Our Tuesday morning Class will return September 15, 2009. If you are not a member of this class, it is not too late. This is a great in-depth study of God’s Word.

## Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 11-14 -- Gospel Meeting: **Curtis A. Cates**

Oct. 17 -- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill

Dec. 31 -- New Year’s Eve Singing

## Youth Notes

**Monday Night Meditation** will meet each Monday at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

Sept. 13 ---K-5 Devo @**Nathan & Crystal Harr’s** home

## Lads/Leaders

The Pearls study of Hebrews started last Sunday, September 6, 2009 in the Sr. High Class.

There will be a Bible Bowl test on Sunday, September 13, 2009 on Hebrews Chapters 1 & 2.

## Visitation Team Meeting

Visitation Team #2 will meet on Sunday. Team #2 includes-Tommy & Freeda Reid, Don & Sandra Griffin, Bob & Christine Battles, Nick & Jennifer Rouse, Joyce Akins, Sarah Akers, Eddie & Robin Battles, Jean Cicero, Erin & Stentsen Ellenburg, Linda Graham, Pat Graham, Mark & Shana Griffin, Becky Kersh, Robin Moore, Kelly Powell, and Brad & Kim Strange..

## Pantry Items Needed

Canned Meats, Canned Vegetables & Peanut Butter

## Quilters

Our **Quilters** will return on Monday, September 14, 2009. If you would like to join this group of fine ladies, please see **Mary Mobley, Sue Gilbert** or any of the Quilters for more info.

