

# Christmas Grace – Sermon Recap

## Introduction

In this week's sermon, we delved into Titus 2:11-14, exploring the profound concept of "Christmas Grace." This passage reveals how God's grace appeared, bringing salvation and training us to live godly lives. The sermon emphasized the transformative power of grace, its historical context, and its implications for our daily lives. Let's break down these key points to understand how Christmas Grace can impact us today.

## What is Christmas Grace?

### The Appearance of Grace

Grace is often misunderstood outside of Christian circles, commonly associated with saying thanks before meals. However, in Christian theology, grace is much more profound. Titus 2:11 states, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people." This appearance of grace is epitomized in the birth of Jesus Christ, who embodies God's favor and kindness towards humanity.

### Historical Context of Titus

Paul wrote to Titus, his protégé, who was left on the Greek island of Crete to organize the church and address issues caused by false Jewish teachers. The Cretans were described as "liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12-14), and Paul urged Titus to teach sound doctrine to counter these negative influences. This context underscores the importance of grace in transforming lives and communities.

## The Role of Grace in Salvation

### Old Testament Grace

Contrary to some beliefs, grace was present even in the Old Testament. Figures like Abraham and David were saved by faith, not by works. Romans 4:1-8 highlights that Abraham's belief in God was counted as righteousness. This shows that grace has always been the means by which people are brought to faith in God.

### New Testament Grace

When Jesus was born, grace became visible in human form. This epiphany made the concept of grace clear and accessible. Grace is how a holy God welcomes sinners into His family, granting favor to those who haven't earned it. This unmerited favor leads us to repentance and transformation.

## The Transformative Power of Grace

### Training for Godliness

Titus 2:12 explains that grace trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. This training involves both instruction and discipline, helping us develop new habits and abandon old, sinful ones.

## Living in Anticipation

Grace also teaches us to live in anticipation of Jesus' second coming. Titus 2:13 encourages us to wait for our "blessed hope," the return of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. This anticipation should shape our daily lives, motivating us to live in a way that honors Him.

## Grace and Good Works

### Zealous for Good Works

Titus 2:14 states that Jesus gave Himself to redeem us and purify us, making us zealous for good works. Grace not only saves us but also empowers us to live out our faith through actions. These good works are a natural response to the grace we've received, reflecting God's love to the world.

### Practical Examples

The sermon highlighted practical examples of how grace transforms us. Just as a firefighter undergoes rigorous training to fight fires, grace trains us to combat the fires of sin in our lives. This training helps us develop self-control, uprightness, and godliness, enabling us to live in a way that pleases God.

## Life Application

### Embracing Christmas Grace

This week, challenge yourself to embrace Christmas Grace fully. Reflect on the areas of your life where you need to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions. Ask yourself:

1. How can I live a more self-controlled, upright, and godly life?
2. In what ways can I be more zealous for good works?
3. How can I live in anticipation of Jesus' return?

### Practical Steps

1. **Daily Reflection**: Spend time each day reflecting on God's grace and how it has appeared in your life.
2. **Community Involvement**: Engage with your church community to support and encourage one another in living out grace.
3. **Acts of Kindness**: Look for opportunities to perform good works, whether through volunteering, helping a neighbor, or simply showing kindness to those around you.

## Conclusion

Christmas Grace is a powerful reminder of God's unmerited favor and love for us. It appeared in the form of Jesus Christ, bringing salvation and training us to live godly lives. As we embrace this grace, let it transform us from the inside out, making us zealous for good works and eager for Jesus' return. May this Christmas season be a time of renewed devotion and anticipation, as we live out the grace we've received