

WORD

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. TITUS 2:11-14

WHAT

The grace of God has been freely given to us based on the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. It teaches us that all our sins are forgiven and we are fully accepted by God. However, does this mean that we should go on sinning? Here are three points based on the Apostle Paul's writings to help us understand what grace really is.

1 Grace teaches us to say 'no' to sin.

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ROMANS 6:1,2

Dead people do not respond or move, simply because they are lifeless! We are dead to sin and alive in Christ by the grace of God; reborn as His sons and daughters who are now under His sovereignty and not sin's rule and given the Holy Spirit that helps us to live uprightly. Why is being dead to sin the best way to say 'no' to sin?

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2 Grace encourages us to live godly lives.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ROMANS 12:1

Being aware of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we are enabled to live differently and righteously—not out of fear or compulsion but out of love and gratitude to the God Who gave us new life. What should be our motivation in living a godly life (Titus 2:14)?

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3 Grace gives us hope.

... while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. TITUS 2:13

Our hopes of the future drive our values for today. Through the gospel of grace, our past has been redeemed, our present is nurtured, and our future is gloriously secured. We are given this hope of eternal life and of the benefits of living a God-centered life. On whose account are we able to claim this hope? What other promises in the Bible strengthen our hope?

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