



FORT JOHNSON
BAPTIST CHURCH

FJBC

SECOND CHANCES • INSTRUCTIONS FOR DAILY LIFE • TITUS 2:11-15 •
THIS SESSION CORRELATES WITH THE SERMON FROM 1/3/2021

MAIN POINT

Our daily lives as followers of Jesus should continuously reflect God's grace and truth.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How do you manage your day-to-day schedule? What are some tips you have learned to keep you on track?

How would you summarize your everyday routine?

We often think of the Christian life as something that affects us on a grand scale—and for good reason. After all, following Jesus changes everything about us. It impacts who we are in terms of our own identities. It erases the mistakes of our past and sets a specific, God-ordained course for the future. At the same time, we should also recognize how the Christian life affects us on a smaller scale. As we'll see in Titus 2:11-15, following Jesus should impact every aspect of our daily life.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ TITUS 2:11-13.

In the early portions of Titus 2, Paul gave instructions to people from different age groups to help them connect with one another and help each other follow Jesus. In these verses, Paul

reminded his audience of what we all need to practice as followers of Jesus, regardless of the situations or circumstances of our lives.

Christians often talk about grace, but what is “grace”? What did Paul mean when he wrote “the grace of God had appeared”?

Grace is God’s unmerited favor to those who only deserve His condemnation. Grace is the gospel message; that is why God’s grace brings salvation to “all people.” Paul was not saying here that all people will be saved, but that God’s grace is sufficient for all those who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus to save them. When we receive this grace, it changes us and motivates us to life differently.

What did Paul say the grace of God instructs us to do? Do you think he meant this in the sense of giving us commands, or training us how to follow them? What’s the difference between the two?

Every believer, whether young or old, should commit to striving for lifelong Christian excellence. Our lives should demonstrate the self-control that shows we belong to Christ and live to serve His purposes. We should fulfill our God-given roles at home and in society with consistent integrity. Let God’s grace displayed in salvation constantly motivate you to live with Christian excellence as you wait for the Lord’s return.

How has God’s grace empowered you to live in self-discipline and purpose, instead of focusing on your own interests and appetites?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ TITUS 2:14.

How does the grace that you have received motivate you to do good works that honor God? Read Mark 10:45. How did Jesus model this?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the difference between working for grace and working from grace? To which do you most often default?

Jesus not only redeemed us, but He also purified us. What freedom have you found in being able to deny old sin patterns that used to consume you?

When we follow Christ, He changes who we are. He transforms us from the inside out so that we become something completely new. Of course, that transformation came at a price—the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the process we call “redemption.” And one of the greatest evidences of our redemption as followers of Jesus is our desire to do “good works” that contribute to the advancement of God’s kingdom.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ TITUS 2:15.

Followers of Jesus have been saved by God's grace. The reality of our salvation should change not only what we do each day—our "good works" for God's kingdom—but it also should change the way we speak with and engage the world around us.

What are some practical ways we can encourage those within our spheres of influence?

What does it mean for us to "rebuke" others? How can we do it in a way that's productive rather than destructive?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

To what degree are you noticeably different from those in your spheres of influence who are not following Christ? Why should this motivate compassion for them instead of pride in yourself?

What are you learning about walking with God right now? Why is it important to share these truths with believers and non-believers alike?

God's truth is not for you only. Who can you share it with this week?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus for His active role in your salvation, including His willingness to pay the price for your redemption through His death and resurrection. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless you and the members of your group with eyes to see opportunities for doing good works and proclaiming God's truth in the week to come.

COMMENTARY

| TITUS 2:11-15

2:11-14. This paragraph provides the theological basis for the lifestyle commended in verses 1-10. Christians should live sanctified lives because the grace of God that saves us also instructs us to live in a new way. A person cannot claim to be a recipient of God's saving grace if he is not also a trainee in the lifestyle made possible by grace.

2:11. This verse has sometimes been misunderstood as saying that all people will be saved. However, such a reading is not made necessary by the words here, and it flatly contradicts other portions of Scripture. The force of all people is to emphasize the universal offer of the gospel. The offer of salvation is proclaimed not just to one group but to all peoples.

2:12. Godlessness refers to behavior that is not in accordance with God's ways. Lusts refer not only to sexual desires but to sinful desires in general.

2:13. The verb used here for wait often carries a connotation of eagerness. The eager expectation of the return of Christ mentioned here is not just the time of the instruction of grace ("while we wait"); it is also the way grace teaches us to renounce sin and live in a "godly way" (v. 12). Setting our minds on the truth of Christ's return impels us to holiness (1Jn 3:2-3). The blessed hope is the appearing of... Christ. The reference to Jesus as God and Savior is a strong affirmation of His deity.

2:14. The phrase people for His own possession translates an unusual phrase with intentional echoes from the OT (Ex 19:5; Mal 3:17). The phrase expresses the sense of "prized, treasured possession" (1Pe 2:9).

2:15. This verse is an unmistakable call for authoritative teaching in the church.