**Faith & Grace that leads to Godliness**

**Introduction**

Oscars: Will Smith (actor) slapped Chris Rock (host) & cursed him – then thanked God?

As followers of Christ = Look different – Represent Jesus on earth – model Him

* How do you our actions reflect our beliefs, faith? Walk the talk?
* Do our actions represent Jesus well?

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**Titus (Paul writing to Titus in Crete)**

**Summarise the whole book**

* Biblical perspective: behaviour, the way we act.
* What motivates our works?
* Practical handles to model our faith in Jesus.

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**Greeting: V 1 - 4**

**V.1:** Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to: (1) further the faith of God’s elect and (2) their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness….

Pauls mission – given by Jesus = help Christians to:

1. Grow – in their faith
2. Grow - knowledge of the truth; that leads to Godliness

Revelation of the Truth - leads to godliness (Holiness)

* Our lives become Holy. Godliness becomes practical. Godliness in everyday life.

**V.4:** **4**To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

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**Appoint Elders: V 1 v 5**

**V.5:** **5**The reason I left you in Crete was that you might (1) put in order what was left unfinished and (2) appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

**Qualifications of Elders: V 6 - 8**

**V.6-8 - Paul lists the qualifications of elders: …. (self-study, also 1 Tim 3, also Deacons)**

**V.9:** He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute (silence) those who oppose it.

* Appoint & ordain men of character (not gifting, physical attributes, social status, business sense)
* Elders must hold fast to sound doctrine. (instruct, exhort, encourage, rebuke, correct)

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**The reason for Paul’s letter: V 10 - 16**

**V.10-15: 10**For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception….**11**They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain….

* Many people were misleading the saints. False teachers. Their talk produced no fruit. It robbed people of the truth and led them into error.
* The Cretans also had very low moral values: dishonest, liars, evil, gluttons, lazy.

**V16: the accusation against them:** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

False Teachers & the people of Crete:

* Mouths confess Jesus, but their actions deny Him.
* Dishonour the Person of Jesus & the work of Jesus.
* By their actions they deny the truth of their faith and beliefs
* The way we behave – reflects our Beliefs & Faith

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**How do we show our Faith? By our works. James 2 v 14 - 26**

**James 2 v 14**: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?

**James 2 v 17:** ….faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **18**But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

* This passage frequently misinterpreted to say: we need works as well as faith to be saved. (called synergism). NOT TRUE.

James is merely asking the question here: Is faith that does not result in works, real faith?

* Some people say that they are Christians (Christ like), but there is no evidence.
* All talk, no walk

James says: I’ll show you my faith – by my actions.

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**Practical Godliness: Titus 2 v 1 - 10**

**Titus 2 v 1:** You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

Teach the people - Godliness:

1. practical outliving
2. of their faith
3. by good works

**Specific practical instructions:**

**OLDER MEN**

**2**Teach the older men to be temperate *(balanced & discreet)*, worthy of respect *(reverent & dignified)*, self-controlled *(sober, careful in conduct)*, and sound in faith *(thankful, optimistic)*, in love *(not self-centred, love others, give)* and in endurance *(patient in trials)*

**OLDER WOMEN**

**3**Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live *(worthy of respect),* not to be slanderers *(gossip, speaking evil)* or addicted to much wine *(any addiction: food, drink, medication),* but to teach what is good *(instruct, teach in homes).*

**YOUNGER WOMEN**

**4**Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands (respect, acknowledge his headship, support) and children (teach, pray, moulding), **5**to be self-controlled *(what is appropriate?)* and pure *(chaste, faithful)*, to be busy at home *(homemakers = divine service),*to be kind *(live for others),* and to be subject to their husbands *(honour, encourage, help),* so that no one will malign (blaspheme) the word of God.

* Purpose of all these things: that the Word of God is not blasphemed
* Actions that do not align with belief = God’s word is discredited

**YOUNG MEN**

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled *(sober minded)*.

**To Titus (and elders, young men)**: **7**In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness **8**and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

* In everything - Set an example (good works, by godliness)
* let your teaching be above reproach
* opposition cannot point a finger - no argument against a holy life.

**SLAVES**

**9**Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, **10**and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

* Slaves (workers, employees) – act godly – so that Jesus and our Faith will be attractive to our bosses and co-workers.

**Matthew 5 v 14:** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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**How? By Grace & Gospel message: Titus 2 v 11 - 14**

**11**For the grace of God has appeared that (1) offers salvation to all people. **12**(2) It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **13**while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **14**who 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.

**GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED:** Jesus came to save all who receive Him.

**Romans 3 v 23 – Righteousness through faith:** …for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2 v 8:** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God….

**IT (the GRACE OF GOD, JESUS) TEACHES US:**

* The same Grace that saves us, train, teach us about holiness.
* Grace is not a licence to sin
* It is to be accompanied by holy lives. (Jesus brought Grace & Truth – John 1 v 17)

**Romans 6 v 14 (Baptism, dying to self, sin):** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

**2 Timothy 1 v 9:** He (God) has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

* Grace – enabled our salvation & calling to a holy life

**JESUS:** Redeemed us from sin – to be His bride – Pure & Holy

**IN THE PRESENT AGE (TODAY):** this moment, wherever we are – be Holy. Not under circumstances.

**V.15**: These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

* Preach this Jesus, and His works

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**Reminding the people: Titus 3 v 1 - 2**

**3**Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities *(government*), to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good *(godly job, not harmful),* **2**to slander no one *(speaking evil off*), to be peaceable *(avoid quarrelling)* and considerate *(courtesy, thinking of others)*, and always to be gentle *(kind, peaceful)* toward everyone.

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**Again, Paul gives the reason for maintaining Godly behaviour**

**The Gospel: Titus 3 v 3 - 7**

**3**At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4**But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5**he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6**whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7**so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

* This is the salvation message – RESULTING in: V 8:

**8**This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

* Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10 v 38)
* Theme of Titus: those who Believed in God (disciples) should be careful to maintain good works.
* We honour Jesus that way.

**Colossians 1 v 6 – speaking of the gospel:** the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.

* Bearing fruit: disciples added
* But also spiritual growth of the disciples (equate with godliness)

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**Things to avoid: Titus 3 v 9 - 11**

**9**But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. **10**Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. **11**You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

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**Final Remarks: Titus 3 v 12 -15**

**12**As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. **13**Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.

**14**Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

* Saint need to devote themselves to doing good – Meeting needs within the body

**15**Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.

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