

# GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS



### **God's Amazing Grace (Bible Study)**

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## INTRODUCTION

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# GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

When you understand how amazing God's grace is, it changes you on the inside. Your actions on the outside may look the same, but the reason you do what you do changes.

Some Christians live as if God never had to show them any grace. They follow all of the rules and try to be perfect in order to win God's favor. Other Christians take advantage of God's grace and use it as an excuse to do anything they want. Both of these approaches hinder the power of God in your life; neither accurately reflects God's amazing grace.

The grace of God leads to liberty and victory in Christ. But without a proper perspective of grace, you will get spiritually stuck. Through this study, you will see the denial of legalism, the distortion of license, and the glory of the grace of God.

The book of Titus is a small book with a big message. It starts with grace and ends with grace. It's a letter from the Apostle Paul to Titus, a young church leader in Crete, who faced opposition from inside and outside the church. But the message that Paul delivered was to live in grace, to continually remember what God's grace has done as well as what it enables us to do. It's a message that is still relevant today.

In this study, we will look at what Paul teaches about grace in Titus and other epistles he wrote to the early church. When you understand God's amazing grace, you will find it fuels your worship and propels you toward good works for the sake of Christ.

### WANT MORE?

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code on page 114 at the end of this study.



Justice is giving us what  
we deserve. Mercy is God not  
giving us what we deserve.  
And grace is God giving us  
what we don't deserve.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## WEEK 1

# TROPHIES OF GRACE

### ■ INTRODUCTION

The book of Titus is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a man named Titus. Paul introduced himself at the very beginning of this letter.

**Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ... (Titus 1:1-3).**

Paul says some things about himself, and then he tells us to whom he's writing the letter:

**To Titus, a true son in our common faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior (Titus 1:4).**

Titus was not his biological son; he was Paul's spiritual son. Paul led this young, Greek man to Christ. Paul was a spiritual father to Titus who was his true son in the faith. The first thing Paul says to Titus is "grace," and this book says a lot about grace.

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).**

**...that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7).**

**Grace be with you all. Amen (Titus 3:15b).**

This is a book that is full of grace—God's Amazing Grace.

### ■ PRAY OVER IT

*Dear God, I have a small understanding of grace and all that it means in the life of a believer. I know I need it; I know I want it. Open my eyes to everything that grace has to offer in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## DAY 1

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# A TROPHY OF GRACE

### ■ PONDER IT

**To Titus, a true son in our common faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior (Titus 1:4).**

Paul was so grateful for his son in the faith, Titus. As a matter of fact, Titus was a “trophy of grace” to Paul. During this time, the Jewish Christian leaders in Jerusalem were trying to understand the answer to this question: Can the Gentiles be saved without keeping the Jewish law? Paul took his young convert, Titus, to Jerusalem and put him on display as a trophy of grace (see Galatians 2). This young Greek man went all the way to Jerusalem, and Paul used him as the main example in his teaching about grace and the law.

When you become a believer, you become God’s trophy of grace. Not only should we be witnesses testifying of God’s grace; we ought to be part of the evidence. Titus was so transformed by the grace of God that Paul could take him all the way to Jerusalem and use his life as evidence.

Paul called Titus his son in the faith. Paul had sons and daughters in the faith, and he had grandchildren. He led Titus to Christ, and Titus led others who led others. Paul was a great-great-great spiritual grandfather. Won’t it be a day when we get to Heaven and see those whose lives we have touched who in turn have brought souls to Jesus Christ?

### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What kind of a trophy of grace are you?
- Do you have any children in the faith? Can you look at someone and say, there is somebody I have led to Jesus Christ? To whom are you a spiritual mother or father?

■ **BONUS**

Listen to Pastor Rogers' sermon *Trophies of Grace* to hear the story of Mr. Kimball, a Sunday School teacher who made a great impact.



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A Christian with a glowing witness is  
worth a library full of arguments.

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## DAY 2

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# THE DEFINITION OF GRACE

### ■ PONDER IT

Paul talks about the grace of God in the book of Titus. Grace was his first and last word to Titus. Grace is the unmerited, unearned favor and love of God that is freely bestowed upon us; there is no merit whatsoever. To put it into an acrostic, it means **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.

First of all, it's **sovereign grace**. It is God who elects us, who chooses us, who sets us apart for salvation.

**Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect... (Titus 1:1).**

God had His eye on you before you had your eye on Him. If you're saved, it is because God has chosen you to be saved. If you are not yet saved, you can come to Him and He will not reject you.

**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out (John 6:37).**

It is sovereign grace that chooses us, and it is **seeking grace** that finds us. We love Him because He loved us first. You may think that you were looking for God, but the only reason you sought Him was because He first sought you.

**There is none who seeks after God (Romans 3:11b).**

The Bible is God's love letter to you. God set His eye upon you, and He loves you. God's seeking grace led you to this moment. The stirring that you feel in your heart is God seeking you.

It is sovereign grace, it is seeking grace, and it is **saving grace**.

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all me (Titus 2:11).**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

You're not saved by doing good works, by joining a church, or by giving money. You are saved by the grace of God. He saved you from eternal death when you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sometimes people think that salvation by grace alone is just too good to be true. They believe that somehow you have to earn your salvation and that your good works have to count for something. Legalism tries to mix works into salvation. But grace and works don't mix. We are saved by grace alone, by faith alone—plus nothing.

**And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work (Romans 11:6).**

Don't ever think that you're saved by His grace and by your works. It is impossible, and it cheapens His grace. You are saved by the grace of God. Therefore, you'll never be able to boast about your own good works, but for eternity you will praise the One who gave you grace. You will praise Him because He saved you by His saving grace.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How does it feel to know that God has chosen you to receive His sovereign grace?
- If you aren't yet saved, how has God been trying to find you? When you look back at how you came to Christ, how was He seeking you?

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Whom God chooses, He uses.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 3

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# SECURING AND SATISFYING GRACE

### ■ PONDER IT

Because God's grace is saving grace, it is also **securing grace**. If you were saved by works, you would have to keep being saved by works. You would have to be perfect all the time. If you are saved by grace, then you are kept by grace. This is really Good News. Paul reminded Titus of his security in the greeting.

**...in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began... (Titus 1:2).**

Before the world began, God, who cannot lie, promised eternal life. God gave you eternal life. If you could lose it, whatever you had wasn't eternal, and God would have lied. But God cannot lie. You don't get eternal life when you die; you get it when you believe. This is what Jesus said:

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come to judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).**

When you believe, you have everlasting life. You will not come into condemnation, but you have passed from death to life.

**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2).**

This grace is sovereign, seeking, saving, and securing grace. You're saved by grace; you're kept by grace. God cannot lie.

This grace is also **satisfying**.

**To Titus, a true son in our common faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior (Titus 1:4).**

Don't you want grace, mercy, and peace in your life? This is a trinity of blessings. Grace is God giving us what we don't deserve—eternal life. Mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve—judgment and Hell. Peace is the result of receiving what we don't deserve and not receiving what we do. We need all three: grace, mercy, and peace.

You might think peace is found in a pill or at the bottom of a bottle. You might think you'll find peace if you get a divorce and marry somebody else. You might look for another car, a bigger house, or a bigger financial investment to find peace. But peace is only found in the grace of God.

Grace always comes first. You will never know peace until you know the grace of God. You will never have satisfaction apart from the grace of God. Your heart is longing for the peace that only comes through the grace of God.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you tried to add good works to grace? What was the result?
- Where have you tried to find peace? How does the grace of God satisfy your deepest need?

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Don't be so worried about  
getting out of trouble as about  
getting into righteousness.

ADRIAN ROGERS

## DAY 4

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# THE DELIGHT AND DENIAL OF GRACE

### ■ PONDER IT

We are going to look at three things we must understand about grace: liberty, legalism, and license.

**The delight of grace is liberty.** When you understand the grace of God, then you begin to live in freedom. Nothing will set you free like the grace of God. Grace is delightful because it is liberating. When you understand that you are not saved by good works or by being good, you can gratefully receive what you don't deserve.

**“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).**

**Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1).**

**The denial of grace is legalism.** The devil doesn't want you to have trophies of grace or to be a trophy of grace. He wants to steal or tarnish the trophy. Any time the devil sees anybody celebrating grace, he'll move in to break up the party. Any time he sees a trophy of grace, he will breathe his foul breath on it to tarnish it. Paul left Titus in Crete so that Titus could put things in order:

**For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you (Titus 1:5).**

Legalism was creeping into the church in Crete. People called “Judaizers” wanted non-Jewish believers to follow all the Jewish laws and customs, such as circumcision, because that was what the Jewish believers were doing.

**For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain (Titus 1:10-11).**

Judaizers said that the Gentiles could not be saved unless they kept the Old Testament laws and obeyed the rules and rituals of the Old Testament. They were called “the circumcision” because the Old Testament law required all men to be circumcised if they wanted to become Jewish. If someone wanted to convert to Judaism, circumcision was the initiation. Essentially, this was legalism because it was based on following Jewish law.

False teachers lead people away from freedom and into bondage. But when you follow them, you simply trade one master for another. False teachers set themselves up as authorities and deceive people. They lay down laws to designate who is in and who is out. This is how people fall away from grace.

Legalism is attractive because it looks right and feels good. But don't ever let anybody steal your joy in Jesus. Your liberty is worth fighting for. Paul tells Timothy to deal with legalists severely:

**This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith (Titus 1:13).**

Don't let anybody deny your liberty in Christ. Don't let anybody get you out from underneath God's amazing grace.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How much liberty are you experiencing in Christ?
- What role has legalism played in your spiritual journey? What are you trying to do or not do in order to be saved or to be more loved by God?

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Grace is not freedom to do what we want;  
it's the power to do what we ought.

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## DAY 5

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# THE DISTORTION OF GRACE

### ■ PONDER IT

When we are saved, we experience the delight of grace. The denial of grace can pull us to the right with legalism. But another danger pulls us to the left.

**The distortion of grace is license.** Some people are grateful to hear they are not saved by good works, by giving, or by righteous living. Once they make a confession of faith and get baptized, they think they can go to Heaven and live like the devil. They think they can get saved and sin all they want. But this is a distortion of grace.

When you sincerely give your heart to Jesus, the old flesh in you dies, and from that moment, you have a desire to live for Him. Paul calls this godliness:

**Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness (Titus 1:1).**

When God saves you, He changes you on the inside by His grace. The Bible teaches that we are changed.

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Titus 2:11-12).**

Paul also deals with this issue in Romans:

**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1-2).**

Salvation by grace is not a license to sin. You don't get to live any way you want to because of the grace of God. When God's grace comes into your heart, He changes you from the inside out.

When people who distort grace are confronted about their sin and challenged to change their actions, they claim they are under the grace of God.

**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).**

What is the difference between cheap grace and true grace? Cheap grace justifies the sin. True grace justifies the sinner. The difference is not primarily in *what* you do or do not do. The difference primarily is *why* you do or do not do it—because of the grace of God.

We have liberty in Christ. But if we go too far to the right, we fall into the ditch of legalism. If we go too far to the left, we fall into the ditch of license. But on the middle of the highway of holiness, we find liberty in Christ.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How have you encountered the distortion of grace in your spiritual journey?
- Why is righteous living important even if you are under grace?

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The denial of grace is legalism; the distortion of grace is license. But the glory of the grace of God brings liberty.

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## DAY 6

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# GOD'S GRACE IS SIMPLY AMAZING

### ■ PRACTICE IT

God's grace is simply amazing. The salvation He offers is a gift. You can't earn it, so you can't lose it. You just receive the gift of God, and He will save you.

Long ago a certain pagan lived a wicked and ungodly life, and a missionary led him to Christ. The man didn't know a lot of theology, but he knew God. When somebody asked him to describe what happened to him, he gathered a pile of dry leaves and then put a worm in the middle of it. With a match, he set the leaves on fire all around the worm. The fire and the smoke began to burn toward the worm, but then the man reached in with his big hand and tenderly lifted that worm out of the fire. He pointed to the worm and said, "Me—worm." That's the picture of the grace of God.

We deserve judgment and the fires of Hell, but God, with His big hand of grace and love, with tender mercy, lifted us away from the fire. God will save you today by His wonderful, amazing grace. Then you can be a trophy of grace, for His glory.

### ■ PROCLAIM IT

Someone in your life doesn't know about God's amazing grace. Someone is denying grace and falling into legalism or distorting grace and using it as a license to sin. Pray for them and ask God to give you an opportunity to share with them what you have learned this week.

If you recently accepted God's gift of salvation, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to [lwf.org/discover-jesus](http://lwf.org/discover-jesus), scrolling down the page and clicking on *I Believe*.

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The best argument for Christianity  
and the best argument against  
Christianity is the life of a Christian.  
Not only are we to be His witnesses;  
we ought to be part of the evidence.

ADRIAN ROGERS