**GOD’S GRACE HAS APPEARED**

**Scripture: Titus 2:11-13 December 1, 2019 Pastor Buddy Turner**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. **On this Communion Sunday we begin our Christmas series of sermons. Even as I emphasize on Easter, we always celebrate Jesus Christ in His Person and Work. He was a Babe in the manger 2,000 years ago but He’s not that babe any longer. In fact, He’s been in heaven for the last two thousand years serving as our Great High Priest, even as we have been studying the New Covenant in Hebrews.**
2. **Yes, we do celebrate His birthday, and rightly so. I like my birthday to be celebrated! But, I hope people are celebrating me as the person I am today and not just a little baby in the nursery 78 years ago!!**
3. **In our Communion Service today we are celebrating Jesus Christ, all that He is, all that He’s done, all that He’s doing presently, and all that He is going to do in the future.**
4. **Today, we are celebrating God’s Grace because God’s Grace Has Appeared as Paul said to Titus. God’s grace appeared in it’s fullness when Jesus Christ was born as the Son of God and Son of Man. Listen to John 1:16-17, “*And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*”**
5. **GOD’S GRACE HAS APPEARED – Titus 2:11**
6. **The meaning of “grace.” You could take the letters of the word “Grace” and say the meaning like this:**

**G-od’s R-iches A-t C-hrist’s E-xpense**

1. **Grace means, “God’s free favor and spontaneous action toward needy sinners to deliver and transform them.” (D. Edmond Hiebert). Lawrence Richards writes, “In the Greek language ‘grace’ is *charis*. It means a gracious favor or benefit bestowed, and at the same time it means the gratitude appropriate to the grace received. The verb *charizomai* means ‘to show kindness or favor.’ The concept came to include both the gracious action and agreeable human qualities.” (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words).**
2. **“Has appeared” is from *epiphany* and means, “to become visible, make an appearance,” and conveys the image of grace suddenly breaking in on our moral darkness, like the rising sun.” (D. Edmond Hiebert). That’s a powerful picture!**
3. **The apostle Paul is stressing the appearance of grace as a historical reality in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and serving now as our Great High Priest in heaven!**
4. **PLEASE NOTE these Scriptures: John 1; 3:15-19; 8:12; 9:5; 2 Cor. 4:3-6.**
5. **God’s grace is saving grace. NOTE: Ephesians 2:1-10.**
6. **God’s grace helps us through trials. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.**
7. **GOD’S GRACE EDUCATES US IN SANCTIFICATION – Titus 2:12-14**
8. **“Teaching” has the idea of “disciplining.” We are disciplined by God’s grace, trained to be the kind of people that glorify Him.” (Warren Wiersbe).**
9. **We, as believers in Jesus Christ, experiencing God’s grace, should be “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts.” (Titus 2:12).**
10. **We are to “live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” (Titus 2:12b).**
11. **Please notice The Expectation of Grace in Titus 2:13, “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”**

**CONCLUSION: Past – “the grace of God has appeared.” Present – “The grace of God is teaching us about Sanctification. Future: The grace of God is operative in our lives to help us to be “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” AMEN! PRAISE THE LORD!!!!**