

Community Group Study Questions

For the week of February 16, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1 As an adult or youth, have you ever been given a gift you did not deserve? Why were you undeserving? How did you respond after receiving the gift?

3 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

TITUS: DIGGING DEEPER INTO GRACE

1 At this point we are more than halfway through our study on Titus. Let's take some time to review. Feel free to refer to your notes or to Titus 1-2 for your answers.

1. From what you remember (or from your Bible) what are the main themes of this study?
2. Why did Paul write this letter to Titus?
3. What were the people of Crete like? (Are there passages that tells us?)
4. How did Paul instruct Titus to bring needed changes to the churches on Crete?

2 This week, Kyle looked at Titus 2:11-15
Read through this passage in your group and circle any words or phrases that you think are associated with salvation. Also, highlight anything that you would like to discuss or know more about.

Titus 2:11-15 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our 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 lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

1. What words did you circle that relate to salvation? Why?
2. Try to give a summary of what you know about grace in one sentence.
3. According to our passage (or from your sermon notes) what are the things that grace trains us in?

4. Kyle mentioned that we have many valid reasons for saying no to temptations. But sometimes we find ourselves attempting to manufacture self-control. What are some reasons why you say no to temptation? Why are some of these poor motivators?

“God will get me”
“it will hurt my self-esteem”
“it’s against my principles”

“people will find out”
“it will hurt other people”
“I will look bad”

“I’ll hate myself in the morning”
“it’s against the law—I’ll be caught”
Other

5. What does this passage teach us about where our motivation for good works comes from? If you have ever felt defeated and stuck in sins you can’t seem to be free from, what about this passage gives you hope?
6. Until we are with Christ, we will stumble and fall. But scripture gives us many instructions of how we can overcome sin. According to Galatians 5:16, and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, what do we learn about how we can/will overcome sin in our lives?

Galatians 5:16 *But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.*

2 Cor. 3:17-18 ¹⁷ *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

3 Below are some passages that reveal how grace is the foundation for our salvation. What do these passages tell us? What do they teach us about how we are justified (declared righteous) and saved? Where does the grace come from?

NKJV Rom. 3:21-26 ²¹ *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation (sacrifice that satisfies) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

NIV Gal. 2:15-21 ¹⁵ *"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*

¹⁷ *"But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.*

²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

NKJV Eph. 2:4-10 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

TAKING IT HOME

- 1 This passage is one of the core passages of scripture that every Christian should memorize and meditate on. Will you memorize this passage? If so, tell the other members of your group so the group can help you and hold you accountable to memorize it.

- 3 Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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