

**First Baptist Church Merritt Island**  
**Executive Pastor Carey Dean**  
**January 4, 2026**  
**Something More**  
**Titus 2:11-15**

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The beginning of a new year has a way of doing something to us. It makes us look back at where we've been and look ahead to where we're going. We all enter the new year in different places. Some excited for all ahead. Some weary from all that has occurred. Some come carrying questions still unanswered.

And often, no matter how we enter a new year, there is a recurring thought within us, "There has to be something more..." Not more stuff. Not more things on the calendar. Just more of something I can't quite name. That thought is really a question of the heart, "There has to be something more to this. What is it?"

These words are very personal to me. It was my exact question 27 years ago and it began the walk with Jesus that I had been longing for. But this morning is not about my story. Because what I discovered was this: That question was not original to me. And it was answered in God's Word long before anyone ever asked it.

Before we read our passage for this morning, let me give you some context. The Apostle Paul is not writing to spiritual outsiders. He's writing to believers: people who've heard the gospel, professed Christ, and begun to follow Him.

But like many in this room, they needed something more than information. They had received grace through faith. But they hadn't yet learned how to live inside it. And that is exactly what Paul shows us in Titus 2.

Our passage this morning Titus 2:11-15. If you're able, would you stand and read God's Word with me?

***Titus 2:11-15***

***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.***

Grace Appeared To Us — verse 11

When we hear the word *grace*, most of us already have a category for it. We sing familiar lyrics like “Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me” We quote favorite verses like, “For by grace you have been saved through faith.” We’ve heard helpful definitions like “Grace is God’s unmerited favor” or “God’s riches at Christ’s expense.”

And all of that is absolutely true and helpful for our understanding. But we do need to be reminded that when the Bible talks about grace, it’s not describing a feeling or an abstract spiritual idea. It’s declaring what God has done by sending His Son in human flesh.

Look at how Paul begins. It is not with a command. He begins with an announcement. And it is the place we too must begin.

***Titus 2:11***

***“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.”***

Paul says it clearly and emphatically: God's Grace. Has Appeared. This is the language of history, the language of incarnation.

Listen to how Scripture reinforces the same truth:

*Galatians 4:4-5*

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...”*

*Luke 2:40*

*“And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the grace of God was upon him.”*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”*

God's grace has appeared in and through Jesus. And grace brought with it the greatest gift of all: “salvation for all people...” The grace of Christ comes to all people, wherever they are. Paul does not mean everyone is automatically saved. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and **in** Christ alone.

But what he is saying is this. Grace is not bound by time or place, ethnicity or status. That was true 2000 years ago. And it is true right now in this room. Paul begins with what God has already done. So, the "something more" we long for is not something we do for God. It begins with believing what God has already done for us in Christ.

And everything Paul is about to teach us flows from that truth.

## Grace Trains Our Life — verse 12

Grace appeared to save us, but God's answer to "something more" doesn't stop at forgiveness. The beauty of grace is that it does not leave us as it finds us. Jesus did not leave the woman at the well in her shame. She left known. Jesus did not leave Peter in his failure. He left restored.

The grace of Jesus not only changes us, it stays with us. Paul tells us in verse 12 that God's grace is:

### ***Titus 2:12***

***training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age***

So, the same grace that appeared bringing salvation, now trains our life in Christ. For some of us, that may be a very new way to think about grace. The grace of God is not a one-time event of salvation.

It is our lifelong trainer. His grace, not the law, is actively shaping and forming us. Let me tell you what that kind of grace looks like in real life, because the LORD taught this to me in a season I didn't expect.

When our kids were in their pre-teen years, I was exhausted as a parent. It felt like the days were just filled with constant correcting and disciplining of my kids. And then, every once in a while, there would be a moment when one of them would make a really good choice. And instead of celebrating it, I found myself frustrated.

I remember thinking, "If you can do that once, why can't that be who you are all the time?" And then the Lord stopped me. He showed me something I had missed. They weren't rebelling against who they were. They were still figuring **out** who they were. But I did know. As their dad, I could see something in them they couldn't see in themselves.

So, the Lord gave me a simple instruction. The next time one of those good moments happened, I was to stop everything. I was to put my hands on their cheeks, look them in the eyes, and say: "This, this right here, is who you are. Your dad sees you. And I want you to know this is who you are."

And then, this part mattered, I was to say: "And I know that in a few minutes, you're going to forget who you are and do something foolish again. But even when you don't know who you are, your dad still loves you. And I see Jesus doing something really special in you."

I didn't do that perfectly. But God was doing something in me. Because even now, years later, I still hear His grace saying to my own heart: "No, Carey—that's not who you are." Or "Yes—this is who you are in Christ."

That's what grace does. It doesn't just forgive you and walk away. It trains you, patiently, into who you already are.

Paul names two pillars to represent the whole of flesh: He says it in this way:

***Titus 2:12***

***Training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions...***

Paul doesn't list every sin; He goes to the root. Grace trains us to say "no" to sin. Temptation is relentless, but grace's pursuit is stronger, and it does not let go.

***Romans 6:14***

***For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.***"

Grace does not just remove what will enslave us; it forms what is good and right within us. ***“And to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...”***

Paul describes what grace trains us to say "yes" to. A life that is self-controlled. Upright. Godly. These are not so God will love us, because in Christ, He already does. This is Christ being formed in us, in the way we think, relate, and walk every day.

And here's the part we all need to hear: God's grace is training us for our whole life. And if that feels slow it's because God's work in us is steady and patient.

Let me give you a picture of what I mean when I say, "Grace trains us over time." Right now, in this room, some of our brothers and sisters are hearing this service through translation. I'm speaking in English, and they're hearing it in Spanish. And I just want to say: we're glad you're here. You belong here.

If you've ever learned a second language, you know how it goes. At first you depend on translation. Then you start catching words and phrases. And over time, you begin to understand, and even think, in that language.

That's what God's grace does. Grace trains you, step by step, until the gospel you believe becomes the gospel you naturally live. "Something more" isn't becoming someone you are not. It's patiently learning who you already are in Christ.

**Grace Fixes Our Hope — verse 13**

And Paul shows us that grace not only teaches us who we are; It teaches us how to wait for His return.

***Titus 2:13***

***“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”***

Verse 11 told us God's grace had appeared: that was Christ's first coming. Verse 13 tells us we are waiting for the appearing of His glory: that is Christ's second coming. And between those two comings of Christ is the life we are living right now. And it is God's grace that teaches us how to wait without losing heart. This is important, because waiting refines us and exposes what we really believe.

Grace is not just sustaining us while we wait; it prepares us for what we're waiting for. It is shaping us for the day when faith becomes sight. Paul says it this way in 1

*Thessalonians 5:23*

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

And that hope changes how we live here and now. We are not clinging to this world as if it is all there is. The "something more" is not found in clinging to this world, but in letting grace prepare us for what's to come.

Grace Forms a People — verse 14

Paul ends this passage with where God's grace has been heading all along.

*Titus 4:14*

*...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.*

Paul speaks in finished terms. Jesus has redeemed us. He has purified us. That changes how we read this verse. For some of us, this passage sounds like pressure. As if Jesus did His part, and now we must perform something to prove we are redeemed to God. That is not the voice of grace, that is the voice of the law.

Paul isn't placing a burden on us here. He's declaring a core truth for our hearts to believe and enjoy: Christ's work is enough. Abide in Him and enjoy being relentless in your obedience to Him.

You are not trying to become God's people. If you have Christ alive in you, you already are. You are not trying to earn purity. You have been declared righteous in Christ by God Himself.

God's grace does not invite us to strive our way into His kingdom. Grace teaches us to believe and live in the reality we already inhabit. This is where "something more" finally comes into full focus. Something more is not something added to your life. Something more is learning to live in the grace of Christ already at work in you. God's grace forms a people who learn to live together in this reality. Together we stand as His possession, His people who are:

- Thankful for God's saving grace.
- Surrendered to God's forming grace.
- Held by God's grace as we wait for His return.
- United as the people grace has made His own.