

1. Our LifeLines verse for November 6 will be 1 Samuel 13:14.
2. LifeLines will meet through Monday, November 13!

LifeLines October 30, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

The "Letter of Paul to Titus" is one of 3 pastoral epistles concerned about the care of the church & the beginnings of the organizational life of the church. Paul considered Titus a "loyal child," & left him in Crete to complete the founding of the church there. In this letter (written from Nicopolis, in Macedonia about 63 AD, after Paul was released from his first imprisonment in Rome), Paul went to great lengths to give concise instruction as to how the older men & women, younger men & women, slaves & everyone else should conduct themselves according to sound doctrine.

This is a short book of the Bible, & *extra credit* is eagerly extended to you if you read all 3 short chapters. You might find some interesting parallels to today!

In our LifeLines verse, Paul turned the focus of the letter from the Christians of Crete to a discussion of God's grace & it's availability to *all* people. You see, Titus was a Gentile, & so was the territory of Crete!

Let's review some Biblical definitions. *Salvation* = being saved from sin. *Grace* = undeserved favor; the gift of divine life, something that can't be earned, but is freely given. Grace is part of God's very character. *All* = self explanatory!

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

AMP

For the (remarkable, undeserved) grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

God has shown us underserved grace by coming to save all people.

EASY (Easy English Bible)

God has shown us clearly how very kind He is. He has come to save all people.

ERV (Easy-to-Read Version)

That is the way we should live, because God's grace has come. That grace can save everyone.

GNT

For God has revealed His grace for the salvation of all people.

GW

After all, God's saving kindness has appeared for the benefit of all people.

MSG

God's readiness to give & forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone!

NASB/AMP

For the grace of God (His unmerited favor & blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin *and* the eternal salvation for all mankind.

NCV

That is the way we should live, because God's grace that can save everyone has come.

NKJV

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

NLT

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

TLB

For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

For the grace of God...How do we *receive* God's grace, if it's free? By trusting Jesus, the Christ! God's grace is entirely wrapped up in His Son! The grace God gives us cost His Son His life, through death on the cross. It is God's *grace* that enables us to live the life He intends we should live. Remember last week's verse: "For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will & to work for His good pleasure." Please see the connection with recently studied verses!

has appeared...In His first coming, Jesus appeared to Jews & Gentiles. It was their decision to believe or not to believe who He was. The same is true for us today. Many know *of* Jesus, His time on earth & His teachings, but they still don't know Him, *personally*, as the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. (Verses 12-13 go on to say some things His grace came to do: train us to renounce worldly passion, to live lives that are self-controlled, upright & godly while we await the manifestation of His second coming.)

Some believers fear their unbelieving friends & relatives may never have heard the gospel news or been exposed to Jesus, our Lord. Scripture & theologians tell us this isn't the case. God, who withholds no good thing would never prevent anyone from knowing Him. (See more in the **Summary**.)

bringing salvation...We needn't shy away from this "church" word. We should embrace it! Salvation is about God becoming a man, dying the death *we* deserve because of our sinful nature & deeds, rising from death to new life, & sending the Holy Spirit to live in & empower us to do the same things He did. (Recall how often we've used the term *power* in our studies. God has gifted us with power. How are we using it in our lives & for the lives of those we love?) God empowers us to love in a divine way by *pouring* His life into us. His grace brought us salvation, *at His appearing!* He has saved us from our sins!

to all...It is God's grace that brings to *us*, to *everyone* our salvation. It can come from no other source. Read Psalm 84:11, below. Why would our good God withhold anything from those He loves? His grace includes His abiding presence, strength, power, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (all the Fruit of the Spirit *His Spirit* avails us), & so much more.

These things are part of His character, His nature. He wants them to be a part of our character & nature, too, because *we are made in His image*. He wants to make us capable of responding to Him, knowing Him, loving Him. From our October 16 LifeLines, we were reminded that we are children of God, & even *power runs in our family!*

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Isaiah 1:18-19, Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing & obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

Psalms 84:11, For the Lord God is a sun & shield; He bestows favor & honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalms 91:16, With long life I will satisfy them (referring to those who love God), & show them My salvation.

Luke 15:7, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance.

John 1:14, And the Word became flesh & lived among us, & we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace & truth.

John 1:17, The law indeed was given through Moses; grace & truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:18, No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made Him known.

John 14:9b, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."

John 14:18, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

Romans 5:21, So that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:29, For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn within a large family.

Romans 8:32, He who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not with Him also give us everything else?

Romans 10:9, Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 2:10, These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Galatians 3:28, There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:9-10, He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven & things on earth.

Philippians 2:11, And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Timothy 2:4, (God our Savior) Who desires everyone to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 1:10, But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death & brought life & immortality to light through the gospel.

Titus 2:14, He it is who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity & purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 3:6-7, This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:9, For you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SUMMARY

The grace Jesus brought to us is the catalyst for “bringing salvation for all people,” not just Jews (as formerly expected), due to the fact they were considered the “chosen people.” God’s grace is something that should encourage all believers toward right behavior & right thinking. God’s grace is the foundation on which traits such as self-control, respect & godliness are built. These are ideas Paul commanded Titus to teach boldly & with authority. We need to view God’s grace from this perspective, too.

What about those we don’t think have met God the Son or God the Father? In the OT, God revealed Himself 8 times – 3 times as a man, 4 times as the Angel of the Lord, & as a burning bush that wasn’t consumed. For *extra credit*, read about them: Genesis 16:9-13, Genesis 18:1-33, Genesis 22:11-14, Genesis 32:24-43, Exodus 3:2-4 & 17, Judges 6:11-18 & 21-24, Judges 13:2-23, Daniel 3:23-29. *God won’t miss a trick to make Himself known!*

CONCLUSION

Jesus, who brought salvation through God’s grace, affects moral change & so much more, in believers. He makes salvation available to everyone. He has no secrets. He wants all to come to faith & belief so all can be together in heaven with Him & His Father throughout eternity! He explained that we have eternal life *now* (John 17:3), & the assurance of salvation is also ours!

Throughout history, historians & missionaries to places God’s Word can barely reach tell us that even ancient cultures shared stories (oral tradition) of the divine nature seen & experienced in creation & their surroundings. God still reveals Himself today through His creation, His glory, natural laws, the written Word, His Holy Spirit, personal experiences people have, miracles, divine encounters, testimonies of believers & more. Reread John 14:18. He has revealed Himself to all. Some of us have met Him & know Him. Some have had a casual encounter, & one day, they will realize they did, indeed, meet the risen Lord, & they will give thanks! Reread Luke 15:7.

~ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. ~

Let Titus 2:11 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Take a minute or two & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:
