The Grace of God
Titus 3:3-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Someone said that grace is “God’s Redemption At Christ’s Expense.” I’m excited today to tell you what the grace of God can do in your _________. I believe you’ll get excited, too. We know the Lord’s Way is the right way, and we search the Scriptures because we know the Bible is always _________.

When you say salvation is a _________, some people think it’s too good to be true. They figure they must ________ their way to heaven by doing some great thing. They can’t imagine God giving us His ___________, the forgiveness of our sins, and a home in heaven. Today, we’re asking the question, “What does it ___________ to be saved by the grace of God?”

Someone has taken the word grace and made the acrostic “G-R-A-C-E” “God's Redemption At Christ's Expense.” This is a fairly ___________ description of grace. The word grace (in Greek charis) means “__________.” The distinguishing factors of God's grace are twofold: first, God's grace is a gift and is not ___________; and second, God's grace is undeserved. Usually we think of having to _________ a place of favor with others, but God gives us his favor as a gift.

God accepts, loves, and blesses the person who stands in His grace. In spite of one’s past, when a person is ___________ in the blood of Jesus Christ, he stands in a right relationship and in the favor of God. Even though we ___________ to be punished for our sins, God graciously ___________ us and no longer holds our transgressions against us. In Christ, we became ________ creatures, transformed into children of God, and transferred into the kingdom of God. In Christ, God hears our ___________ and gives us every spiritual blessing.

Our scripture reading today comes from Paul’s letter to Titus, chapter 3, verses 3 to 7. You can’t ________ God’s grace; it’s a gift. In Romans 4:4 the apostle Paul says, “Now when a man ________, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his _________ is credited as righteousness.” Grace is not a ________ for our labors, a ________ for our winning a competition, or an ________ for our meritorious efforts. Grace is a gift. When a man can earn no wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award, yet receives a wondrous gift, he has been given unmerited ________ or undeserved ___________. That’s what God, in his love, has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-10 helps us to understand how God has ________ us and ________ us. Read what the apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:1-3. Sin causes a person to be spiritually _________. It’s not merely an inappropriate act; sin ________ one spiritually.

Read Ephesians 4-7. I’ve found that some of the most wonderful sections of the Bible begin with the word “_________.” We were spiritually dead, but that’s not the ________ of the story. God, rich in mercy and love, ________ us by His grace.
Read Ephesians 2:8-10. We’re saved by grace through __________. It takes both. We’re not saved by grace alone or by faith alone, but by grace through faith. Grace reflects _______ that God does in our lives to bring us home to Him. Faith reflects our ______________ of trust and love and obedience to the grace that He’s given us.

God’s grace __________ through faith. God desires that we appreciate his great gift by ____________ to him in faith. Read what Paul said in Titus 3:3-5. God chose to __________ us and __________ us as an act of loving kindness. How does He wash us?

This washing that regenerates and renews is when we are born again in ______________. By faith, when we ___________ and are ______________, God washes us clean from sin and causes us to be born again into His family. The faith that matters to God is a faith that is ___________ to trust God enough to accept His teaching and His blessing by obediently responding. In Galatians 3:26-27, the Bible says, “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through __________. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have __________ _______ Christ.”

This means the faith that saves, the faith that Paul had in mind, which responds to grace is an ______________ faith. We are sons of God by faith, but this is a faith that will ___________ and be ___________. For it is in baptism that God causes us to be ___________ _______ and we “put on Christ.” In baptism, God grants to us all the blessings and favor that goes with being a Christian. What a great God we have! Baptism is not, as Paul said, some ___________ that we do to earn salvation. It’s how we lovingly _________ Him in faith because He asks us to be baptized.

Obedience is not the same thing as ___________. Let’s say I had a treasure worth $100,000 hidden in my backyard and I told you that I would give it to you, provided you go and _______ it up. Do you really believe that that _______ minutes of digging earned that $100,000 for you? You met a ____________ for a gift by obeying my words. You didn’t earn the gift; you merely received it by doing what I _________ you to do. That’s how it is in salvation. We don’t earn salvation by repenting or being baptized; we merely ___________ with God’s conditions for receiving the gift.

In Numbers 21, the children of Israel, while wandering in the wilderness, came to the land of Edom where they grumbled and spoke against God, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to _______ in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food (that is, the manna).” The Lord became ___________ and “he sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. The people repented and confessed their sin. They asked Moses to intercede for them with God, and Moses asked God to ___________ the serpents.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “You make a fiery serpent (that is, out of bronze), and you set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he _________ at it, he will live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and he set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he ________ (Numbers 21:8-9). All they had to do was to look by __________ on the serpent. They didn’t earn their healing, but they did have to comply with God’s ______________. Obeying is not the _________ as earning. Obedience is an act of faith and trust that God will keep his ______________.

In John 9, Jesus encountered a man who was born __________. Jesus wanted to heal this man and show the power of God, so He spat on the ground, and he got a little of the dirt, and He made clay of
the spittle, and He applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, _______ in the pool of Siloam” (which translated means Sent). So he went away and he washed, and he came back _______ (John 9:6-7). Who would argue that washing in a pool is the _______ as earning his eyesight? The man earned nothing, but he believed strongly enough to _______ what Jesus told him to do. Faith is not merely accepting. It is trusting enough to do what the Lord asks us to do!

Let me make it very clear that the Bible does not teach that baptism is how we _______ salvation. But the Bible does teach that baptism is ______________ to salvation—just as looking on the brass serpent was necessary, just as washing in the pool of Siloam was necessary.

God _______ us to see if we really love Him and believe in Him. These tests are God’s ______________, not ours. He gave them to us; we didn’t make them up ourselves. When we meet God’s conditions, we say to Him, “We trust You enough to _____ what you _____ of us. We know that You will keep Your ________.” God’s grace is so wonderful, and we must _______ cheapen it or presume upon it. People presume on God’s grace by ___________ the conditions or by setting those conditions aside. They presume God’s ___________ whether they respond rightly to Him or not.

Some people think the grace of God means I can ___________ to Him any way I want to. They think grace has _____ conditions at all. Do you think the blind man would have argued with Jesus about doing it, and wanting to do it his _____ way if he really wanted to see? Do you think that the Israelites would have argued about looking on the serpent? Why then does anyone argue about repentance or baptism today? Wouldn’t it be better just to _______ God and _______ Him?

The New Testament contains the _______ covenant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This new covenant contains what God __________ His people and what God _______ of His people. In this covenant God is the benefactor who gives _______ to us than can ever be _______ or earned. If we _______ our blessings, they include salvation, continued forgiveness of sin, eternal life, the right to pray, and son-ship. I tell you if we lived for thousands of years, we could never _______ God for what He has done for us. God doesn’t _______ repayment. God expects love, loyalty, and obedient faith from His children.

Jesus said, “If you _______ Me, you will _______ My commandments” (John 14:15). Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My _______; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23). Faithful obedience is not some _______ of legalism or works righteousness or anything else; obedient faith is _______. Paul said, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith ___________ through love” (Galatians 5:6). When we love the Lord and we want to _______ Him, we’re willing to do everything He asks and do it the _______ that He wants it done. We won’t argue with Him about it.

So, when the Lord asks us to believe, we’re willing to _______ Him and His word completely. When the Lord asks us to ___________ of our sins, love turns us away from sin that
God. We couldn’t imagine continuing to __________ the God who’s been so good
to us and blessed us. When Jesus asks us to __________ Him before others, we’ll gladly say to
the whole world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is Lord and He is the Messiah, the Christ!

When Jesus says to us in Mark 16:16, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be
__________,” we believe Him. We’re baptized because we ________, because we ________, and
we do it to ________ God. The Bible says, “Therefore we have been buried with Him through
baptism into ________, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the
Father, so we too might ________ in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). If the baptism of the New
Testament is immersion, and it is, then I will be immersed without __________ so that I might
be able to __________ God.

In Acts 2:38, the Bible commands us to “repent and be baptized.” That commandment is in the
__________ voice, not the active. The active voice is used when the subject __________ an
action, but the passive voice is used when the subject is being acted ________ by someone else.
In baptism _______ performs the action of saving us; and we are passive, __________ God’s
grace and forgiveness. Let God’s grace work on you in baptism. Let God cleanse your soul; let
God bury you and then raise you up with Christ; let God give you newness of life; let God add
you to His church. God does all this ________ we’re baptized into Christ and His death.

Sometimes people say, “Well, you don’t have to be baptized to be saved!” But, they’re
missing the point. God works His grace on us __________ baptism into Christ. If you love
Christ Jesus, and I know you do, let Him save you through the ________ that regenerates.
That washing God gives you is in __________.

God gives laws for our _________. God doesn’t give laws to __________ or to enslave us.
He doesn’t dream up __________ laws just to prove that He is in charge. No! God gives us His
laws to __________ us from troubles in life. Even the law of God is gracious to us. As a loving
parent, God’s concern is for our _________. Psalm 103:13 says, “Just as a father has
compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who ________ Him.”
Everything God does, He does to favor and bless us. When we understand that, we’ll see God
with__________ eyes.

Read Titus 2:11-14. God wants to bless you richly by __________ you with His Word, the
Bible! Let Him do it.

Where are you in your life, your spiritual life? Do you have a close, loving, peaceful
relationship with God? Are you at ________ in your soul? God hasn’t left you; it may be that
you’ve left God. You can draw close to Him again by ________ in Him, by __________ His
Word. So _________ in the Lord Jesus, and __________ of your sins, step out and
__________ Him before others, and be __________ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts
2:38). It may be that as a Christian brother or sister you’ve wandered away from ________, and
you’ve wandered away from the __________, and you need to come back home. My friend, do it
today! Let God’s grace back into your life.