

2026: LIVING IN GOD'S GRACE

Sunday, January 11, 2026 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

TITUS 2:11-15

English Standard Version (ESV)

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.

CONTEXT:

The Apostle Paul leaves Titus in Crete to straighten out several corrupted churches. 1:5
The churches had problems with doctrine, ungodly leadership and worldliness.
Titus is to appoint new leaders who will establish sound doctrine and holy living.

MAIN THEME:

God's saving grace does not merely forgive us—it forms us for life in the present age.
The same grace that saves us also trains us to live godly lives while we wait for glory.

1. Grace has appeared — giving us a totally new foundation.

vs 11 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...*

Salvation is available to all.

(vs 1-10 — old men, young men, old women, young women, free or slaves)

Salvation comes through grace.

Crete was a mess! There was a great deal of immorality and ungodliness.

Paul doesn't begin the call to reform law, culture war or shame.

Paul begins with GRACE REVEALED!

For 2026:

SHERIDAN HILLS — We do not trust in clever schemes but Christ's finished work at Calvary.

YOUR FAMILY — Godliness at home begins with grace received, not pressure imposed.

YOU — You do not outgrow grace— you build your life on it.

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Grace is **not** the reward of godliness, instead, it is the root of it.

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2. Grace Trains Us — Our Present Formation.

vs 12 ...training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

training = child rearing, disciplined development or formation

Grace is **not** passive but active! It educates, disciplines, shapes our habits.

Notice the bi-directional nature of grace:

<u>Negative:</u> renounce ungodliness and worldly passions	(Don't!)
<u>Positive:</u> live self-controlled, upright, godly lives	(Do!)

For TITUS:

The false teachers promoted empty talk and ungodly living.

Sound doctrine must produce godly living.

FOR 2026:

SHERIDAN HILLS — We form a counter culture that is unlike the world.

YOUR FAMILY — Our homes are training grounds, not performance stages.

YOU — Spiritual growth is learned and glad obedience, not robotic response.

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Grace doesn't lower God's standard—it empowers obedience.

ROMANS 6:1

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

*8 For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

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3. Grace Reorients Our Hope — Our Future Expectation.

vs 13 ...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

- For a true Christian, the way we live is deeply affected by our future hope in Christ.
- The second '*appearing*' fuels faithfulness for everyone between Christ's first appearing in Bethlehem and his second appearing as he comes with the clouds (Rev. 1:7; Matt 26:64; Zech 12:10)
- Our hope is not in circumstances improving but in Christ returning!

For TITUS:

Cretan culture (like ours) lives for the immediate moment.
 Paul calls them to anchor their hope in eschatological hope.
 Notice that Paul identifies Jesus as '*our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*'.

For 2026:

SHERIDAN HILLS — We encourage one another to remember our blessed hope.

YOUR FAMILY — We train our marriages and parenting on our future reward.

YOU — Your deepest pains and fears can be calmed by fixing your eyes on the PROMISE.

KEY PRINCIPLE:

We live godly lives **not** to earn the future—but because the future is secure.

4. Grace Redeems an Entire People (God's People) — Our Identity TOGETHER.

vs 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."

NOTICE! The great hope of our life in 2026 goes back to the power and beauty of CHRIST'S SACRIFICE to redeem us and purify us... so that we may live for Him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) When you think about 2026 what is your greatest concern?
- 2) When you think about 2026 what is your greatest hope?
- 3) How does the reality of the Cross of Christ and all that it represents affect these?