



## Titus 2: 11-15

Opening question: What hinders people from coming into relationship with Christ?

### Background:

Verses 11 and 12 in the Message paraphrase read "God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honouring life."

There weren't many followers of Christ in Crete. As we've been discussing in previous weeks, Paul's letter to Titus focusses on teaching these Christians to live "The Good Life" so that others see this different and appealing life and are drawn to it. These verses make it clear – Salvation is for everyone in Crete, and for us today – Salvation is available for everyone in our local community, our city, our country and our world.

The NIV (New International Version) uses the word "grace" to describe "God's readiness to give and forgive" (verse 11). Grace can be defined as God's unmerited favour – God saving us and forgiving us and blessing us and wanting a relationship with us. What should a Christian response to this grace be? In relation to our own lives, this passage says grace shows us how to turn our back on a godless indulgent life and how to take on a God-filled and God-honouring life.

What about our impact on non-believers – how can we live this grace filled life in order to show them God's love?

Read Ephesians 2:8. How does this enhance the description of grace in Titus.

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Who do you find it difficult showing grace to? What circumstances make it hard?

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What do you think about the idea of salvation being available to everyone? Do you think some people are unable to receive salvation because of the way they currently live their life, and if so, how does this relate to verses such as these Titus ones and John 3:16?

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What does it look like to show God's grace to people? Is it treating them without judgement and negativity, or is it more than that?

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Why should you show grace to people who don't deserve it?

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The last verse says not to let anyone despise you. Do you think this is possible? What should we aim for?

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*Going deeper:*

What dilemmas might grace bring into our daily lives?

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