

I. Introduction

A. I'm going to say 2 words; write down the first word or thought that comes to mind:

1. Discipline:

2. Grace:

B. Oxymoron: "A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction with one another," like "The Discipline of Grace!"

II. Definitions of Discipline:

A. Teaching, instruction, tutoring, learning doctrine

B. A branch of knowledge acquired through study and research requiring scholarly training.

"All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and training in righteous so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for ever good work, that God prepared in advance for us to do." 2 Timothy 3:16

What would motivate that kind of "discipline?"

III. Grace!

A. The word Grace used in 38 times in the O.T. and 130 times in the N.T.

The word "**Grace and Peace**" (Not an oxymoron) are together, in that order, only 17 in the N.T. (NIV); none in the gospels, but all in the epistles as part of introductions by Apostles Paul, Peter, or John; except for twice in the Book of Revelations: 1:4 and the last sentence in the Old Testament Revelation 22:21.

Matthew Henry commentary concerning the Grace she received:

"He (*Jesus*) commended her faith, "Oh woman, great is thy faith. Observe: it is her faith that he commends. There were several other graces that shone bright in her conduct of this affair – wisdom, humility, meekness, patience,

perseverance in prayer; but these were the product of her faith, and therefore Christ fastens upon that as most commendable; because of all graces faith honors Christ most, therefore, of all graces Christ honors faith most.”

B. Definition of Grace

1. “A Graciousness shown by God to man; esp., His divine favor unmerited by man; the mercy of God as distinguished from is justice...In Theology, **grace is a free gift of God** to man for his regeneration and sanctification; and impetus and influence emanating from God and operative for the spiritual well-being of the recipient; as, (**prevenient grace**) (Theologically: grace that operates on the human will in turning us to God);

Ephesians 2:8-9: “For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not works so that no one can boast.”

2 Timothy 1:8-10: “So do not be ashamed to testify about or Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done, but by his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Titus 3:4-7: “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth, and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

1 Corinthians 15:10: “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than them all, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

Galatians 2:21: “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.”

2. illuminating grace

1 Corinthians 2:9-12:”No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,’ but God has revealed it ot us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, ever the deep things of God. For who among men knows

the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thought of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."

Luke 24:44-45: *"He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you; Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'" Then he opened their minds so that could understand the Scriptures."*

Two leading conceptions are:

*That **grace is a supernatural gift** bestowed on man for his salvation, through the merits of Jesus Christ; as, **sacramental graces**; and co-operating **with grace**.*

*That **Grace is the operation of divine love**, as manifested in God's taking the initiative toward reconciliation with man and in his forgiveness of the repentant sinner.*

1 John 4:9-10: *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

*A state of acceptance with, or of being pleasing to God, because of obedient to **his grace**; enjoyment of the divine favor; often, more fully, in **the state of grace**. A Virtue of moral excellence regarded as coming from God; a Christian virtue; as, **the graces of self-denial, humility, love, etc.***

A definition in Wycliffe Bible Dictionary states it like this: **"Grace: the concept of grace is many sided and subject to development in Scripture."**

3. My Definitions:

"God's unmerited favor."

"The Discipline of Grace: "The teaching and instruction of Scripture as it pertains to God's unmerited favor."

4. Just a few examples

Remember the word "grace" is found in the KJV 168 time, not including the word "gracious," or the many other words in the Bible that "mean" grace without using the word grace. You can look these up on your own for lack of time here; I'll categorize them:

The Grace of God and Jesus Christ: (Psalm 84:11; Luke 2:40; John 1:16; Acts 20:24; Romans 11:5; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 5:5)

Salvation through Grace: (Act 15:11; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; Titus 3:7; 1 Peter 1:10)

Effects of Grace: (2 Corinthians 1:12; Titus 2:11; 1 Peter 4:10)

5. What does all this have to do with Believers?

*“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come.” **(2 Corinthians 1:21-22) (That is Grace!)***

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through I knowledge of Him who called us His own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” (2 Peter 1:4-5) **(That’s the “Discipline of Grace” made active in our lives!)***

Note: Because Titus 2:11-14 is one of the most direct teaching of “The Discipline of Grace” I have added an exercise sheet at the end of this message for your “entertainment.”

Titus 2:11-14: *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and **to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**”*

1 John 3:1-3: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.**”

How? By practicing the “The Disciplines of Grace.” So what are some “Disciplines of Grace?” I’ll offer a few that I think are most important and because there so many.

IV. Disciplines of Grace

A. The Discipline of Bible "Reading"

2 Corinthians 3:17-18: _____

1 John 4:4 _____

Romans 8:9-11: _____

Galatians 4:6-7 _____

Philippians 2:12-13 _____

1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 _____

2 Corinthians 5:5 _____

Colossians 1:27 _____

Colossians 3:11 _____

2 Timothy 1:14 _____

1 Peter 1:11 _____

John 14:17-21 _____

1 John 4:12-15 _____

John 17:26 _____

Galatians 3:14 _____

Philippians 1:19 _____

Ephesians 2:19-22 _____

You cannot know God without the Bible (Isaiah 43:10-13; 44:6-8; 45:22-25; 46:8-10)

John 17:3: "Now this eternal life' that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

You cannot be saved without knowing the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

You cannot grow without knowing the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12-13)

You cannot know "The Disciplines of Grace" without the Word of God

You must "eat" regularly (John 5:39-40; John 6:35)

B. The Discipline of Bible “Meditation”

Let me give you contrast between “reading” and “meditation”

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, to those who have been called, who are loved by God, and kept by Jesus Christ: mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.” (Jude 1:1-2)

“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” (Jude 1:24-25)

C. The Discipline of Bible “Memorization”

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Joshua 1:8-9; Psalm 45:1; Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 4:20-22; 22:17-18
2. The fastest 10 minutes of my day!

Try this; write this verse on a 3 X 5 card and for just 10 minutes a day work on memorizing it. See if your 10 minutes don't fly by. Here are verses we all need in this day in which we live:

Psalm 56:3-4: “When I am afraid I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?”

3. Do you every have trouble sleeping? Psalms (23, 32, 49, 103,139)
4. Why is this important? For two main reasons”

Hebrew 5:11-14: “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

D. The discipline of “repentance”

1. Mark 1:14-15

2. Luke 13:1-5
3. 2 Peter 3:9
4. 2 Corinthians 7:10

E. The Discipline of “forgiveness”

1. Matthew 6:14-15
2. Mark 11:25
3. Luke 6:36-37

F. The Discipline of “obedience”

1. John 14:15, 21a, 23a, 24a;
2. Matthew 7:21
3. 1 John 2:4-5

G. The Discipline of “Fruit Bearing” - John 15:16a

H. Other Disciplines of Grace

1. The Discipline of “works”

“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” **(Ephesians 2:8-10)**

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than them all, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” **1 Corinthians 15:10:**

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus; not with uncertainty. Thus I fight, not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring into subjection, less, when I have preached to other, I myself should become disqualified.” **(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)**

2. The Discipline of “the cost”

Psalm 69:4

Luke 6:22

Matthew 10:34-38

John 15:18-21

3. The Discipline of “self-control”

4. The Discipline of “death” (of self)

5. The discipline of “witness”

6. The Discipline of “prayer”

7. The Discipline of “worship”

V. Conclusions - Titus 2:11-14:

Record the themes you see in each verse on the lines below the verse. If other verses outside of Titus come to mind as you’re doing this exercise, include them in your answers. I’m going to leave my answers to the first verse (Titus 2:11) as an example of what I’m asking you to do.

Titus 2:11- “The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” (NIV)

_____ the grace of God is the source of our salvation; not our own effort _____
____ our salvation is made possible by God’s grace, not because we deserve it, but
because of His love (1 John 4:9-10) _____
_____ the grace of God has appeared to all men, not just a few _____

Titus 2:12: “It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” (NIV)

Titus 2:13 “while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (NIV)

Titus 2:14 “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (NIV)

What three answers that you wrote down give you the greatest encouragement for leading a “godly” and God honoring life?