



The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers. Acts 9:31 NLT

Becoming a Church of Renewal

Titus 2:11-14

Have you ever coached a team?

One player I remember was a boy named Charlie. Charlie didn't have to earn a place on the team—he already belonged. What Charlie needed was training.

This is what salvation is like. We can't earn it; we only receive it by grace through faith. But once we belong to Christ, training begins. And when a church is filled with people being trained by grace, renewal begins to happen. That's the church we see in Acts 9:31. That's the church we can become! And Titus 2 shows us what it looks like to be trained by God's grace.

Titus 2 says that the grace of God saves us **and trains us**. Paul tells Christians on Crete not to act like Cretans, but to look like Christ. Here's how:

Grace teaches us how to live for Christ.

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,

In verse 11, he reminds them of God's great salvation in Christ.

In verse 12, he tells them what this salvation looks like in practice.

Salvation rescues us from hell—and from living like hell!

Instead, we are to live self-controlled (**inward life**), upright (**outward life**), and godly lives (**upward life**).

Grace teaches us to look for Christ.

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

Notice how the text mentions the first *and* final coming of Jesus (11, 13).

We are people who have a blessed hope (an empowering hope)!

We don't have to live trapped in doomscrolling, outrage, and despair!

Revelation 5 reminds us that Christ holds the scroll of history!

We suffer differently! Brokenness is not how the story ends!

Grace teaches us to labor for 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.

Grace trains believers to move from consuming to contributing—from merely receiving ministry to becoming useful in the kingdom of God!

Every one of us is being trained by something or someone. Who or what is training you?

Notifications train us. Algorithms train us.

Entertainment trains us. Fear trains us. Outrage trains us. Or we can be trained by the grace of God.

Remember Charlie? By the end of the season, he wasn't the best player on the team. But he

knew where to stand and how to hold the bat. Why? Because training changes people. That's what God's grace does—trains us and changes us. Grace trains us to live for Christ, to look for Christ, and to labor for Christ. And when a church is filled with people being trained by grace, renewal begins to happen. This week, let these three questions lead you to dependence upon the grace of God:

Am I living for Christ?

Am I looking for Christ?

Am I laboring for Christ?

Because saving grace is training grace!