

Firmly Rooted Living

Overview

God's grace brings change; immediate (redeemed, purified), on-going (saying no, saying yes, being zealous for good works) and future (looking for the coming of our great God and Savior Jesus). The firm root of God's grace requires attention be given to these things among God's people through the ministry of declaration, exhortation and admonition.

Introduction

In Titus 2:11-15, the apostle Paul makes it clear that Firmly Rooted Living encompasses life between two "appearings." The first appearing is the grace of God bringing salvation. The second appearing is the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ bringing glory!

The first appearing is the coming of Jesus into the world to "save his people" from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The second appearing is the coming of Jesus in his glory to grant to those blessed by his father the inheritance of the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:31-34).

In between these two "appearings" the various kinds of people who have experienced God's great salvation are to be engaged in good deeds in anticipation of the glorious appearing of Jesus. They are brought together from their diverse backgrounds. They are united on the common foundation of having been purchased by the precious blood of the Lamb. They have been made holy by the work of God's Holy Spirit. Therefore, their passion is no longer for the things of this world. Instead, their passion is a passion to reflect through their good works the radiance of the one who loved them, lived for them, ransomed them by paying for their sin with his blood and lives for them now as their Great High Priest.

- 1. The firm root of grace initiates a transformed life.**
- 2. The firm root of grace invigorates a sanctified life.**
- 3. The firm root of grace instigates a life of anticipation**

Reflection Questions

1. Share with a fellow KSBC member the story of how the grace of God appeared to you. Ask them to share their story with you. Together rejoice in the unique ways God intersected your lives!
2. What specific areas of your life have you identified as being ungodly? Ask a trusted believing friend to help you answer this question. What are the ways the grace of God enables you to say “no” to the areas of your life you have identified?
3. What worldly passions can you identify as your weakness? How is the grace of God training you to renounce these passions?
4. Of the three areas listed in Titus 2:12 (personal, interpersonal, and Godward), with which do you have the greatest challenges? How does the grace of God and the anticipation of his coming help you to overcome these challenges? Praise God for the victories he is granting to you. Ask for his continued help in staying faithful in your daily walk with him.
5. What are specific areas of your life which evidence the growing anticipation you have for the “appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”? Ask for the input of a trusted believing friend.
6. Because of the grace of God in your life, who might you point to a greater anticipation of the coming of Jesus today?