

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.

1 Peter 4:10–11

¹⁰ Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

✠ **Prayer:** Gracious God, thank You for mercy that gives us a new beginning and grace that gives us a greater future. Renew our minds so that we see ourselves, our church, and our tomorrow through the possibilities of Your goodness. Help us recognize the gifts You have placed within us and give us faith to put them to work. Free us from limiting thoughts and awaken us to Your purpose. Let the grace we have received become hope, encouragement, service, and blessing for others. We trust You for more of Your grace, more of Your goodness, and more of Your purpose ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Message Notes:

How To See Your Future Through The Eyes Of Grace

Series: Receive. Release. Repeat.

Kingswood Church

Rural Hall, NC

August 23, 2026

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Romans 12:1–8

¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

³ For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. ⁴ Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, ⁵ in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. ⁶ According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; ⁷ if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; ⁸ if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

{CSB}

✠ **Mainline:** Grace changes the _____ that sees the _____, then changes the _____ the _____ can see.

✠ The Word...in a Word:

Romans 12:1–8 reminds us that the Christian life does not begin with trying harder. It begins with seeing more clearly. Before Paul tells us

what to do, he points us to what God has already done. His mercy becomes the starting place for everything that follows.

Grace changes the way we see what comes next. We no longer have to read tomorrow through the disappointments of yesterday or measure God's possibilities by our present limitations. As God renews the way we think, we begin to recognize His goodness, discern His direction, and face the future with greater faith. Grace does more than change our past; it changes what we believe is possible next.

Paul also reminds us that every believer has a meaningful place in the body of Christ. God has already placed gifts, abilities, experiences, and opportunities within His people, and He intends to use them for His purposes. We don't have to compete with someone else or become someone else. Grace frees us to value what God has given us and faithfully put it to work. **We don't have to become someone else to be used by God; we only have to offer Him what He has already placed within us.**

That's where hope begins to grow. When God's people think through grace, live from mercy, and serve with what He has given them, the future opens with possibility. You may not yet see everything God is preparing, but you can trust the God who is preparing you. His mercy is still at work. His grace is still enough. And because God is still working in you, you can believe He still has more to do through you.

† Questions For Reflection:

- (1) Why does Paul begin with mercy before he talks about surrender? {Romans 12:1}
- (2) What does it mean for your mind to be renewed? {Romans 12:2}
- (3) How does grace help you see yourself more clearly? {Romans 12:3}
- (4) What does the image of one body with many parts teach us about the church? {Romans 12:4–5}
- (5) Which gift in Romans 12:6–8 most closely reflects how God has equipped you? {Romans 12:6–8}

† How To Put It Into Practice In Daily Life:

(1) Offer God What You Have

{Romans 12:1}

Grace received makes surrender a response of gratitude, not a requirement for acceptance.

Action Step:

Begin each morning this week with a simple prayer: "God, everything I am and everything I have is available to You today."

(2) Renew Your Expectations

{Romans 12:2}

Renewed thinking makes room for renewed expectation.

Action Step: Identify one limiting thought you have been repeating about your future. Replace it with a biblical truth about God's grace, goodness, faithfulness, or purpose.

(3) Recognize Your Grace-Given Place

{Romans 12:3–5}

You do not need someone else's place when grace has already given you yours.

Action Step: Ask yourself, "Where has God already positioned me to make a difference?" Choose one relationship, ministry, or opportunity where you can become more intentionally engaged.

(4) Put Your Gift to Work

{Romans 12:6–8}

Grace becomes visible when God's gifts become useful.

Action Step: Choose one gift or strength God has given you and intentionally use it this week. Serve, encourage, teach, give, lead, or show mercy to someone who needs what God has placed within you.

† Bible Passages for Further Study:

Ephesians 2:8–10

⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

