

Introduction: Necessary & Sufficient Conditions

- A *necessary* condition is a condition that must be present for an event to occur.
- A *sufficient* condition is a condition or set of conditions that will produce the event.

Illustration: What do you need to start a fire?

- As we have mentioned in recent weeks, the NT authors often alternate in their letters between _____ (the things that are true of us as believers) and _____ (the things that should characterize us as believers).
 - ⇒ The indicatives can be understood as teaching us the things that are _____ in order for us to live faithfully.
 - ⇒ The imperatives can be understood as instructing us in the _____ of what it actually means to live faithfully.

Key Point: Paul has exhorted the believers in the churches of Crete to live faithfully as His witnesses, and now he describes the necessary work of God's _____ for them and in them that enables that faithfulness.

Sound Doctrine & Godly Living - Titus 2:1-15

Titus 2:11-14—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, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus 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.

- Paul has provided clear instructions to the believers in the churches of Crete regarding what it means for them to live faithfully in their various seasons or stations of life (2:2-10).
 - Older Men → Older Women → Younger Women → Younger Men → Bondservants
- Titus 2:11-14 is the grounds or basis for Paul's prior instructions and is the theological heart of the letter.
 - ⇒ Believers must understand what God has done _____ us and is doing _____ us by His grace (2:11-12).
 - ⇒ Believers must understand the proper _____ that should be maintained (looking forward to the future and back towards the past) in order that we might live faithfully as His people throughout the days of our lives (2:13-14).

The Structure of Titus 2:11-12

Cause: For the grace of God has appeared...

Effect: 1. bringing salvation for all people...
2. training us...

(-) ... (so that) [we] renounce ungodliness and worldly passions...

(+) ... (so that) [we might] live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age

- The believing community is uniquely founded upon and formed by the *appearance* of God's grace. [Cause]
Titus 2:11a—For the grace of God has appeared...
"appeared"—ἐπιφαίνω (*epiphainō*)— Used properly of stars; figuratively, it means to become clearly known, to show oneself.
 - ⇒ Although God _____ related to mankind in prior ages or dispensations (OT times), Paul emphasizes here the special manifestation of God's grace that has been unveiled through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

"In the NT 'grace' is not a blessing or influence from God which we receive, but rather an attribute of God which governs His attitude to man, and it can be defined as the undeserved love and favor of God... The whole essence of grace is that it is undeserved."
—Roy and Revel Hession, We Would See Jesus
- By grace, Jesus has made it possible for sinful mankind to be *declared* righteous. [Effect #1]
Titus 2:11b—...bringing salvation for all people...
 - ⇒ The 'salvation' referred to here must be understood in terms of our _____ (to be declared legally righteous).
Rom. 5:8-9—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
 - ⇒ Christ's work on the cross has paid the full penalty for sin, but that gift is accessed only through _____.
Eph. 2:8—For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

Key Point: Having been reconciled to God through Christ's work on our behalf, we are now fit to live as His _____, bearing witness to the Gospel that has saved us.

- **By grace, Jesus is *training* us in order that we might live faithfully as His disciples. [Effect #2]**

Titus 2:12— training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age
 “*training*”—*παιδεύω (paideuō)*—To assist in the development of a person’s ability to make appropriate choices, to educate/discipline.

- ⇒ The work of God’s grace referred to by this term is our _____ (our growth in what it means to live righteously in the world).
- ⇒ Throughout this instructional process, God remains graciously _____ towards us.

The Purpose of our Training

(–) So that we _____ that which is dishonoring to God.

ἀρνέομαι (arneomai) - To deny; to refuse to pay any attention to, disregard, renounce.

“*ungodliness*”

“*worldly passions*”

“The discipline of grace brings to the mind and soul the goodness and beauty of God, His unfailing love, and His all inclusive provision. When the heart sees the goodness of God and the riches of His grace; [the things of] this world lose their glamor. They are seen as temporal in contrast to the eternal values of God. The believer who realizes that through grace, and grace alone, he has been saved out of the lost and condemned world unto and indescribably glorious eternity with God sets his affection on the things above—not on the things of earth. It is the work of grace to create and sustain this attitude.” — J.F. Strombeck, Disciplined by Grace

- ⇒ The Lord continues to teach us, even through our _____ and our _____, that we are to fully rely upon Him, for He alone is the source of all that is good both in us and in the world.

“To be disappointed in yourself is to have believed in yourself.” — William R. Newell

(+) So that we live _____ lives in the present age.

“*live*”—*ζῶω (zaō)*— To conduct oneself in a pattern of behavior (the manner of one’s life).

- ⇒ In this passage, this verb is in the subjunctive mood (the action is hypothetical). In so far as we rely upon His gracious provision of all that we need for life and godliness, we will properly reflect the reality that we are His followers.

“self-controlled”

“upright”

“godly”

- ⇒ These terms indicate that faithfulness is ultimately expressed in how we conduct _____ and in terms of how it is that we relate to both _____ and _____.

“Grace being God’s infinite and unmerited provision for every need, it is complete in itself without the addition of anything by man. It is only because of God’s grace that God asks man to live in dependence upon Him. Grace on God’s part and dependence upon the part of man are inseparable. Therefore, godly living in this age is possible only under grace. The life which is in complete dependence upon God is not dominated by sin, because the essence of sin is dependence upon self instead of God.” — J.F. Strombeck, Disciplined by Grace

Key Point: Jesus graciously works in the lives of His people in order that they might properly _____ to others the truth of the Gospel message.

Concluding Thoughts

In order to live faithfully as Jesus’ witnesses, we must _____ certain things and _____ them to be true of us.

- ⇒ We need to know the things that are true of our position “in Christ.” (Our _____)

Rom. 6:4—We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

My identity is in _____ God says I am and in _____ God says is true of me!

- ⇒ We need to know the things that should characterize us because of our new identity. (Our _____)

Col. 3:12-15—¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

What God says _____ be true of me, _____ be true of me because of Christ’s work of grace for me and in me!