

## Can't Cancel God's Grace

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Christmas / God's Grace; Christmas; Jesus as a baby; Salvation / Titus 2:11-14

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- › Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Newborn King. Amen.

### English Standard Version Chapter 2

*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.*

On this Most Holy of Nights when we hear once again the story of our Lord's appearing, the Grace of God appeared. Does that mean that God's grace wasn't around in the centuries before? Absolutely not! God's grace has been around since the beginning of time. And Satan and his minions have been trying to cancel it ever since!

This attempt to cancel God's grace began all the way back when the devil slithered his way to Eve and Adam and said to Eve, "Did God really say?" And from the moment that doubt crept into Eve and Adam's head, the devil thought he won, the devil thought he had cancelled God's grace, but yet, God made the promise that a child was to come who would bruise the head of the serpent. He also showed his grace when he clothed Adam and Eve with animal skin.

You can look throughout history and you can see Satan attempt to snuff out God's grace. With the Children of Israel, they tempted him, oh they did, to snuff them out, and each time Moses went to God to plead to the graciousness of God, and God's grace and abundant mercy won out.

God's grace continues to win out throughout history. Evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel tried to kill all the prophets of God even Elijah...but God's grace won out and Elijah survived. The prophets kept declaring that God's grace would win out even when the Israelites were headed for and in exile. God's grace never disappeared. God's grace was never cancelled.

And now we come to tonight...the time that we celebrate the coming of God's grace as a human being. Even after the little baby Jesus was born, the devil continued to try to cancel God's grace. He used Evil King Herod to attempt to kill the baby boy - but he did not succeed. Many innocent little children lost their lives, but yet the truly innocent, the perfect Son of God, God's grace now living as a human being was not destroyed!

For When God's grace appeared, that gracious gift came to bring salvation to all people. Thank God that God's grace appeared!

God's grace appeared to bring salvation for all people, but yet the devil through his scheming still tries to cancel God's grace. 102 years ago, the devil used a virus never seen before to try and do it. Sickness and death occurred. Businesses were shut down, whole cities under lock-down, mask mandates and distancing. Churches were even closed. Yet God's grace was not cancelled. Now 2020, March 17 feels oh so long ago...that was the day that it seemed like our world was coming undone...actually it was 6 days earlier when the Sports World stopped. March 17 I wept at the thought of coming into Lenten services the next day with no one here. I went three months without anyone sitting in the pews, which included the rest of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter and all of the Easter Season, Pentecost and Trinity Sundays. Oh it was difficult...but yet I can tell you this. God's grace was never cancelled. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter was not cancelled. God's grace still lives on.

Fast forward to today, Christmas Eve 2020 and attendance is less then it was a year ago. Who would have thought that we would be here today, a year ago. Not you or me. You hear of people that want to Cancel Christmas. Whether it be a public health crisis or an attack against the Christ Child. Remember in years gone by the attacks on the Nativity Scene in Public places. People would steal the baby Jesus from Nativity Scenes from homes, churches, and other

location. Now this year a nurse in Minnesota received a letter from an anonymous neighbor condemning her for putting up Christmas lights. Dear faithful followers of Jesus no one can cancel Christmas. One cannot cancel the fact that Jesus Christ was born for you. That is fact. Society may try. Government, society and health scares may get in the way of the celebrations. They may even issue mandates. The morals of sinners are so fallen that many try to cancel God's grace in our lives. No human being can cancel God's grace for you. Not even Satan can take away God's grace...which appeared in the baby Jesus and brought Salvation to all men, because He gave Himself up for us. This baby, that was born for you would grow up to die for you.

No matter where you are worshipping with us today...whether it's at home around the TV, Christmas Tree, or sitting at the Dining Room table; or here at the Church....there is Good News for you. Christ Jesus is born for you. On that Silent Night (which probably wasn't so silent...a baby was born and there were animals around), Holy Night, which it was a baby was born for you. This baby is Christ the Lord. This baby is the grace of God appearing in human flesh.

This baby that is the grace of God appearing is God himself in human flesh. This baby that was born for you is your hope this Christmas Season. This baby that is born for you is the very reason that you no one can cancel God's grace. He is your Christmas miracle. He is the one that brings hope and peace and grace. He is the reason that you have hope for life...a life to come.

On this Christmas when we hear pleas to Cancel Christmas...know this even if you are not visiting with family, if you are in quarantine or even battling Covid-19...Christmas is still here...the message of the Christ Child is still for you. One can cancel the human side of the holiday...but one cannot cancel God's grace that was born for you at Christmas.

On This Christmas Eve...remember that God's grace appeared for you in the person of the babe born in Bethlehem, but yet the grace of God was long active before He was born and God's grace continues to be active for you today. He is there with you even now. He is here in the sanctuary. He is sitting beside you on the couch or by the Christmas Tree or even at your Dining Room Table. God's grace is still for you as he continues to forgive sins and to provide you with the

great gifts of life and salvation. No flesh or blood, no Satanic force can cancel God's grace even this Christmas Eve.

In the name of Jesus, our Newborn King. Amen.

- › Now may the peace of God which passes all human understanding, guard your hearts and your minds and keep them focused on Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, our Newborn King. Amen.