

SECOND

CHANCES
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PRECEPT

TITUS 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

PROMISE

Shame tells us that we don't matter, we are not good enough, we can't do it, that it's too late for us, we can't change, we are a loser, and we are a failure. Shame has a powerful way of making us believe these things, but we have an even more powerful God who can restore us and offers us second chances.

It truly has been a tough two years since the beginning of Covid-19. Some people may wish that they can go back two years ago to change what could have been. Many people, even people that we knew, lost their lives from this virus. In just two years statistics say that there were five million deaths associated with Covid. We can say that many of these people had their chances before they died, but how about us? Are we going to wait on our death beds before we start doing the right thing? Whether we like it or not, the reality is God did not give us the ability to change the past, but God gave us many *second chances*.

The problem still remains that many of us are stubborn and have a bad habit of neglecting our chances. We waste our second, even third and fourth chances. We are reminded by the story of King Saul, how he became the chosen king to a rejected king in 1 Samuel 15. He had his chances, but instead of making things right with God, he did otherwise. In chapter 16, God asked Samuel to look for Jesse as He has provided a new king among his sons, and this is king David. 1 Samuel 16:7 said, *“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance nor his height of his stature.’ For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* We know that David was not perfect, but the Lord chose him for he is a man after God's heart. He has sinned greatly with God by murdering Uriah his soldier and taking his wife to be his wife. He descended into adultery and murder, his sins led to another sins. Just like us, we have committed sins after sins against our loving God, but let us follow how David asked for the forgiveness of his sins. He admitted his sins and sought God's forgiveness and corrected his ways. Zig Ziglar says *“A second chance doesn't mean anything if you haven't learned from your first mistake.”* We know that our sins still have consequences, but let us ask wholeheartedly for the forgiveness of our almighty God for His grace is sufficient for us. Understanding and experiencing the grace of God, we can obey Him fully and sincerely. Brené Brown tells us, *“Grace means that all of your mistakes now serve a purpose instead of serving shame.”*

In this world, there are so many things that we can do without God, and if we are not careful, this world can take us away from pursuing God. Let us press on and make the most out of our second chances by humbling ourselves, not living in the past, learning from our past mistakes, being accountable, and doing our part. *“Second chances are not given to make things right. But are given to prove that we could be better even after we fall.”*

PRACTICE

1. God's Grace. Have you personally experienced the grace of Jesus? How?

2. Ungodliness. As you reflect on your life, are there any secret sins that you have not given up and confessed yet? What other ungodliness & worldly passion that you should stop pursuing?

3. Living it Out. In what area of your life do you find it difficult to obey God fully? What are the practical steps that you can take to live with self control, upright, & godly life?

PRAYER

I. Provision

- Pray that our Jehovah Jireh will provide for the needs of His church & His people.

II. Direction

- Praise God for His sustaining grace! Pray for God's direction for the new year.

III. Pastors & Elders

- Pray for strength and peace for Ptr. Jeffrey & Roann Basco & all our elders.

IV. Church

- Pray that our church will continue to love others unconditionally and sacrificially.

V. Members

- May all of us continue to grow in the likeness of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

VI. Worship Services

- Pray that we will find a building suitable for us to worship God together.

VII. Covid

- Pray for healing for those infected with the virus and that the active cases will go down even further.