

Blue Hour

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Children at Risk: today 3-5pm, New Room.
1. Jacob Ludwig, will be telling us about his ministry called **FACESS** (Freeing American Children from Exploitation & Sexual Slavery)
 2. We'll learn ways we can be involved. Come out & help us support their ministry.
- B. Slide#3 Father/Son Outdoor Adventure: Mammoth. June 26-29. Sons 7 & up. \$145. Info Booth.

II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. There is a period of time each day, just **before** sunrise and just **after** sunset, when the sun is **below** the horizon, when the light is known as *sweet light*.
1. Slide#5,6 This period of time is known as **The Blue Hour**. This is a period of time each morning and evening when there is *neither* full daylight, *nor* full darkness.
 2. The light is almost ethereal, with a **soft blue glow** bathing the scene.
 3. Slide#7 **The Blue Hour** happens in tandem w/**the Golden Hour**, making the **beginning** and **end** of the day exceptional for photography.
- B. I see **2 blue hours** & **2 golden hours** in our history. It's the appearing of another sun/**the Son**.
- C. I'm talking about Jesus' 1st & 2nd appearing. **Appearing** = *epiphaneia*. [English root epiphany]
1. *Epiphaneia* referred to the **sudden appearance** of a deity in Greek culture.
 2. The Greeks also used this word to describe what happens **at dawn** when **the sun** dispels the **darkness**.
 3. **At the birth of Christ**, the **epiphany** of God's grace - **Jesus** - suddenly burst into the world's **darkness**, vividly revealing God's nature & ushering in a new age.
 4. The believers **blessed**(happy) **hope** & glorious appearing is the **2nd epiphaneia** when Jesus will return & judge the earth & set up His kingdom.
- D. Slide#8 **Title:** *Blue Hour*
- E. **Outline:** **Grace Past, Grace Present, Grace Future, Grace's Result.**
1. **Past, present, future**...these verses demonstrate the **timelessness** of God's grace.
 2. This section is like **a shot of espresso**...highly compressed **but** incredibly rich.
 3. The Grace of God not only **saves us** **but also teaches us** **how to live the Christian life**, **how to living differently in the grip of grace.**
 - a) Jesus saved us not only so we'd **belong to Him**, **but also** so we would **live like we belong to Him**.
- F. **vs.11 & 14** show what **God has done** for us - **vs.12,13** show what **we should do** for God.

III. Slide#9 **GRACE PAST (11)** *Favor...an act of kindness beyond what is due.*

- A. Have you ever done a favor for a friend? sure we all have.
- B. **Grace** – the Greeks used *Xaris* to refer to a **favor** that one does for another person, expecting no return; **but** these **favors** were always done for *friends*.
 - 1. Christ gave *grace* a **far richer meaning** because **the favor** He did at Calvary was done **not for friends, but** for those who **hated Him**.
 - a) Rom.5:10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**
- C. “Only as we **grasp the significance** of God’s grace **can we eagerly do** what is pleasing to Him.”

IV. Slide#10 **GRACE PRESENT (12)** *Living differently in the grip of grace.*

- A. msg - *We’re being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life.*
- B. Paul gives **2 ways** in which we can *live differently*: what we should say **no** to & how to **now live**.
- C. Slide#11a **What To Say No To** (12a)
- D. **Denying ungodliness** or (NIV) *Say no to ungodliness.*
 - 1. We are surrounded by a world that says **no** to just about...nothing.
- E. A story is told of a young girl who accepted Christ as her Savior and applied for membership in a local church. "Were you a sinner before you received the Lord Jesus into your life?" inquired an old deacon. "Yes, sir," she replied. "Well, are you still a sinner?" "To tell you the truth, I feel I'm a greater sinner than ever." "Then what real change have you experienced?" "I don't quite know how to explain it," she said, "except I used to be a sinner running **AFTER** sin, but now that I am saved I'm a sinner running **FROM** sin!"
- F. Slide#11b **How To Now Live** (12b)
- G. Let me first say *we should live* speaks to something done together.
 - 1. The Gk word is *Aorist, Active, Subjunctive* (or, likely to occur)
 - 2. The subjunctive is cohortative, “**let us live.**” (cohortative = mutual encouragement)
 - a) **Cohort** (dict.) a group of people banded together w/a common interest.
(from the latin *cohors* = as ancient Roman military unit.
- H. **So what will ultimately make us holy?**...not willpower, not guilt, not an inspiring message, **but deep apprehension of the grace of God in Christ.**
 - 1. **The Puritans** taught this truth w/the image of **the live oak**, a variety of trees whose **leaves** – though dead – stuck to their branches through the winter. What eventually **forced** the leaves from the tree was **not** the abuse of the **cold** or the beating of the **wind**, **but** the new life of springtime welling up w/in the branches & forcing out **what was dead**.
 - a) Often we tend to focus on *sin management* more than pursuing **intimacy with God**.

b) We're too busy *trying not to sin* to really embrace life as a saint.

(1) We are like this old oak...our evil affections are to be replaced by an eagerness for good (*sober, rt, godly*), as Christ's grace wells within us *driving out the old affections*.

2. To live soberly is to *rule your self*.

a) God's grace should not be an excuse for sin but a motivation for holiness.

V. Slide#12 GRACE FUTURE (13) Yes we should live for Him, but we also should look for Him

A. What starts with *grace* will lead to *glory*. :)

B. Looking for - conveys the idea of *persistent expectation*.

C. Also don't miss the profound statement of Jesus' deity, identifying Jesus as our *great God & Savior*. Jesus is God & He will return for His people.

D. Slide#13 Yes *the return of Christ* for His people is more than a *blessed hope*...

1. It is a *joyful hope* (Rom.5:2). It is a *unifying hope* (Ep.4:4). It is a *living hope* (1 Pet.1:3). It is a *stabilizing hope* (Heb.6:19). It is a *purifying hope* (1 Jn.3:3).¹

E. *Glorious appearing* – to appear suddenly upon the scene.

1. Again, this *Epiphaneia* referred to the sudden appearance of a deity in Greek culture. And, what happens at dawn when the sun dispels the darkness.

F. A tourist who visited an exquisite garden on a lovely estate in Italy spoke to the caretaker: "How long have you been here?" he asked. "25 years." "And how often has the owner been to see the estate?" "4 times." "When did he come last?" "12 years ago." "Who comes then to look after things?" "I am left pretty much alone." "Yet you keep the garden so spic-and-span that one would think you were expecting the owner tomorrow." "Today, sir, today!" replied the caretaker."

VI. Slide#14 GRACE'S RESULT (14,15) Grace's result redemption & purification

A. The highest & purest motivation for Christian behavior is not based on what we can do for God, but upon what God has done for us...& will yet do.

B. (15) Note *Speak these things* bookends (1).

C. That He might *redeem* us - 3-fold Redemption...

D. Slide#15a Agorazo (ἀγοράζω) buy in the market

1. 1 Cor. 6:20 For you were *bought at a price*; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

E. Slide#15b Exagorazo (ἐξαγοράζω) buy out of the market

¹ Warren Wiersbe, With The Word, pg.807,808.

1. Gal.3:13 Christ has **redeemed** us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.
- F. Slide#15c Lutroo (λυτρόω) to set free never to be bought again [this 1 is used here]
1. Slide#16 Titus 2:14 (Jesus) who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people.
- G. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us - Christ's death is central to salvation.
1. It's a process which **starts with justification**, advances by **sanctification**, & climaxes in **glorification**.
 2. Here Paul speaks to the 2nd phase - **progressive sanctification**, where we are delivered from **sin's power** through the life of cross-bearing.
 - a) Slide#17a **Salvation** (we are saved from sins *penalty*) *Immediately, wholly, completely, & eternally.*
 - (1) Eph.2:8 **For by grace you have been saved**
 - b) Slide#17b **Sanctification** (We are being saved from sins reigning *power*)
 - (1) Phil.2:12 **Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**
 - c) Slide#17c **Glorification** (We will one day be saved from sins *presence*)
 - (1) Rom.13:11 **And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**
- H. Slide#18blank There are **two poles** to the Christian life: we look **back** to the cross (v. 14) and **ahead** to the coming of Christ (v. 13).
1. These **two poles** help keep us steady in our Christian walk.
 2. And for the believer, **Gods grace is inescapable**, from your cross all the way to your crown. **Oh, the tirelessness** of God's grace.
- I. If Christ is going to appear in the future to **purify His people** from sin **then** His people should be **purifying themselves** from sin right now & cultivating a life of **holiness**.
- J. **Grace is not a license for laziness**. Instead, knowing that Christ has redeemed us should make us **zealous** to do **good works** while we wait His return.
1. We are not saved **by** our good works **but** saved **for** our Good works.
 2. As Luther said, **God doesn't need your good works...your neighbor does.**
- K. Malcolm Muggeridge, **Behind the debris of these solemn supermen, and self-styled imperial diplomatists** (context, world leaders), there stands the gigantic figure of **One, because of whom, by whom, in whom and through whom alone, mankind may still have peace: the person of Jesus Christ**. I present him as **the way, the truth, and the life**.

1. Do you know **this One** called **great God & Savior, Jesus Christ**, who has come & **is coming again**? You must be apart of seeing for yourslef the mornings **Blue Hour before** you will be able to enjoy the 2nd **Blue Hour**, at life's evening.
 - a) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (11)
Have you seen it with your own hearts eyes?
2. **Prayer:** Lord as we daily look for our *happy hope* of *Your glorious appearing* may we **not** look forward as to our *getting out of some situation*, or *our troubles* **but** simply look for **YOU**.