

40 Days of Fitness

A daily devotional by Rev Garry Hardingham

DAY 16 – God’s Grace Is Open to All

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

Sydney Carter is probably my favourite hymn writer. You will all recognise his famous hymn, “Lord of the Dance”. But one of his best is found in the Australian Hymn Book (No. 559), but is rarely, if ever sung. And probably for good reason. Here are the words.

Chorus:

*Standing in the rain, knocking on the window
Knocking on the window on a Christmas Day
There he is again, knocking on the window
Knocking on the window in the same old way*

No use knocking on the window
There is nothing we can do, sir
All the beds are booked already
There is nothing left for you, sir

No use knocking on the window
Some are lucky, some are not, sir
We are Christian men and women
But we're keeping what we've got, sir

No we haven't got a manger
No we haven't got a stable
We are Christian men and women
Always willing, never able

Christ the Lord has gone to heaven
One day he'll be coming back, sir
In this house he will be welcome
But we hope he won't be black, sir

Wishing you a merry Christmas
We will now go back to bed, sir
Till you woke us with your knocking
We were sleeping like the dead, sir

Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

Followers of Jesus are often stingy with grace. But God is not, He gives it to anyone and everyone that wants it. That’s why songs like Amazing Grace exist, because it extends to even the worst of sinners. Every single human being on this planet is loved by God and has the offer of grace extended to them.

All they have to do is accept it.

Sadly this message is lost on the world because the church is much more selective with grace than Jesus was. Only those “deserving” should receive grace. The problem is not one person is deserving of what Christ Jesus did. Not one. We are all terribly broken and in need of grace.

Therefore, we should show grace generously because we’ve been given grace generously.

God’s grace is for EVERYONE.

PRAYER

Loving Father,
You have loved me when I was unlovable.
I am so amazingly grateful that I know You
and I can experience Your wonderful presence in my life.
Give me this day Your grace
 in how I live my life today.
Give me wisdom and gentleness
 in how I interact with others.
Make me peaceable and gentle.
May I have a mind that is open to reason and shows mercy.
In all of today’s tasks,
grant me the wisdom and grace to be sincere and meek.
Thank You that
You pour out Your grace to me. Amen.