

LIFE WITH GOD; SALVATION

TITUS 03:04–07

Introduction

This is one of the greatest summaries on salvation in all Scripture. It is a message that must be preached if people are going to be reached for Christ and if believers are going to be grounded in sound doctrine.

- I. Salvation comes from God (v. 4-5).
- II. Salvation is a rebirth and a renewal by God's Spirit (v. 5).
- III. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ our Saviour (v. 6-7).

I. *Titus 03:04–05 Salvation is from God*

Salvation comes from God. God is the Author of salvation. God is not as most people imagine Him.

- => Some people imagine God to be far off in outer space someplace with little if any concern and interest in the affairs and lives of men. They feel God is almost untouchable, and they see little evidence to contradict this. They and others sometimes worship and pray and nothing seems to happen. Their prayers are just not answered. They still suffer and the affairs of the world just keep on as they always have. There is little if any indication that God is really active in their lives and in the world, so if He exists, He must be far off and not too interested in the world. This is the view of many people about God.
- => Others imagine God to be some Supreme Being who hovers over people watching their every move. They see God as the Supreme Judge who is always on the lookout for those who do wrong and who is ready to jump on them and condemn them unless they keep the laws and rules of God.
- => Some people imagine God to be somewhat like a loving and indulgent grandfather type of being. They see God as the Supreme Being of the universe whose basic nature is love. In fact, they feel He is so loving that He understands a little sin here and there. Therefore, He will indulge and forgive a life of worldliness and some indiscretion here and there and accept all. He will accept a person who does some good. (Note: few people — very, very few — ever think that God will reject them, not in the final analysis.)

Note what this verse says. God is not far off in outer space, disinterested in man; He is not the loving, indulgent grandfather of the human race; He is not some Supreme Judge hovering over men to punish them when they do wrong. God is our Saviour. He is vitally concerned with us, so concerned that His very name is God our Saviour. He has saved us from the sin and evil and the suffering and death of this world and from the condemnation of the next world. Imagine! We are saved from sin and evil, suffering and death, and

from ever having to face condemnation. God our Saviour has saved us and given us life eternal; we shall live forever and ever, never dying and never being separated from God — not at all — not even for one minute. Note two significant points.

1. Salvation comes from God's "kindness" (chrestotes). This word is often translated goodness. It means good, gracious and kind. But it is a goodness and kindness that is so deep that it always gives whatever is necessary to meet the needs of a person (Barclay). Kindness is so deep within God that it is of His very nature. God is so good and kind that He could do nothing else but save us. He had to meet our need; He had to save us from sin, death and condemnation. Why? Because He is kind; He had to extend His kindness out toward man by saving him.

Rom 2:4 *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

Jer 31:3 *The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

Hosea 2:19 *I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.*

2. Salvation comes from God's "love" (philanthropia). This means that God's love reached out toward man; that God has a deep-seated affection for man and that He has showered His affection upon man by saving him. The word has the idea of compassion in it. God loves man so much that His affection and compassion are stirred to save men. God loves us so much that He must act to handle the sin and death problems for man and provide an escape from condemnation.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Eph 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.*

1 John 3:1 *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

1 John 4:9 *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

1 John 4:16 *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

3. Salvation does not come by good works, not because of righteous things a person does. Men cannot earn righteousness by good works. No person can be good enough or do enough good to make God accept him. This is the great fallacy of most people and most religions. They think that they can secure God's approval by being good and doing good. But this is the great fallacy:

⇒ Man cannot do enough good to make himself perfect.

⇒ Man is already imperfect, so he can never be perfect. Imperfection can never become perfection.

What man fails to see is that God is perfect, and as perfect, He cannot accept anything imperfect. Therefore, no matter how many works of righteousness man does — no matter how much good he does — man is not saved by his own efforts. He cannot earn, win or merit salvation, not by any self-righteousness or personal goodness which he might attain.

Thought 1. Common sense tells us this, for everything about man passes away and dies. No matter what it is, everything man knows and possesses — even himself — ages, decays and passes away. Therefore, righteousness or goodness based within man dies and passes away with him. If man is to be saved, then Someone outside of himself and of his world — Someone with the power to penetrate and save this world — has to come to earth and snatch man out of its corruption and save him. The point is this: if man is to ever be saved, he will not be saved by self-righteousness nor by anything else that concerns self. Self and all that concerns self only die. Man can only be saved by some Force much greater than himself, some Force that is living and personal and kind and loving enough to save him. That Force, of course, is God Himself.

Mat 7:22-23 *“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

Rom 3:20 *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

Gal 2:16 *Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

Eph 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Titus 3:4-5 *But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

4. Salvation comes from God's "mercy" (eleon). The word means feelings of pity, compassion and kindness. It is a desire to succour, to tenderly draw unto oneself and to care for. Two things are essential in order to have mercy: seeing a need and being able to meet that need. God sees our need for salvation; He sees that we need to be saved from sin, death and condemnation. Therefore, God acts; He has mercy upon us and provides the way for us to be saved.

Luke 1:50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Eph 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Lam 3:22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion never fail.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

II. Titus 03:05 Salvation is a Daily Regeneration or New Birth

Salvation is a rebirth and a daily renewing of life by God's Holy Spirit.

1. The word "rebirth" (palingenesias) means to be regenerated or given new life; to be given a new birth; to be renewed or revived; to be spiritually reborn or converted. Salvation is a spiritual rebirth: it is a person being born again by the Spirit of God.

Note that the new birth is so radical a change in a person's life that it is described as a "washing" (loutrou) which means a bath, a complete immersion. Salvation is so dramatic it is just like the washing away of the old life and the receiving of a new life. All that concerns a person's old life is washed away, all the...

- sin and evil
- selfishness and greed
- dirt and immorality
- failure and shortcoming
- corruption and injustice
- guilt and doubt
- pollution and worldliness

The Spirit of God cleanses a person — immerses the person in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

Rev 7:14 *I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

The Spirit of God through the blood of Christ washes away the old life and gives the believer a new life. The Spirit of God regenerates a person, saves him from his old life and gives him a new life — a rebirth — spiritually creating him into a new person.

John 1:12-13 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

John 3:3, 5 *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."*

1 Cor 6:11 *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

1 Pet 1:23 *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

1 John 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

2. The word "renewal" (anakainosis) means to make new again; to renew again; to revive again; to make new spiritually; to begin all over again; to adjust again. Salvation is the Holy Spirit adjusting a person and renewing him all over again. It is the Spirit of God taking a person, readjusting his life and reviving him spiritually. Note that the renewing is done by the Spirit of God just as regeneration is. W. E. Vine says that the stress is "the continual operation of the indwelling Spirit of God." Kenneth Wuest says, "This is the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification."

The point is a most wonderful truth. The Holy Spirit not only renews a person and gives him a new birth and a new life, but He does much, much more. He renews and

revives a person day by day. Every day of a person's life is a renewal and a revival — by the Spirit of God. Life — a single day — does not need to be...

- dull
- routine
- drudgery
- aimless
- without purpose or meaning
- complacent

When a person is truly saved, the Holy Spirit renews and revives him day by day. He stirs and energizes the person to follow Jesus more and more closely and to serve Him more and more faithfully.

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

2 Cor 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

Eph 4:22-23 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds.*

Col 3:10 *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

TITUS 03:05 REBIRTH; NEW BIRTH

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **Titus 03:05***

The New Testament teaching on the new birth is rich and full.

1. The new birth is a necessity. A person will never see (Jn. 3:3) nor ever enter (Jn. 3:5) the Kingdom of God unless he is born again (Jn. 3:7).
2. The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of a new power and spirit in life. It is not reformation of the old nature (Rom. 6:6). It is the actual creation of a new birth within — spiritually (Jn. 3:5-6; cp. Jn. 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24). (See Eph. 1:3; 4:17; New Person, Self, Eph. 1:3, 4:24.) A person is spiritually born again:
 - a. By water, even the Spirit (see Water and Spirit, Jn. 3:5).

- b. By the will of God (Jas. 1: 18).
 - c. By incorruptible, imperishable, seed through the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).
 - d. By God from above (1 Pet. 1:3). The word again (ana) in the phrase “born again” also means above.
 - e. By Christ, who gives both the power and right to be born again (Jn. 1:12-13).
3. The new birth is a definite experience, a real experience. A person experiences the new birth:
- a. By believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1 Jn. 5:1; cp. Jn. 3:14-15).
 - b. By the gospel as it is shared by believers (1 Cor. 4:15; Phile. 10).
 - c. By the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23) or by the Word of Truth (Jas. 1:18).
4. The new birth is a changed life, a totally new life. A person proves that he is born again:
- a. By doing righteous acts (1 Jn. 2:29; cp. Eph. 2:10; 4:24).
 - b. By not practicing sin (1 Jn 3:9; 5:18).
 - c. By loving other believers (1 Jn. 4:7).
 - d. By overcoming the world (1 Jn. 5:4).
 - e. By keeping himself (1 Jn. 5:18).
 - f. By possessing the divine seed or nature (1 Jn. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; cp. Col. 1:27). □

III. *Titus 03:06–07 Salvation through Jesus Christ*

Salvation comes through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Jesus Christ has done three wonderful things for us.

1. Jesus Christ is the One who pours out the Holy Spirit so richly upon us. As stated in verse five, it is the Holy Spirit who regenerates us and who revives us day by day. But we would not have the Holy Spirit apart from Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the One who gives us the Holy Spirit. Note this:

⇒ It is a man’s head that stirs and arouses his spirit to flow through his body and get to the work at hand. So it is with Christ the Head of the church. Christ arouses His Spirit to flow through His body of believers which is His church.

When a person believes in Jesus Christ, Christ puts His Spirit into the new believer. Yea, Christ pours out His Spirit richly and abundantly upon the person. The result is both regeneration or rebirth (a new birth) and a daily renewing or revival (stirred to follow Christ and to serve Him more and more).

Thought 1. The essential power in the life of a believer is the power of the Holy Spirit. It is He and He alone who imparts life to the believer and who arouses the believer to serve Christ day by day (renewal). All the behaviour of a believer and all the words of a believer and all the worship of a believer are powerless without the power of the Holy Spirit. It does not matter how high his position, how appealing his profession, how attractive his appearance, how consistent his worship — his life is powerless without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. He is totally unacceptable to God, both he and his religious work.

John 6:63 *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

John 14:16-18 *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Rom 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

Rom 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

1 Cor 3:16 *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

1 Cor 6:19 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

Gal 4:4-6 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit - just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

1 John 4:13 *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

Thought 2. Barclay makes an excellent point that needs to be heeded by every church and believer:

“All the work of the Church, all the words of the Church, all the sacraments of the Church are powerless and inoperative unless the power of the Holy Spirit is there.

However highly a Church be organized, however splendid its ceremonies may be, however beautiful its buildings, and however elaborate its worship, all is ineffective without the power of the Spirit. The more we read the New Testament, the more we come to the conclusion that to the people of the early Church the Spirit and the Risen Christ were one and the same. The lesson is clear. Revival in the Church does not come from increased efficiency in organization; it comes from waiting upon God. It is not that efficiency is not necessary; it is. But no amount of efficiency can breathe life into a body from which the breath of the Spirit has departed” (The Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p. 301).

2. Jesus Christ is the One who justifies us. In simple terms justification means that God takes the believer’s faith and counts it as righteousness (Rom. 4:3; cp. Gen. 15:6; see notes, Rom. 4:1-3; Jews, the Seed of Abraham, Rom 4:1-25; Rom. 5:1. Also see Jesus Christ, Lifted Up on the Cross, Jn. 12:32.)

When a person really believes that Jesus Christ is his Saviour, God takes that person’s faith and counts it for righteousness (Rom. 4:3, 5, 9, 11, 22, 24). The person is not righteous; he has no righteousness of his own. He is still imperfect, still sinful, still corruptible, still short of God’s glory as a sinful human being. But he does believe that Jesus Christ is his Saviour. Such belief honours God’s Son (whom God loves very much), and because it honours God’s Son, God accepts that person’s faith for righteousness. God counts that person’s faith as righteousness. Therefore, that person becomes acceptable to God. (In a discussion of justification, a person’s belief — the right kind of belief — is critical. See Saving Faith, Jn. 2:24; Rom. 10:16-17.)

Note why God justifies a person. God justifies a man because of His Son Jesus Christ. When a man believes in Jesus Christ, God takes that man’s faith and counts it as righteousness. The man is not righteous, but God considers and credits the man’s faith as righteousness. Why is God willing to do this?

- a. God is willing to justify man because He loves man that much. God loves man so much that He sent His Son into the world and sacrificed Him in order to justify man (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- b. God is willing to justify man because of what His Son Jesus Christ has done for man.
 - => Jesus Christ has secured the Ideal righteousness for man. He came to earth to live a sinless and perfect life. As Man He never broke the law of God; He never went contrary to the will of God, not even once. Therefore, He stood before God and before the world as the Ideal Man, the Perfect Man. the Representative Man, the Perfect Righteousness that could stand for the righteousness of every man.
 - => Jesus Christ came into the world to die for man. As the Ideal Man He could take all the sins of the world upon Himself and die for every man. His death could stand for every man. He exchanged places with man by becoming the sinner (2 Cor. 5:19).

He bore the wrath of God against sin, bearing the condemnation for every man. Again, He was able to do this because He was the Ideal Man, and as the Ideal Man His death could stand for the death of every man.

⇒ Jesus Christ came into the world to arise from the dead and thereby to conquer death for man. As the Ideal Man His resurrection and exaltation into the presence of God could stand for every man's desperate need to conquer death and to be acceptable to God. His resurrected life could stand for the resurrected life of the believer.

Now, as stated above, when a man believes in Jesus Christ — really believes — God takes that man's belief and...

- counts it as the righteousness (perfection) of Christ. The man is counted as righteous in Christ.
- counts it as the death of Christ. The man is counted as already having died in Christ.
- counts it as the resurrection of Christ. The man is counted as already having been resurrected in Christ.

Very simply, God loves His Son Jesus Christ so much that He honours any man who honours His Son by believing on Him. He honours the man by taking the man's faith and counting (crediting) it as righteousness and by giving him the glorious privilege of living with Christ forever in the presence of God.

Gen 15:6 *Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gal 3:6 *Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

1 Cor 6:11 *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Phil 3:9 *And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

3. Jesus Christ makes us heirs of eternal life. Scripture actually says that we are "joint heirs" with Christ. This is an astounding truth and promise. We will inherit all that Christ is and has. We will be given the glorious privilege of sharing in all things with the Son of God Himself.

However note this: to be a joint-heir with Christ does not mean that believers are equal heirs in the sense that they will receive an equal amount of the inheritance with Christ. Rather, it means that believers are fellow-heirs with Christ; that is, believers will share in the inheritance of Christ; they will share Christ's inheritance with Him.

Being a fellow-heir with Christ means at least three glorious things: it means that we shall share in the nature, position and responsibility of Christ. The following chart shows this with a quick glance.

FELLOW HEIRS BY NATURE

Christ is the Son of God, the very being and energy of life and perfection. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His nature. We receive...

- the adoption as children of God (Gal. 4:4-7; 1 Jn. 3:1).
- the sinless nature of being blameless (Ph. 2:15).
- eternal life (Jn. 1:4; 10:10; 17:2-3; Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 6:19).
- lasting possessions (Heb. 10:34).
- a glorious body (Ph. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:42-44).
- eternal glory and honour and peace (Rom. 2:10).
- eternal rest and peace (Heb. 4:9; Rev. 14:13).
- an eternal body (1 Cor. 9:25).
- a righteous being (2 Tim. 4:8).

FELLOW HEIRS BY POSITION

Christ is the exalted Lord, the Sovereign Majesty of the universe, the Lord of lords and King of kings. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His position. We receive...

- the position of exalted beings (Rev. 7:9-12).
- a citizenship in the Kingdom of God (Jas. 2:5; Mt. 25:34).
- enormous treasures in heaven (Mt. 19:21; Lk. 12:33).
- unsearchable riches (Eph. 3:8).
- the right to surround the throne of God (Rev. 7:9-13; 20:4).
- the position of a king (Rev. 1:5; 5:10).
- the position of a priest (Rev. 1:5; 5:10; 20:6).
- the position of glory (1 Pet. 5:4).

FELLOW HEIRS BY RESPONSIBILITY

Christ is the Sovereign Majesty of the Universe, the One who is ordained to rule and oversee all. Therefore, we share in the inheritance of His responsibility. We receive...

- the rulership over many things (Mt. 25:23).
- the right to rule and hold authority (Lk. 12:42-44; 22:28-29).
- eternal responsibility and joy (Mt. 25:21, 23).

- rule and authority over cities (Lk. 19:17, 19).
- thrones and the privilege of reigning forever (Rev. 20:4; 22:5).

These passages will give some idea of what Scripture teaches when it speaks of the believer being a fellow-heir with Christ. There are an innumerable number of Scriptures that could be added to these. As Paul declares:

***1 Cor 2:9** However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”*

***Rom 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?” “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. ■*