

THE GRACE OF GOD

TITUS 02:11–15

Introduction

The great message of the grace of God involves five significant points.

- I. The grace of God brings salvation (v. 11).
- II. The grace of God teaches us how to live (v. 12).
- III. The grace of God teaches us to look for the return of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (v. 13).
- IV. The grace of God is demonstrated in the death of Christ (v. 14).
- V. The grace of God is a message to be proclaimed through preaching, encouraging and rebuking (v. 15).

TITUS 02:11–15 GRACE (CHARIS)

Probably the most meaningful word in the language of men. The Bible means something far more than men mean by grace. To men the word “grace” means three things.

1. Grace is that something, that quality within a thing that is beautiful or joyful. It may be the fragrance of a flower, the rich green of the grass, the beauty of a lovely person.
2. Grace is anything that has loveliness. It may be a thought, an act, a word, a person.
3. Grace is a gift, a favour that someone might extend to a friend. The favour is always freely done, expecting nothing in return, and the favour is always done for a friend.

However, when the early Christians looked at what God had done for men, they had to add a deeper and much richer meaning to the word *grace*. For God had saved sinners, those who had acted against Him. Therefore, grace became the favour of God showered upon men — men who did not deserve His favour. Grace became the kindness and love that God freely gives to His *enemies* — men who are...

- “powerless” (Rom. 5:6).
- “ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).
- “sinners” (Rom. 5:8).
- “enemies” (Rom. 5:10).

No other word so expresses the depth and richness of the heart and mind of God. This is the distinctive difference between God’s grace and man’s grace. Whereas man sometimes does favours for his friends and thereby can be said to be gracious, God has done a thing unheard of among men: He has given His very own Son to die for His enemies (Rom. 5:8-10). (See Jn. 21:15-17; Eph. 2:8-10.)

- a. God’s grace is not earned. It is something completely undeserved and unmerited.

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.*

- b. God's grace is the free gift of God. God extends His grace toward man.

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

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 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 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.*

- c. God's grace is the only way man can be saved.

Rom 5:15 *But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

1 Cor 1:4 *I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.*

2 Cor 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Titus 3:6-7 *[Salvation] whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

4. Grace means all the favours and gifts of God. It means all the good and perfect gifts of God, all the good and beneficial things He gives us and does for us, whether physical, material or spiritual (Jas. 1:17).

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

Eph 2:7 In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. □

I. Titus 02:11 Grace Brings Salvation

The grace of God brings salvation. What does the grace of God mean? Among men grace means the favour and blessing that one person bestows upon another person. But God's grace means something far more. God's grace is the grace that brings salvation to man. God's grace is Jesus Christ, the gift of the Saviour to the world. God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, saves the person...

- who is in rebellion against God.
- who stands against God.
- who sins against God.
- who lives an ungodly life.
- who is empty.
- who has any lack or need.
- who curses God.
- who opposes God.
- who lives contrary to God.
- who is lonely.
- who is powerless.
- who is without purpose and meaning.

God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, reaches down to those who have rejected God: who are doing their own thing and living like they want; it reaches down to those who ignore and neglect God and pay little attention to what God says.

The point is this: God's grace, the gift of His Son to the world, is not deserved. God's grace is not merited. No person deserves the favour of salvation that is in Christ. There are three reasons why we do not deserve God's grace.

1. We come short of God's glory in that we sin. God does not sin or go contrary to His law, but we do. We sin and transgress God's law. God never acts against His glory and nature, but we do. We do all kinds of things against the glory of God's nature; we often shame and curse, neglect and ignore, abuse and reject Him. God dwells in the glory of His perfection; we live in the shame of corruption. Stated as simply as possible: we come short, ever so short of God's glory.

Isa 53:6 We all, [just] like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Isa 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Rom 3:10-18 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

2. We come short of God's glory in that we die. God does not die, but we do. The glory of God's nature is that He lives forever, but not us. The shame of our nature is that we die; we do not live forever. We have to go through the terrible and agonizing and painful experience of death. We come ever so short of God's eternal glory.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once.

1 Pet 1:24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall."

2 Sam 14:14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

Psa 49:10 For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others.

Psa 89:48 What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?

Psa 90:5-6 You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning — though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

Psa 103:15-16 As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Eccl 3:20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.

Eccl 8:8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

Isa 40:6-7 A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

3. We come short of God’s glory in that we have violated the laws of heaven and are doomed to the prison and judgment of hell. When we die, we do not cease to exist. We exist forever. The very fact that we come short of God’s glory makes us *short of heaven*. We are not perfect; therefore, we are not fit to live in a perfect place, that is, in heaven. We are doomed and judged to live outside heaven, away from God’s presence in a place called hell. And we must always remember why: if we choose to live without God in this present world, then we condemn ourselves to live without God in the next world. If we reject the privilege of living with God in this world, then we reject the right to live with God in heaven.

Mat 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Mat 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

2 Pet 2:9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Pet 3:7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

But this is the glorious news. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, has brought salvation to us. God’s grace, the gift of His own dear Son, saves us from sin, death and hell. We do not deserve it, but God loves us beyond imagination. He has given His very own Son for us — to save us. He did it because He is gracious. His very nature is the embodiment of grace, of favouring and blessing those who do not deserve it. And note: His salvation is for all men — no matter who they are nor what they have done. The person may be a murderer such as Paul or an adulterer such as David, but God’s grace is sufficient to cover any and all sins. God will save any person. His grace, the

Lord Jesus Christ who brings salvation, is now available to all men. All men can now be saved — saved from sin, death and hell — no matter who they are.

Luke 3:6 “And all mankind will see God’s salvation.”

Acts 2:21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Acts 15:11 “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Rom 10:12-13 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

1 Tim 2:4 [God] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 Tim 1:9-10 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers — and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

Psa 10:04 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

II. *Titus 02:12–13* Grace Teaches Us How to Live

The grace of God teaches us how to live. It teaches us to do two things.

1. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts or passions, that is, to reject, renounce, give up and have nothing to do with ungodliness and worldly lusts or passions. God’s grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us “to say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly lusts [passions]” (Beck, *The New Testament in the Language of Today*).
- a. *Ungodliness* (*asebeia*): anything that is not like God, not holy, righteous or pure; anything that does not honour God by word or deed, that does not show reverence and worship toward God; anything that does not obey God, that violates God’s commandments and goes against His will. The grace of God, the Lord Jesus Christ,

teaches us to deny ungodliness, to give up and to turn away from everything that is ungodly and does not honour and praise Him.

Mat 16:26 “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

- b. *Worldly lusts or passions* (kosmikai epithumiai): all the desires of this world that are not fit for heaven and could not be presented to God; all the desires that push us away from God; all the desires and lusts of the world that stir us...
- to look when we should not look.
 - to do when we should not do.
 - to get more when we should give more.
 - to be selfish and vicious when we should be sacrificial and kind.
 - to be sensual and immoral when we should be disciplined and pure.
 - to seek the recognition of men when we should seek the recognition of God.
- c. *Worldly lusts or passions* are those desires that crave the possessions of this world, that attach us to this world, and that will remain in this world when we leave it. We will go away and move on, but they will be left behind.
- d. *Worldly lusts or passions* are the desires that crave the sensual and selfish pleasures of this world, the very things that we would never want God to see.

The grace of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to deny worldly lusts and to give up and turn away from everything that we cannot take with us and present to God when we meet Him face to face.

Mat 16:26 “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Col 3:20 *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

James 4:4 *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

2. God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.
 - a. Self-controlled (sophronos): temperate and disciplined. It is restraining desires, lusts and appetites. It is never giving in to excess — to the lust for more and more. It is controlling everything and using it for its proper purpose:
 - => It is controlling the desire for sex and using it for marriage.
 - => It is controlling the desire for food and using it for health.
 - => It is controlling the desire for material things and using it to meet both the needs of one's own family and the desperate needs of the world.

Acts 24:25 *As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."*

1 Cor 9:24-27 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself win not be disqualified for the prize.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Prov 21:17 *He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.*

Prov 23:1 *When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you.*

- b. Upright (dikaios): doing right, treating others like we should, doing good to them, giving them their due share. What an indictment! How selfish we are in our hoarding and banking while a world dies from starvation, disease, war, evil and sin. Every person is due his share. We are to live righteously, giving and seeing to it that every man is treated right, that every man receives his due share. If they are well-off physically and materially, we are to treat them righteously, just like we would want to be treated. If they are needy, poor, destitute, hungry, diseased, lonely, bed-ridden and

sinful, we are to do right toward them and meet their needs. They are to receive their due share of this earth just as we are.

1 Cor 15:34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

Phil 1:11 Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

- c. **Godly (eusebos):** to be like God; to live as God would live on this earth; to live in the consciousness that God lives within the very body of the believer — that the believer's body is the very temple of God. It is living and moving and having one's being in God. It is living just like God says to live, obeying Him in all things.

1 Tim 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

1 Tim 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

2 Pet 3:11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

III. Titus 02:13 Return of Jesus Christ

God's grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us to look for the return of the Lord. This is a great verse on the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Greek points out its greatness even more:

"Looking for the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Kenneth S. Wuest. *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*).

The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ are not two different things; the blessed hope *is* the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will appear in all the glory and majesty of His Being. What will be so blessed about His return? The word “blessed” (makarios) means to be filled with happiness, prosperity, richness, benefits, the highest good - all the great and glorious benefits imaginable. Therefore, the blessed hope of the Lord’s return is to be filled with all that you can imagine and more...

- all the *happiness* imaginable and more.
- all the *prosperity* imaginable and more.
- all the *richness* imaginable and more.
- all the *benefits* imaginable and more.

If you can imagine the highest good and all the richness of life possible, the appearing of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ will be that and more – much more.

1. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious union*: we will see Christ for the first time and be united with Him forever (Jn. 14:3).

John 17:24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

1 Th 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

2. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious reunion*: the dead in Christ will arise and we who live will be reunited with our loved ones and friends forever.

Rom 8:16-17 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 Th 4:17-18 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

3. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious transformation of body*, we will receive our new incorruptible and eternal bodies.

1 Cor 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Cor 15:53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

Phil 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious life of happiness*: we will receive perfect joy and freedom from trials, pain, suffering, evil and death.

Mat 13:43 “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

5. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious remaking of the heavens and earth*: we will receive a perfect world of love, joy and peace.

Rom 8:21 That the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

6. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a *glorious reward*.

2 Tim 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.

1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

7. The return of Jesus Christ will mean an *eternity of ruling and reigning*: we will receive the position and responsibility of serving Christ through all eternity.

Mat 26:23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me."

Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

8. The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious dwelling place and mansions (many rooms).

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

IV. Titus 02:14 Grace in the Death of Jesus Christ

the grace of God is revealed in the death of Christ. Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us." What does this mean? It means that Jesus Christ died for us. The word "for" (huper) means that He died in our behalf, for our sake, in our place, as our substitute. It means that Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself, and paid the penalty for them. He bore...

=> the verdict of sin, the pronouncement of *guilty* for us.

=> the condemnation of our sins for us.

=> the punishment of our sins for us.

What was the verdict, the condemnation, and the punishment which He bore for us? The guilt of our sins which is death. Jesus Christ died for us. He died as our substitute; He died for us, and because He died for us we never have to die. This is what Scripture means when it says that Jesus Christ gave Himself for us. This is how God demonstrated His grace to the world: He gave His Son to die for the sins of men.

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

But note a most critical point: why Jesus Christ died for us. He died for us for three critical reasons.

1. Christ died to redeem us from all wickedness. We are guilty of wickedness, that is, of what has just been covered — of ungodliness and worldly passions, of lawlessness, of disobeying and transgressing the law of God. We are sinners — short of God’s glory — and we cannot keep from sinning and being short of God’s glory. We have been kidnapped, captured and captivated by lawlessness and imperfection. Therefore, we need to be redeemed (lutroo), that is, set free and delivered. The ransom needs to be paid so that we can be delivered and set free. This is why Jesus Christ gave Himself for us: to redeem us. The death of Jesus Christ was our ransom. His death sets us free from sin. How? God accepts His death for our death. When we believe that Christ died for us — really believe — God accepts our belief as the death of Jesus Christ. God takes our belief and counts it as the death of Jesus Christ. This means that we have already died, that we actually died with Christ when He died. God identifies us with Christ, with His death. Therefore, we are set free from sin and its penalty. We are delivered from the penalty of sin which is death. By faith in Jesus Christ we are redeemed, that is, set free from sin and death. (See note, *Redemption*, Eph. 1:7.)

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

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

Titus 2:14 *[Christ] 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.*

Heb 9:12 *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

1 Pet 1:18 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

2. Christ died so that He might have a people that are His very own, a very special people as His own possession. This is seen in the word “own” (periousion). The word means set apart, possessed over and above, especially selected and reserved for. When a person really grasps what Jesus Christ has done for him, that person can only surrender all he is and has to Christ. The person wants to follow and serve Christ, to do all that Christ says. The person separates himself from the world, sets his life apart

to follow Christ, and Christ takes the person and by the power of the Holy Spirit sets the person apart to be His own very special possession. Through the death of Jesus Christ, the believer becomes the very special possession of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Exo 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.

Deu 14:2 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.

Deu 26:18-19 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

1 Sam 12:22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

3. Christ died to stir good works. Again, when a person really grasps what Jesus Christ has done for him, the person is stirred to give his life to Christ — to do all he can to serve Christ and to tell everyone in the world that the Saviour has come to save men. The believer works and works, doing all the good he can in order to reach everyone he can with the glorious message of redemption.

Mat 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

1 Tim 6:18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

1 Pet 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

V. *Titus 02:15 Proclaim the Grace of God*

The grace of God is to be proclaimed. It is to be proclaimed in three ways.

1. We are to teach about the grace of God: preach, teach and bear witness to it. There is no argument about the grace of God, about the Lord Jesus Christ; God does love the world. He has sent His Son into the world. Therefore, we are to teach the message of His grace — of the Lord Jesus Christ — utilizing every method of speech there is, and we are to do it day by day.

Acts 5:20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”

Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Jer 1:7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.”

Jer 1:17 “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.”

Ezek 2:7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

Ezek 1:17-19 As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not turn about as the creatures went. Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around. When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.

2. We are to encourage people in the grace of God. People are lonely, empty, without purpose, discouraged, distressed and without hope. They need to hear the glorious message of God’s grace, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they need to hear about the wonderful life God gives us now and eternally — all through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Tim 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Heb 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Heb 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

3. We are to rebuke people in the grace of God. There is no excuse for men rejecting the grace of God in their sin. God has done too much for us in Christ Jesus His Son. A man is a fool to reject eternal life, the glorious redemption and hope which Christ gives. Men need to be told the truth, rebuked and put under conviction by our rebuking them in the grace of God.

Luke 17:3 *“So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”*

Eph 5:11 *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

1 Tim 5:20 *Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.*

2 Tim 4:2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.*

Titus 2:5 *To be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. ■*

MESSAGE 3: THE CIVIC DUTIES OF A BELIEVER TITUS 03:01–02

Introduction

The thrust of this passage is not the rulers of government and their behaviour; the thrust is the believer and his duty to the state. Usually the believer can do little about how the authorities in government conduct their affairs, but the believer can do a great deal about his behaviour as a citizen within the state. And God is very, very clear about the believer's behaviour. Keep in mind that such terrible leaders as Nero were ruling when God led Paul to give these instructions to Titus and the believers on the island of Crete. Six duties of the Christian citizen are clearly spelled out.

- I. He is to obey the laws (v. 1).
- II. He is to do good works (v. 1).
- III. He is not to speak evil (v. 2).
- IV. He is to be peaceable (v. 2).
- V. He is to be gentle (v. 2).
- VI. He is to show humility (v. 2).

I. *Titus 03:01 Citizens Obey Civil Law*

The Christian citizen is to *obey the laws of a nation, both the rulers and their authority*. Note the double command: “to be subject” and “to be obedient.” This is strong; God expects believers to keep the command. All civil authority is to be obeyed, even the laws of one's own local community as well as the laws of one's state and nation. Why is this so important? The reason is self-evident; it is perfectly clear: without law and the keeping of the law society would be in utter chaos.

=> Lawlessness would run wild.

=> No one would be safe to walk the streets.

=> People would have to live behind closed doors.

=> Abuse, attacks, murder and war would be a constant threat.

=> No property would be safe.

=> There would be no public roads, transportation, water, sewage or electrical systems, for there would be no law to collect taxes. And even if there was, no one would honour it.

=> There would be no military police or fire protection for the same reason.

Without law and the keeping of the law there can be no society and no community, no life together, no bond to tie people together. Law, rulers and their authority, are an

utter necessity to keep people from becoming wild beasts in a jungle of unrestrained selfishness and lawlessness.

Chaos is not God's will for the world; law and order are God's will. God wills men to live in a world of love, joy and peace — a world of perfect law and order. Therefore, the believer is to set the example: he is to obey the rulers and the laws of his community and nation. He is to show how *loving and joyful, peaceful and wonderful* life can be if people will obey God and obey the civil authorities of this world.

Exo 22:28 *“Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people.”*

Eccl 10:20 *Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird of the air may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.*

Acts 23:5 *Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”*

Rom 13:1 *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

1 Pet 2:13-14 *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.*

1 Pet 2:17 *Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king.*

II. Titus 03:01 Citizens Do Good Works

The Christian citizen is to be ready to do *whatever is good, every good work*; is to work and serve within his community for the good of all citizens, and he is to work and serve diligently. The word “ready” (hetoimous) means to be willing; to be prepared; to jump and be the first to diligently serve the community. And note: it is “Whatever is good, every good work” that he is to be ready to do. *Whatever is good, good works* does not refer only to church work; it refers to the day by day employment of people and to the volunteer and service needs of a community. Every community is filled with needs, the needs of the lonely, poor, shut in, elderly, orphaned, homeless, sick — an innumerable list of needs that cry out for community attention. It is the duty of Christian citizens to take the lead in reaching out to meet these needs. The Christian citizen is to be ready and diligent, taking the lead in every good work within the community and nation. Keep in mind that a person's employment, his day-to-day job, is a major work that contributes to society. No matter how mundane, routine and unimportant a person may feel his work is, it is not. It is very significant, for it contributes and helps to meet the needs of his fellow citizens and community.

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Psa 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

III. Titus 03:02 Citizens Do not Speak Evil

The Christian citizen is *to speak evil of no person*. No citizen is to be slandered or verbally abused and torn down. God's ideal for society is this: all citizens working to build up and enrich the lives of each other and their community and nation. If a person, ruler or citizen, is working to build us up, why would we speak evil of him? We know that in day to day practical living, we live in an evil world where some citizens are selfish and greedy, and others commit some terrible and atrocious acts. It is this that causes chaos in society.

But note: the Christian citizen is not to speak evil against any citizen, not even an evil ruler. The answer to reaching evil people is not cursing, reviling, slandering, criticizing and tearing them down. Verbal abuse only causes more evil — active retaliation. The only answer to reaching an evil citizen is to reach out to him in kindness, trying to lead him to change and live the way he should as a contributing citizen to the community. But note this: reaching out to evil people and not speaking evil against them does not mean that we do not use firm, strong and warning words. We are never to give license to evil, nor to indulge the selfish and sinful acts of people. We are to speak with authority and strength against evil and untruth. We are to warn, and the community is to back up the warning with just control, even if it means imprisonment.

The point is this: there is no place in a just society for citizens speaking evil against each other. Cursing, reviling, slandering and railing at each other is not the way to help those in rebellion against God, government and man. The way to help is to reach out with kindness; and then if kindness fails, to reach out with strong, authoritative warnings — and then back up the warning. There is never a place for evil speaking. Christian citizens are to take the lead in speaking kind and strong words, words that warn against selfish and evil behaviour.

Thought 1. What an indictment against society! Even more, what a terrible indictment against those who speak evil against others within the church!

Psa 101:5 Whoever slanders his neighbour in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

Prov 10:18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Prov 11:9 *With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbour, but through knowledge the righteous escape.*

Jer 9:4 *“Beware of your friends; do not trust your brothers. For every brother is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer.”*

IV. Titus 03:02 Citizens Live in Peace

The Christian citizen is to be peaceable, not a brawler (amachos). The Christian is not to be...

- a fighting, contentious person
- a person who is walking around looking for an argument or fight
- a person who walks around with a chip on his shoulder looking for controversy or argument
- a person who is so opinionated and stubborn, thinking everyone else is always wrong
- a person who is always criticizing or talking about others, stirring up trouble and disturbing feelings, causing division.

The Christian citizen is to be the very opposite: he is to be meek and peaceful. This, of course, does not mean that the Christian citizen does not speak up for what is right; he does. And he is strong in his stand, refusing to give in to the license and indulgence of evil. But he seeks peace where it is possible, and he seeks to lead others to be peaceable.

Psa 120:7 *I am a man of peace; but when I speak, they are for war.*

Psa 140:2 *Who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day.*

Prov 3:30 *Do not accuse a man for no reason — when he has done you no harm.*

Prov 15:18 *A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.*

Prov 17:14 *Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.*

Prov 17:19 *He who loves a quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction.*

Prov 18:6 *A fool’s lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating.*

Prov 20:3 *It is to a man’s honour to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*

Prov 25:8 *Do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbour puts you to shame?*

Prov 26:17 *Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.*

Prov 26:21 *As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.*

Phil 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

2 Tim 2:14 *Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.*

2 Tim 2:24 *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*

V. **Titus 03:02 Citizens Are Gentle and Considerate**

The Christian citizen must be *considerate, gentle* (epieikeis). The word is difficult to translate into English. It is translated by others as gentleness, forbearance, reasonableness, consideration, agreeableness, courtesy, patience and softness. There is the tendency to say that either forbearance or gentleness is the better translation. It means that there is *something better than mere justice* — a gracious gentleness. Christian citizens are to be gentle and forbearing in dealing with other citizens.

Thought 1. The point is well-taken: we must be gentle and forbearing in dealing with citizens. The last thing that we must do is to criticize, condemn, censor, neglect and ignore citizens. We must reach out to the people of the world with the gospel, and we must treat them with a *loving gentleness*. We must be gentle, having absolutely nothing to do with harshness. Too many of us are harsh and critical or neglectful and withdrawn. Too many of us are wrapped in the cloak of religion having nothing to do with reaching out to the lost. The desperate need of the hour is for us to reach out with the gospel in a *spirit of love and consideration, in a spirit of gentleness*.

Eph 4:2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

Col 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

1 Th 2:7 *But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.*

2 Tim 2:24 *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*

Titus 3:2 *To slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.*

James 3:17 *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

VI. **Titus 03:02 Citizens Show Humility and Meekness**

The Christian citizen must show *true humility* (prautes) to *all* citizens. The word means to be gentle, tender, humble, mild, considerate but strongly so. Humility has the strength to control and discipline, and it does so at the right time.

- a. Humility has *a humble state of mind*. But this does not mean the person is weak, cowardly and bowing. The humble person simply loves people and loves peace; therefore, he walks humbly among men regardless of their status and circumstance in life. Associating with the poor and lowly of this earth does not bother the humble person. He desires to be a friend to all and to help all as much as possible.
- b. Humility has *a strong state of mind*. It looks at situations and wants justice and right to be done. It is not a weak mind that ignores and neglects evil and wrong-doing, abuse and suffering.

=> If someone is suffering, humility steps in and does what it can to help.

=> If evil is being done, humility does what it can to stop and correct it.

=> If evil is running rampant and indulging itself, humility actually strikes out in anger. However, note a crucial point: the anger is always at the right time and against the right thing.

- c. Humility has *strong self-control*. The humble person controls his spirit and mind. He controls the lusts of his flesh (sinful nature). He does not give way to ill-temper, retaliation, passion, indulgence or license. The humble person dies to himself, to what his flesh would like to do, and he does the right thing — exactly what God wants done.

In summary, the gentle man walks in a humble, tender but strong state of mind; denies himself, giving utmost consideration to others. He shows a control and righteous anger against injustice and evil. A gentle man forgets self and lives for others because of what Christ has done for him.

=> God is gentle.

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

=> Jesus Christ was gentle and humble.

Mat 11:29 *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

=> Believers are to be gentle.

Gal 6:1 *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

Eph 4:1-3 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

2 Tim 2:25 *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*

Titus 3:2 *To slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.*

James 1:21 *Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

James 3:13 *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

1 Pet 3:4 *Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ■*

MESSAGE 4:

LIFE WITHOUT GOD

TITUS 03:03

Introduction

This is a terrible picture of what life is like without God. Note that we who are believers were living a life just like what is described here before we accepted Christ. This does not necessarily mean that we were actively involved in every sin included in the list, but we are all guilty of at least some of these sins. And being guilty, we stand before God imperfect and short of His glory. Therefore, we need to be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ. Oliver Greene has an excellent introduction to this verse that merits quoting in its entirety:

“We who are Christians now, once conformed to this picture of wickedness. (The ‘we’ also includes Paul and Titus.) The verse does not necessarily mean that every believer has been guilty of all the things pointed out here. Some things are mentioned that no doubt Paul was not guilty of before his conversion; but he is simply pointing out to Titus that he should preach to the people in the churches... that they should live holy lives, and especially manifest a spirit of humility, order, peace, kindness and due subordination to local authorities. Titus should point out to the believers that they were formerly disorderly, wicked, sensual — sinners by nature; but having heard the Gospel, through the power of the Gospel they had been saved from these things by the grace of God, and now they were new creations in Christ Jesus and by their daily practices should prove to unbelievers that they have had a change of heart.

The minister of the Gospel is never to be proud or arrogant. He is to point unbelievers to Christ — not to his own righteousness or ability to live above the world. The minister is to remember that before his conversion he was in the same condition as the unbeliever to whom he now preaches. The minister is not to forget that he is not superior to others because of his ability, but because of the grace of God and the power of God. The minister is to exhort the wicked to repent. Remembering his own life of sin and wickedness will help him to fervently preach the grace of God which worked a miracle in his own heart; and having had a miracle of grace performed in his own heart, he knows what the grace of God can do for all who will receive it” (The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus, p. 472f).

The subject of the verse and of this study is: life without God.

- I. Man is foolish, disobedient and deceived (v. 3).
 - II. Man is a slave of passions (lust) and pleasure (v. 3).
 - III. Man lives in malice and envy (v. 3).
 - IV. Man is hateful and hated (v. 3).
-

I. Titus 03: 03 Foolish, Disobedient and Deceived Man

Man is foolish, disobedient, and deceived (v. 3) (see *Foolish*, Tit. 3:3; *Disobedient*, Tit. 3:3; and *Deceived*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03: 03 THE FOOLISH AND UNWISE

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 03:03

A person without God is “foolish” (*anoetoi*). The word means to be thoughtless, dull, senseless and without understanding in spiritual matters; to be ignorant of God and unwise in dealing with God.

Note that men sometimes call each other *fools*, using the word as a term of reproach. But believers are forbidden to call other persons fools; God wants no person reproached. But this is not the way the word is being used in the present passage. Scripture is simply saying that a person who denies, ignores or neglects God is acting foolishly, very unwisely.

- => He is thoughtless: not applying his thoughts to God; not thinking through the truth about God.
- => He is dull: not being sharp in his thoughts about God. He is being sleepy-minded, slow and sluggish toward God.
- => He is senseless: not using good common sense about God. He is acting contrary to good common sense. He is deficient in his thoughts about God.
- => He is without understanding: he does not grasp or comprehend God; he does not have the right ideas or thoughts about God.
- => He is ignorant of God: he does not know God. He has not learned God — has not looked at, thought about, studied, nor met, walked and fellowshiped with God.
- => He is unwise: he is acting contrary to wisdom; he is acting dangerously and foolishly.

Scripture is as clear as it can be: the person who walks upon earth without God is foolish. And remember: we were one time foolish — all of us — every believer. We walked upon earth most unwisely, thinking little if any about God, ignoring and neglecting Him; and some of us even denied Him.

But thanks be to God our Saviour, He has saved us, and He will save any person no matter how foolish and ignorant of God he is. No matter how foolish and far away from God a person is, God will save him if he will just call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa 49:13 *This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings.*

Psa 53:1 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.*

Prov 14:8-9 *The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.*

Prov 28:26 *He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*

Jer 17:11 *Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and in the end he will prove to be a fool.*

Luke 11:39-40 *Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?”*

Luke 12:20-21 *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”*

Rom 1:20-22 *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.*

Eph 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise. □*

TITUS 03: 03 THE DISOBEDIENT

A person without God is “disobedient” (apeitheis). The word means to refuse to obey by not doing what one should; to rebel against and to reject instruction; to refuse to be persuaded; to be obstinate against authority. Note a most significant fact: the charge is that man is disobedient in general; that is, he disobeys all authority:

=> He disobeys parents, civil authorities, civil laws and the natural laws of nature — polluting and misusing everything about him.

=> He disobeys the laws of personal duty as he walks day by day at home, in the workplace and throughout his community.

=> Most tragic of all, in fact, the cause of all other disobedience, is that he disobeys God and His Word, the very Person who can save him and who has laid down the commandment of life for man.

Man just comes short, disobeying all the laws and duties of life — not all the time, but sometimes. By nature, when a person wants something that is forbidden, he is drawn to go after it despite the fact that it is wrong and disobedient. He is simply drawn to disobey the law of God or the law of the land and the restriction of the parent.

The point is this: all of us — every believer and every unbeliever — have walked in disobedience. We have all disobeyed all authority; we have been lawless and transgressed all authority ranging from parents over to God. We have come short — far short — of what we should have done.

But thanks be to God our Saviour, for He has provided the way for us to be forgiven. Our guilt and punishment for having broken the law of God and of man can be completely removed from us. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how disobedient we have been — no matter how lawless we have been — God our Saviour will forgive our transgressions. He will forgive them if we genuinely believe that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, paid the punishment of our transgression when He died upon the cross.

Mat 7:24-27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Rom 1:28, 30 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.... slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1 Tim 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers.

Heb 2:2-3 *For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*

1 John 2:17 *The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. □*

TITUS 03: 03 THE DECEIVED

A person without God is “deceived” (planomenoi). The word means to be misled and led astray. It means to be seduced away from God and the truth and away from what is right. Man is so easily led astray that Scripture pictures him as a wandering and lost sheep. He is a sheep that must be sought after, found and saved or else he will be destroyed by the wilderness of the world — destroyed because he was deceived and led away from the eternal pasture of God. Scripture teaches that man is seduced and led astray by several things.

⇒ Man is seduced and led astray by immoral and seductive persons.

Rom 3:13 *“Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”*

Rom 16:17-18 *I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

Eph 5:3-6 *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

2 Tim 3:13 *While evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

1 John 3:7 *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*

Jer 9:5 *Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.*

Micah 6:12 *Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by false teaching and false systems of religion.

***Mat 24:4-5** Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*

***2 Cor 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

***Eph 4:14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

***2 Th 2:3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

***1 Tim 4:1-2** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

***2 Tim 2:16-17** Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus.*

***2 Tim 3:5-7** Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.*

***Titus 1:10-11** For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach - and that for the sake of dishonest gain.*

***2 John 1:7** Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by self.

***1 Cor 6:9-10** Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Gal 6:3 *If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

Gal 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

James 1:26 *If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.*

1 John 1:8 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

Rev 3:16-17 *So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*

Psa 36:2 *For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.*

Jer 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by Satan.

John 8:44 *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

2 Cor 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded [deceived] the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Cor 11:13-14 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

2 Th 2:9-10 *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

1 Tim 2:14 *And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by evil, immoral and unjust governments and states.

Rev 18:23 *The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom [Christ] and bride [the church] will never be heard in you again [Babylon, the symbol of the godless city or government]. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.*

Nahum 3:1 *Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by sin.

Rom 7:11 *For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.*

Eph 4:22 *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.*

Heb 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Remember the point of this verse: once we were all deceived. All of us had been led astray from God. But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has found us and saved us, and He will find and save any person who will turn toward Him and call out for Him. God our Saviour is searching for every person, not willing that any should perish. In fact, God is with the person at all times. All the person has to do is turn to God and call upon Him, and God will save him. □

II. **Titus 03:03** *Man Enslaved by Passions*

A person without God is enslaved by all sorts of passions and pleasures.

=> The word “passions” (epithumiais) means passionate cravings, desires, urges and lusts; it means to have a yearning passion for.

=> The word “pleasures” (hedonais) can mean either good or bad pleasures. In the present context it means bad pleasures, desiring and indulging in worldly amusements and worldly delights.

Every person knows what it is to have the sinful nature lusting after the pleasures and delights of this world, to have it yearning and yearning to lay hold of the pleasures and delights...

- of having more and more
- of partying
- of lusting
- of intoxicating drugs
- of having power
- of exercising authority
- of indulging in food
- of having recognition
- of having money
- of owning property
- of having possessions
- of getting attention
- of attaining position
- of displaying fashion

Man is enslaved by the things of the world, things that damage his body — that make him greedy and selfish — that destroy his spirit and doom him to destruction.

But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has saved us and delivered us from the enslavements of this world, the enslavements of lust and pleasure that destroy our bodies and souls. The wonderful news is that any person can be delivered from the destructive lusts and pleasures of this world. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ. If a person will turn away from the destructive lusts and pleasures and turn to Christ, God will deliver him. God will give him the power to conquer the passions or lusts and enslavements of this world.

***Luke 8:14** “The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.”*

***Luke 12:19-20** And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’*

***1 Tim 5:6** But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

***2 Tim 3:1-2, 4** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy....treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*

***Titus 3:3** At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.*

***James 5:5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.*

***Mat 5:28** “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

***Rom 1:24** Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

***Rom 1:27** In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

***1 Pet 4:3** For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

***Job 24:15-16** The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk; he keeps his face concealed. In the dark, men break into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light.*

III. *Titus 03:03 Men Living in Malice and Envy*

Man lives in malice and envy (v. 3) (see *Malice*, Tit. 3:3; *Envy*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03:03 MALICE

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 03:03

A person without God lives in malice (kakia). The word means evil disposition or evil in nature. It is a spirit full of evil and malice and injury, a character that is as evil as it can be. It is a person who always looks for the worst in other people and always passes on the worst about them. It is the person who so often ruins other people both in reputation and body and in mind and spirit. It is a person so full of evil that he is always ruining others either by word or violence. There are some people who would not actively strike and harm a person, but everyone has experienced feelings against another person. The feelings arise from some argument or difference within the family, with a neighbour, or at work, school or play. And the feelings were strong, so strong that one could care less if something bad happened to the person. And most people have even had feelings...

- that wished something bad upon others.
- that downgraded and tore down others.

Tragically, these feelings even occur within families. People hold malice within their hearts; they could care less if something bad happened to others. But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has provided forgiveness for this terrible sin — both forgiveness and deliverance. And He will forgive and deliver any person who turns away from his malice and bitterness against others and turns to Him.

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Eph 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Col 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

1 Pet 2:1-3 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. □

TITUS 03:03 ENVY

A person without God lives in envy (phthonoi). The word means that a person covets what someone else has, covets it so much that he wants it even if it means that it has to be taken away from the other person. He may even wish that the other person did not have it or had not received it. We may look at people and envy their...

- money
- clothes
- position
- social status
- looks
- recognition
- possessions
- authority
- popularity

The results of envy are terrible; envy takes a terrible toll upon the life and body of a person.

=> A person who envies does not have peace or happiness. He is dissatisfied with what he is and has, and is always wanting more and more of what others have.

=> In addition to this, envy often drives a person into crime and lawlessness in order to get what he craves.

=> On top of this, envy often leads to physical problems such as migraine headaches, high blood pressure and ulcers.

=> Envy also causes emotional problems ranging from mild neurosis of depression to psychotic behaviour.

But thanks to be to God our Saviour. He saves and delivers us from envy. Through Christ He gives us life, real life, and He satisfies our hearts and lives with eternal pleasures (Psa. 16:11).

Prov 14:30 *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

Prov 23:17 *Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.*

Prov 24:1 *Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company.*

Rom 13:13 *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.*

1 Cor 13:4 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

Gal 5:26 *Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. □*

IV. Titus 03:03 *Hateful and Hated Man*

Man is hateful and hated (v. 3) (see *Hate*, Tit. 3:3; and *Hate*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03:03 HATE

A person without God is hateful; that is, he is worthy of being hated (stugetoi). This is the only time this terrible word is used in the Bible. It means to be hated — to be worthy of being hated and counted as detestable. This is strong language, to think that we are worthy of being hated. What does this mean?

- => It means the selfish, greedy, covetous nature of man is worthy of being hated — the nature that lies, steals, cheats, banks and hoards while millions of others are dying from hunger, thirst, disease, cold, heat, sin, evil and from the lack of the gospel which could save the whole world.
- => It means the carnal and immoral nature of man is worthy of hatred — the nature that commits fornication and adultery, destroying homes and bodies through broken trusts and disease and emotional and mental traumas — from which many never recover.

The list could go on and on, but the point is clear: the behaviour of man is very often worthy of being hated. But thanks be to God, for He has saved and transformed our hateful nature. He has taken our unloving nature and made new men out of us. And He will do it for any person who turns from living a selfish and worldly life and turns to Christ. God will transform any person who trusts and follows His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Luke 16:14-15** The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, [earthly possessions, things] but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”*

***Deu 25:16** For the Lord your God detests [extremely hated and disgusting] anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.*

***2 Sam 11:27** After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done [adultery] displeased the Lord.*

***Psa 5:4** You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell.*

***Psa 11:5** The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates.*

***Prov 6:16-19** There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

Zec 8:17 “Do not plot evil against your neighbour, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord. □

TITUS 03:03 HATE

A person without God is the citizen of a world of hate, a world in which people hate one another — a tragic and terrible fact, but a fact nevertheless.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| => Race hates race | => Nation hates nation |
| => Employees hate employers | => Brothers hate brothers |
| => Wives hate husbands | => Children hate parents |

No matter the race, colour, creed, class, position or standing — hate fills the human heart and consumes both man and his world. The result is the worst imaginable world, a world that is ever so beautiful yet is defiled by a human nature and behaviour that defies all human explanation — a human nature that chooses to live in a world of...

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| • war | • rape | • murder | • theft |
| • abuse | • argument | • fighting | • lying |
| • division | • deception | • divorce | • slavery |

But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has saved us and provided an escape for us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We can be delivered from the hatred of the world and receive a life of love, joy and peace — a life that will go on and on forever.

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.”

1 John 2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

1 John 3:15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

Lev 19:17 “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so you will not share in his guilt.”

Prov 10:12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

Prov 15:17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. □

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. ■