TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

Living Out Our Salvation

Titus 3:1–8 • Bible Study

Central Thought: God’s saving grace transforms not only our relationship with Him but also how we live before others.

Historical and Cultural Background

- Titus was ministering among churches on the island of Crete.
- Cretan society had a reputation for moral and social disorder.
- Christians needed to distinguish themselves through godly conduct.
- Their behavior toward outsiders would influence the public perception of the gospel.

Understanding the Structure of Titus 3:1–8

- Verses 1–2: How believers should live
- Verse 3: Who believers once were
- Verses 4–7: What God has done
- Verse 8: How believers should respond

Submission to Governing Authorities

Titus 3:1 — “Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient…”

- Recognize legitimate governing authority.
- Demonstrate submission through obedience.
- Fulfill civic responsibilities.
- Maintain a Christian witness in society.

Cross-references: Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13–17

Does Submission Mean Absolute Obedience?

- Submission is rooted in God’s sovereignty, not the righteousness of individual rulers.
- God establishes governing authority.
- Respect does not require agreement with every policy.
- Poor leadership does not automatically justify disobedience.
- God’s authority takes precedence when human commands directly contradict His commands.

Cross-references: Acts 5:29; Daniel 3:16–18

Christian Character Before All People

Titus 3:1–2 — The Christian’s Public Conduct

- Ready for every good work
- Speak evil of no one
- Avoid quarreling
- Demonstrate gentleness
- Show consideration and humility toward everyone

Cross-references: Colossians 3:12–13; Philippians 2:14–15

Who We Once Were

Titus 3:3 — Humanity’s Condition Before Salvation

- Foolish and disobedient
- Deceived and enslaved to various desires
- Living in malice and envy
- Hateful and hating one another

Cross-reference: Ephesians 2:1–3

Why Remembering Our Past Matters

- Remembering our former condition should produce:
- Humility rather than superiority
- Compassion rather than condemnation
- Patience rather than hostility
- Gratitude for God’s transforming grace

Cross-reference: 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Appearance of God’s Kindness and Love

Titus 3:4 — “But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared…”

- God’s kindness contrasts with humanity’s hatred.
- Salvation begins with God’s initiative.
- God’s love is demonstrated through His saving work in Christ.

Cross-reference: Romans 5:6–8

Salvation Is Based on Mercy, Not Merit

Titus 3:5 — “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy…”

- Salvation is God’s work.
- Human righteousness cannot earn salvation.
- God’s mercy is the basis of salvation.
- Good works result from salvation; they do not cause it.

Cross-references: Ephesians 2:8–10; Romans 3:23–24

The Washing of Regeneration

Titus 3:5 — “…by the washing of regeneration…”

- Regeneration refers to new spiritual life.
- Salvation involves fundamental transformation.
- God brings believers from their former condition into new life.

Cross-references: John 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 6:3–4

Renewal by the Holy Spirit

Titus 3:5–6 — “…and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

- The Holy Spirit brings renewal.
- The Spirit is generously poured out through Jesus Christ.
- God’s saving work involves Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Justified by Grace

Titus 3:7 — “So that being justified by His grace…”

- Justification concerns our standing before God.
- Justification is grounded in God’s grace.
- Salvation provides a new relationship with God.

Cross-reference: Romans 3:23–24

Heirs According to the Hope of Eternal Life

Titus 3:7 — “…we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

- Believers become heirs of God’s promises.
- Eternal life is the believer’s future hope.
- Christian hope rests on God’s saving grace.

Cross-references: Romans 8:15–17; Galatians 4:5–7

The Trustworthy Statement

Titus 3:8 — “This is a trustworthy statement…”

- Paul emphasizes the reliability of the preceding teaching.
- Titus must affirm these truths confidently.
- Sound doctrine should produce godly conduct.

Devoted to Good Works

Titus 3:8 — “…those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds.”

- Good works are an expected response to salvation.
- Believers should intentionally serve others.
- Good works benefit others and strengthen Christian witness.

Cross-reference: Ephesians 2:10

Living Out Our Salvation

- What does Titus 3:1–8 require of us today?
- Respect legitimate governing authority.
- Demonstrate gentleness and humility.
- Remember our former condition apart from Christ.
- Recognize salvation as God’s mercy.
- Pursue good works as evidence of a transformed life.

THE GRACE THAT TRANSFORMS

- Our Former Condition — Sinful and disobedient (v. 3)
- God’s Gracious Intervention — Mercy, regeneration, and justification (vv. 4–7)
- Our Transformed Conduct — Good works and godly living (vv. 1–2, 8)

Closing Thought: We are not saved by good works, but saving grace should produce a life characterized by good works.