

## Titus 3:1-7 – But God Saved Us

The reason to live a godly life is because the grace of God appeared and brought salvation to Jews and Gentiles, men and women, young and old, slaves and free. We are not only declared righteous in God's eyes but by God's grace we are trained to renounce our old lives of ungodliness and to live upright and godly lives right now. Jesus died for us to free us from lawlessness and to purify us so that we would be a people who are holy and set apart, a people of his own possession. In chapter two, Paul gave commands to five groups of believers. In chapter three, Paul gave general commands for all believers. First Paul laid out how we should live in relation to the government and to non-believers and then he gave the theological basis for his exhortations.

### **Read Titus 3:1-7.**

Paul told Titus to remind the Cretan believers to be submissive and obedient to rulers and authorities. What does it mean to be "submissive to rulers and authorities"? Should we submit to everything that the government tells us to do? Are there any exceptions found in scripture? What are these exceptions? See Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29, Daniel 3 and 6. Where does a ruler's authority come from? (3:1)

Titus was to remind believers to be "ready for every good work". What does this mean? Does this relate back to being submissive to government? If so, how? (3:1)

There is a difference of opinion over which parts of verses 1 and 2 apply to government and which parts apply to people in general. How are believers to behave based on verse 2? Can we avoid "speaking evil" of someone while still being critical of what they teach? If so, how? (3:2)

Why should we avoid quarreling? What does it mean to be gentle? How can we show courtesy to people? (3:2)

From verse 3, why should we be gentle and courteous to others? What were we like before we were Christians?

We used to be foolish and all kinds of evil but God saved us. When did God save us? What does the appearance of God's goodness and loving kindness refer to? (3:4)

ESV has "goodness and loving kindness". NASB has "kindness and love for mankind". KJV has "kindness and love toward man". The word "loving kindness" or "love for mankind" in the original language comes from two words combined into one. The two words are "love" and "mankind". Our word "philanthropy" is based on this word. This word only occurs twice in the New Testament.

Based on verse 5, what prompted God to save us? What means did God use to save us? What does the "washing of regeneration" refer to? What does the "renewal of the Holy Spirit" refer to? Do these phrases remind you of any other verses in the Bible? See John 3:5-7. "Regeneration" refers to a complete change of life, a rebirth. (3:5)

Verse 6 talks about the Holy Spirit being poured out on us richly. When was the Holy Spirit initially poured out on believers? When is the Holy Spirit poured out on us individually? Do we need to ask to receive the Holy Spirit?

From the Gospel of John, what was the difference between the baptism of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus?

In verse 7, what is the result of believers being saved, washed and renewed? The word "justified" here is the same word we are familiar with from Romans and Galatians. What is our inheritance?

What is the meaning of "hope of eternal life"? Can we be sure that we will have eternal life?

Given that God saved us based on his mercy and not on our "goodness", how should that affect how we treat non-believers?