

## **The God Who Saves Us**

### **Titus 3:3-7**

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The grand theme of the Bible is about how that we are fallen creatures and how God planned our salvation and sent Jesus into the world to die for us and how the Holy Spirit has used the word of God to regenerate us and bring us into the family of God.

And there are few passages in the Bible that tell that story like the one before us today.

Our situation was not that we were sick and needed healed. It was that we were dead in sin and needed a rebirth, a resurrection from that death. That gives all the credit, all the glory to God.

And it all three persons of the Godhead that deserve the praise. As we see in here in Titus 3, our salvation is the work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#### I. The way we were. V-3

##### A. For we ourselves were also once

1. 3:3 “For we also once” The actions described in this verse characterize fallen mankind, even Christians before they were saved (cf. Rom. 1:29–31; 2 Cor. 6:9–11; Eph. 2:3; 4:17–21; Gal. 5:19–21). Utley, R. J. (2000). Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy (Vol. Volume 9, p. 124). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

##### B. foolish,

1. “foolish” This is the term for “thinking” or “reasoning” negated (cf. Luke 6:11; 24:25; Rom. 1:14, 21; Gal. 3:1, 3; 1 Tim. 6:9; 2 Tim. 3:9). It is a strong term for wrong, inappropriate thinking. Utley, R. J. (2000). Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy (Vol. Volume 9, p. 124). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

##### C. disobedient,

1. “disobedient” This is the term “believing” negated. It was used of (1) King Agrippa in Acts 26:19; (2) pagans in Rom. 1:30; Eph. 2:2; 5:6; (3) Jews in Luke 1:17; Rom. 11:30, 32; Heb. 4:6; and (4) the false teachers in Titus 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:2. Utley, R. J. (2000). Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy (Vol. Volume 9, p. 124). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

D. deceived,

1. “deceived” This is a PRESENT ACTIVE PARTICIPLE, which literally means “deceived” or “seduced.” It originally referred to the wanderers of the night sky and came into English as “planet.” It came to be used metaphorically for that which was in error. This term, like the previous two, is used in Paul’s description of human sin in Rom. 1:27 and 2 Thess. 2:11. Also notice its use in 1 Tim. 4:1–2; 2 Tim. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:25; 2 Pet. 2:18; 3:17; and Jude 11. The PASSIVE VOICE implies the action of an outside agent, here Satan or the demonic. Utley, R. J. (2000). Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy (Vol. Volume 9, p. 124). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

E. serving various lusts and pleasures,

1. “enslaved” This is a PRESENT ACTIVE PARTICIPLE, which literally means “serving as slaves” to human lusts (cf. Rom. 6:6, 12).
2. “to various” This is the adjective “multi-colored,” which was used of the rainbow. It was used of many-sided things (i.e. in 1 Pet. 1:6 and James 1:2 of the many trials that face believers and in 1 Pet. 4:10 of the variegated, many-sided nature of God’s grace).
3. “lusts” This is a compound term from “upon” (epi) and “the mind or soul” (thumos). It referred to a strong desire for something, often in a negative sense. This term is also used in Rom. 1:24 to describe fallen mankind.
4. “pleasures” We get the English term “hedonism” from this Greek word (cf. Luke 8:14; James 4:1–3). Personal gratification becomes a tyrant! Utley, R. J. (2000). Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey: I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy (Vol. Volume 9, p. 124). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

F. living in malice and envy,

G. hateful and hating one another

II. What we didn’t do. V-5a “Not by works of righteousness which we have done”

- A. 1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV) 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 6 But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
- B. Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- C. 2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NKJV) 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our

Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

III. But it is what God did for us.

A. The Father is the author of our salvation.

1. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, according to His mercy He saved us.
  - a. The word for love here is not AGAPE as is usual in the Greek when speaking of the love of God.
  - b. Rather it is philanthropia fil-an-thro-pee'-ah "God's philanthropia comes to expression in the Christ event, {#Tit 3:4} i.e., in regeneration and renewal by the Spirit through Christ. God is no remote and alien God but has condescended to us and placed our life under the concrete obedience that issues in right conduct to others. {#Tit 3:1ff.}" TDNT
  - c. The idea is that God purposed to do good for us.

B. The Son is the provider of our salvation.

1. "He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior," v-6
2. Jesus died in our place.
3. He lived the perfect sinless life that we could not live.
4. But yet He died for our sins.
5. That we might have the righteousness of Christ given to us.

C. The Holy Spirit is the executer of our salvation.

IV. The blessings we have.

- A. Having been justified by His grace
- B. We should become heirs according to
- C. The hope of eternal life.