

## Episode #401 – Titus 3 Part 2: Saved By His Mercy

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Titus has taught the leaders in Crete the behaviors they are to perform and that they are to model to others. Now in chapter 3, God through Paul teaches him what motivates that behavior: even when we were disobedient and ungodly, God's kindness and love toward us blazed forth to us. These things motivate us to perform the good works that God has for us to perform.

III. Titus 3:3-7. Our past and what God did for us. Our attitude toward others should be motivated by a realistic outlook on ourselves.

A. Titus 3:5. We are not saved by our own righteous works. How then are we saved? By God's mercy! This is the same truth as in Ephesians 2:8-9.

1. Washing = the act and the place where the bath takes place. Regeneration = the Greek *paliggenesia*, from *palin* = again, *genesis* = generation, origin.
2. The word "and" is *kai*, here the washing (bath) of regeneration IS the renewing of the Holy Spirit.
3. "The holy spirit" does not have articles in the Greek, so it means "holy power." This is not referring to water baptism nor a "second filling," but something that takes place at salvation.

B. Titus 3:6. These things were richly poured on us through Jesus Christ our Savior. This again refers to the time of our salvation when we believed. In Ephesians 1:13-14, we learn that after we believed we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

1. Notice that it speaks of Jesus Christ our Savior. But in verse 4, it spoke of God our Savior. Are there two Saviors? Might one be saved by God, and another by Jesus Christ? One day by one, and the next by the other?
2. Titus 2:10 has God our Savior. Titus 2:13 has our Savior Jesus Christ.
3. Titus 1:3 has God our Savior. Titus 1:4 has the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.
4. Isaiah 43:11. Beside Jehovah, there is no Savior. This is the very chapter that the Jehovah's witnesses get their name from (verse 10). Yet here Jehovah says that He is the only Savior. And the New Testament tells us Jesus Christ is the Savior. There can be no doubt about it: the Jehovah of the Old Testament IS the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament.

C. Titus 3:7. Saved by His mercy and renewed by His power, we are now justified (declared righteous) by His grace. This is imputed righteousness, and happens at salvation. Romans 3:24-26, He is the just Justifier because of the redemption in Christ. Become heirs = receive a portion. Hope = expectation. Eternal life = eonian life, speaks not just of duration but of quality.

D. Titus 3:8. This all is to motivate us to be careful to maintain good works.

IV. Titus was not to merely teach behavior, but also to teach what motivates that behavior: even when we were disobedient and ungodly, God's kindness and love toward us in His mercy saved us, His washing regenerated us, His power renewed us, and His grace justified us. When it comes to walking the worthy walk that God desires of us "in Christ," these truths are to be our gracious motivation. Thank God for His great mercy toward us!