

Titus

Lesson #20, Chapter 3:4-7

Prayerfully, read Chapter 3 again before beginning this study.

1. In verses 4-7 there are 4 terms that describe God's attributes which were manifested when Christ appeared to save us. There are two in verse 4, one in verse 5 and one in verse 7. Can you find them?
2. In our last lesson we looked at the *kindness* of God, so we will continue our study of verse 4 by looking at His *love*. Paul uses the Greek word *philanthropia* to describe God's love for mankind. If you have a Bible dictionary, look up the definition for that word for love. Note how the same word is used other times in the book of Titus (see 2:2, 4; 3:4, 15)? How is *love* (*philanthropia*) used other places in the Bible? See Rom. 12:10; 1 Cor. 16:22; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Tim. 6:10; Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; Rev. 3:19.
3. Summarize what you learn about this kind of love.
4. In verse 5 we have the phrase *He saved us*, which is the main verb of the whole sentence contained in verses 4-7. It is written in the aorist tense, which indicates a past act that need never be done again. Explain what that means and why it is significant.
5. Explain what salvation *is* and *is not* according to verse 5.
6. What does the Bible say about our "righteous deeds" in relation to salvation? See Matt. 7:15-23; Rom. 4:1-6; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 20:11-15.

7. Eager Beavers: In light of our discussion on salvation by grace versus deeds, examine Paul's argument in Gal. 3:1-14, then break it down into manageable bites so you could explain it to an 8-year-old.

8. God saved us *according to His mercy*. Define *mercy*. Why do we need the mercy of God applied to us?

9. How do the Scriptures describe God's mercy? (In the Old Testament mercy can be translated lovingkindness or compassion). Look up Ps. 86:15; Prov. 28:13; Is. 55:7; Luke 1:78; Eph. 2:4; 1 Pet. 1:3.

10. The Greek word for *regeneration* is found only in Matt. 19:28 and Titus 3:5. It literally means "new birth" and was used by classical Greek writers to describe changes that come with the return of spring. Write your own definition of *regeneration* (rebirth) after looking up the following verses: Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:5; 4:24; Col. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:23.

11. Whenever a metaphor is used in the Bible, as in this case washing in verse 5, to better understand it we need to ask ourselves, "What do we know about washing? What kinds of things need to be washed?"
 - a. Then we can ask, what picture is Paul trying to create here? What does he want us to know about regeneration?

12. The process of salvation also includes renewing by the Holy Spirit. *"Renewing...refers to something which is entirely new in kind, not merely new in time. The impartation of the Holy Spirit makes us new creatures, in contrast to*

the old condition of life (Homer A. Kent in *The Pastoral Epistles*). We see from this verse that renewing and washing of regeneration are acts of the Holy Spirit. Take a look at a few other ways the Holy Spirit works in a believer's life: Jn. 14:16-17; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:26; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 6:8; Eph. 2:22; 2 Thess. 2:13.

13. Notice what verse 6 says about the Holy Spirit, "*whom He [God] poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*" What does this tell you about the resources that are available to you as a believer? How should that knowledge impact your day to day activities?

14. Define *justified*. See also Is. 45:25; 53:11; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16 to help formulate your definition.

15. How do Rom. 4:6-8; 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:21 and Col. 2:13 explain what *justification* is?

16. How are we justified (verse 7)?

17. What is the result of our justification (verse 7)?

Justification is a mercy spun out of the heart of free grace. God does not justify us because we are worthy, but by justifying us makes us worthy.

~Thomas Watson

18. Verse 7 says we are made *heirs*. What is an heir? What special privileges and rights does an heir have? What do you learn about being an heir from Rom. 8:16-17; Eph. 1:11-14, 18; Col. 1:12; 3:24; Titus 3:7?

19. As heirs of God what hope do we have according to verse 7?

20. Someone once said, "Eternal life is not a quantity of time in eternity, but a quality of life which is eternal." Record what you learn about eternal life from the following verses: Jn. 3:16; 5:24; 10:28; 17:3; 1 Jn. 2:25.

21. What truths made an impact on you from this study? Did you learn something new or relearn something?

22. What rich verses we have studied the last 2 weeks. Write a prayer to the Lord concerning the truths of these verses.

If we could weep rivers of tears, out-fast Moses on the mount, if we were exact moralists, touching the law blameless, if we could arrive at the highest degree of sanctification in this life, all this would not save us, without looking to the merits of Him who is God. ~Thomas Watson