

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Titus 3:4-7

Each year, the Elders preach a series of sermons, spaced throughout the year, on a particular theme. This year's theme is the Holy Spirit. Next Sunday, Mark Krystyniak will preach the first sermon in the series on the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

❖ Day 1

Read Titus 3:4-7.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
⁵he saved us,
not because of works done by us in righteousness,
but according to his own mercy,
by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The focus of the sermon will specifically be on the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation. To prepare ourselves to hear that message, we will briefly explore the interplay of each member of the Trinity in this passage.

1. When Paul says 'us' throughout this passage, to whom is he referring? Explain.

2. Context: Verses 4-7 follow a 'but' which indicates a strong contrast with what came before. What came before the 'but' in verse 4?

3. Context: If verse 3 describes us before being saved, and verses 4-7 describe what God did to save us, what is the description of us after salvation in verse 8?

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4. Which person of the Godhead is credited with saving in verse 5?
5. What three attributes of God motivated Him to save?
6. What was not a motivator for God to save?
7. Why would “works done by us in righteousness” not be sufficient grounds to save?

❖ Day 2

Read Titus 3:4-7 again.

8. According to the end of verse 5, how does God save?
9. Why are those who are saved in need of “the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”? What other Scriptures inform your answer? (Note that the words translated ‘regeneration’ and ‘renewal’ speak of being born again and of being made completely new.)
10. According to verse 6, do we have ‘just enough’ of the Holy Spirit available to us? What adverb describes the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those who are saved, and why is this significant?

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11. According to verse 7, what does “the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” result in for the believer?

12. What does it mean to be ‘justified’?

13. Why must justification be “by his grace”?

14. What does it mean to be made an heir in someone’s family?

❖ Day 3

Read Titus 3:4-7 again.

15. Observe how all of God accomplishes our salvation:

- a. Which person of the Trinity directly interacts with us?
- b. Through which person of the Trinity does He come?
- c. From which person of the Trinity does this whole process begin?

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16. For those who are believers, how have you seen the effects of “the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” in your own life? How have you seen a contrast like that described by Paul in verses 3 and 8?

17. In Ephesians 1, Paul says that believers have been “*sealed* with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the *guarantee* of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.” And in his first letter, Peter says that our inheritance in Christ “is *imperishable, undefiled, and unfading*” and is “*kept in heaven*” for God’s children.

- a. How should these (*italicized*) truths make “the hope of eternal life” a sure thing in the heart of believers?

- b. What difference should this sure hope of our inheritance in eternal life – received from the Father through the work of Christ being applied to us by the Holy Spirit – make in the way believers live our lives here today?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would utilize and enjoy the rich provision from God of the Holy Spirit living in His children and so be devoted to the good works that glorify God.