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Titus 3:3-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

Titus 3:1-11 In his closing remarks, Paul admonished Titus to remind believers under his care of their attitudes toward: 1) the unsaved rulers (v. [1](#)) and people in general (v. [2](#)); 2) their previous state as unbelievers lost in sin (v. [3](#)); 3) of their gracious salvation through Jesus Christ (vv. [4-7](#)); 4) of their righteous testimony to the unsaved world (v. [8](#)); and 5) of their responsibility to oppose false teachers and factious members within the church (vv. [9-11](#)). All of these matters are essential to effective evangelism.

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Titus 3:3 ourselves. It is not that every believer has committed every sin listed here, but rather that before salvation every life is characterized by such sins. That sobering truth should make believers humble in dealing with the unsaved, even those who are grossly immoral and ungodly. If it weren't for God's grace to his own, they would all be wicked. *See note on [1 Pet. 3:15](#); cf. [2 Tim. 2:25](#).* For other lists of sins, see [Rom. 1:18-32](#); [1 Cor. 6:9-10](#); [Gal. 5:19-21](#); [Eph. 4:17-19](#).

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

Titus 3:4 kindness . . . appeared. As in [2:11](#), Paul is speaking of Jesus Christ, who was kindness and love incarnate, appearing in human form. Cf. [Eph. 2:4-6](#).

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,

Titus 3:5 not because of works. Salvation has never been by deeds, or works (see [Eph. 2:8-9](#); cf. [Rom. 3:19-28](#)). according to his own mercy. Cf. [Eph. 2:4](#); [1 Tim. 1:13](#); [1 Pet. 1:3](#); [2:10](#). washing of regeneration. *See notes on [Ezek. 36:25-31](#); [Eph. 5:26-27](#); [James 1:18](#); [1 Pet. 1:23](#).* Salvation brings divine cleansing from sin and the gift of a new, Spirit-generated, Spirit-empowered, and Spirit-protected life as God's own children and heirs ([Titus 3:7](#)). This is the new birth (cf. [John 3:5](#); [1 John 2:29](#); [3:9](#); [4:7](#); [5:1](#)). renewal of the Holy Spirit. Cf. [Rom. 8:2](#). He is the agent of the "washing of regeneration."

⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:6 richly. When believers are saved, Christ's Spirit blesses them beyond measure (cf. Acts 2:38-39; 1 Cor. 12:7; 11; 13; Eph. 3:20; 5:18).

⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7 justified. The central truth of salvation is justification by faith alone. When a sinner repents and places his faith in Jesus Christ, God declares him just, imputes the righteousness of Christ to him, and gives him eternal life by virtue of the substitutionary death of Christ as the penalty for that sinner's iniquity. See notes on Rom. 3:21-5:21; Gal. 3:6-22; Phil. 3:8-9. heirs. As adopted children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, believers become "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17; cf. 1 Pet. 1:3-4).

⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Titus 3:8 The saying is trustworthy. A common expression in the early church, used five times in the Pastoral Epistles (cf. 1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11). profitable for people. That is, for the sake of evangelism. Again "people" (cf. Titus 3:2; 2:11) is general, referring to those who respond by the holy witness to the gospel.