



Connect Discussion Guide

12.26.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Titus 3:3-8a

Key Scriptures:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

- John 1:1-5

"For 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. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he 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, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The 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 3:3-8

"In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

- Ephesians 2:22

Message Highlights:

- All of the world is captive to sin and darkness, including us (John 1:5).
- God's goodness and kindness appeared and brought light to our darkness.
- We are God's presence in the world moving forward (Ephesians 2:22).
- Though we are *messengers* of God's light, it is our job to point people to the light, God himself.

Conversation Starter:

Was this year's Christmas celebration similar to or different from what you are used to compared to year's past? In what ways? Next, share a favorite memory with your group from your Christmas celebrations!

Discuss the Message:

1. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 21:2a), yet scripture also tells us each of us are captive to sin and darkness. Reread the key scriptures for today and find examples in the text that confirm this. Discuss this tension of the deceptiveness of darkness and how we can hold God's Truth as supreme over our truth.
2. In Titus 3, Paul's tone changes dramatically from verse three to verse four as the redemptive story of Christmas takes center stage. Discuss with your group the first moment you remember the redemptive light of Christ overcoming the darkness in your life. When did you first experience God's goodness as mentioned in Titus 3:4?
3. How do we go from being receivers of light to givers of light? Using scripture as your guide, discuss why it is vital that we take seriously the call to be givers of light.
4. Amy Bates talked about the relief of burdens lifted by the mercy of God. Recalling the wisdom Amy shared along with truths found in our key scriptures for today, discuss how the light of God frees us from living a burdened life. How does his mercy help you to be a giver of light?
5. God has lavishly poured his spirit on us as we are his presence in the world, however it is important to make the distinction that he is the light, and not us. How have you seen other believers model this principle in their own lives?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, what can we say that would adequately honor and glorify you for the way you have so abundantly lavished your love on us by sending your Son to save us from our slavery to sin? Your goodness and kindness are beyond measure and beyond explanation! We thank you and praise you for bringing us out of the darkness and into your light. King Jesus, we recognize our continual need for you. We are not the light, but we so deeply desire to reflect your light into the darkness of this world. We ask that, by your Holy Spirit, you might shine through our lives and expand your Kingdom into the lives of those around us. Amen.