

## Gospel Gratitude

November 5, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church

Titus 3:1-8

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Premise: God's gracious Gospel changes everything for the believer so we should be motivated to live for Jesus.

### Gospel Gratitude is Powered by:

1. Realizing how hopeless we were in our sins and the immensity of God's goodness and loving kindness 3-5

v4: BUT – refers to v3 our former condition in sin.

Not a popular concept - even 'good' people from 'good' backgrounds don't meet the measure of law: Mt 7:21-23. Breaking one law=guilty: Jms 2:10

In God's eyes all humans guilty: Rom 3:10-12, 23

**How much glory does it give to God if grace is nothing more than God taking a not so bad person and giving them a little moral guidance and a little cleansing?**

2. God's Grace alone, not our good deeds 4-7  
What did you do to be saved?  
Focus of 4-7 is on what God DOES in His goodness & loving kindness

### 3. Gospel Truths:

a. We are saved NOT on the basis of our deeds, but on Christ's deeds  
NT writers (under HS inspiration) take great pains to deny the power of our works in saving us: Rom 4:4-5; 9:11-12; 2 Tim 1:9; Eph 2:8-10  
So what about good works?

We are not saved BY good works we are saved FOR good works!

b. We are saved by God's goodness, kindness and mercy  
God demonstrated His love in Christ 1 Jn 3:16  
God is kind to the evil, we are called to do likewise Lk 6:35

c. We are saved by the washing of regeneration, renewing of the Holy Spirit and by being justified by His grace.

- Washing of regeneration - refers to baptism – an sign and seal which shows what God does to a sinner. WSC Q95; WLC Q165
- Renewing of the Holy Spirit - What God does in believers. 2 Cor 5:17; Col 3:9-10; 2 Cor 3:18
- Being justified by His Grace - Think Great Exchange - heart of the Gospel! 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:21-24.

4. Believers motivated to devote themselves to good works. 8  
A trustworthy statement Titus is to insist upon!  
Devote – be careful to; concentrate on - note the focus for a believer

### Discuss:

- What does Gospel Gratitude look like in a believer's life? What happens when we LOSE our Gospel gratitude?
- Did you come from a 'Christian home'? What did you believe about yourself in your younger years? How has that shaped you today?
- What happens when people think that they are Christian because they are pretty good people? What does that attitude do for what we believe God does and is?
- How much glory does it give to God if grace is nothing more than God taking a not so bad person and giving them a little moral guidance and a little cleansing?
- Take each of the Gospel Truths and discuss what happens if it is eliminated, i.e., We are saved by our good deeds, not Christ's...
- Why do so few Christians in the Church today excel in good deeds? How can we remedy this problem?
- Is it a good thing or a bad thing to be reminded of our sinfulness? What would you say to a person who says it is bad for our 'self-esteem'?
- How do these Gospel Truths make a solid foundation for good deeds? What are they good deeds of 'false religion' worthless?
- Why does insisting that mingling good works with faith for our salvation is to pollute the pure gospel of God's grace?