

# How Then Shall We Live?

Titus 3:1–8

Part 3



“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

I. The Christian’s  
High Calling  
(vv. 1–2)

II. The Christian’s  
Humbling Past  
(v. 3)

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

### III. The Christian's Glorious Testimony (vv. 4–7)

“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”

IV. The Christian's  
Missionary  
Directive (v. 8)

### III. The Christian's Glorious Testimony (3:4–7)

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- Verses 4–7 form one long sentence—the main idea of which is stated in v. 5, “He saved us.”

#### A. Its Historical Context

- To explain how sinners like us could be saved, Paul first identifies the *context* for this salvation.

**“But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared” (v. 4).**

- He points to the incarnation of the Son—whom he calls “the kindness of God” and God’s “love for mankind.”

## B. Its Supernatural Basis

- Paul then describes the *basis* of this salvation, in terms of a *denial* and an *affirmation*.

**“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy” (v. 5a)**

- *Denial*: God saves us *not* on the basis of our religious efforts.
- *Affirmation*: God saves us exclusively on the basis of His own compassion.

“by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (vv. 5b–6)

## C. Its Transformative Means

- Paul now describes *how* this salvation is accomplished; he identifies two means: “regeneration” and “renewing.”

### 1) “the washing of regeneration”

- “washing” = spiritual cleansing
- “by regeneration” = to be born again

You must be born again.

- John 3:7



“A change which is radical and all-pervasive, a change which cannot be explained in terms of any combination, permutation, or accumulation of human resources, a change which is nothing less than a new creation by him who calls the things that be not as though they were, who spoke and it was done, who commanded and it stood fast. This, in a word, is regeneration.”

—Murray, *Redemption Accomplished & Applied*, 100

**“by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (vv. 5b–6)**

## **2) “renewing by the Holy Spirit”**

- **“renewing”** = to cause something new to come into being from that which was old (see v. 3).
- **“by the Holy Spirit”** = the agent who brings about this new state.

“He lieth dead in sin: the Spirit must quicken him. He is bound hand and foot, fettered by transgression; the Spirit must cut his bonds, and then he will leap to liberty. God must come and dash the iron bars out of their sockets, and then he can escape afterwards, but unless the first thing be done for him, he must perish as surely under the gospel as he would have done under the law.”

—*C. H. Spurgeon*



“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

The washing of  
regeneration

The renewal of  
the Holy Spirit

—Ezekiel 36:25–26

**“by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (vv. 5b–6)**

- Paul seizes upon this reference of the Spirit to describe more about His connection to our salvation.
- **“poured out”** – the analogy of pouring a liquid to describe the Father’s gifting of the Spirit to us.
- **“richly”** = lavishly; more than is necessary—not miserly.
- **“through Jesus Christ our Savior”** – all the persons of the Godhead intricately involved.



**“so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life” (v. 7).**

## **D. Its Ultimate Purpose**

- **“so that”** – Paul concludes this profound summary of salvation by explaining the *purpose* of God’s saving activity.
- **“being justified”** – “acquitted of sin and declared righteous by God.”
- **“grace”** – the *grounds* for justification: not our works, but God’s unobligated favor.
- **“made heirs”** – recipients of something greater than what is experienced/enjoyed now.

## IV. The Christian's Missionary Directive (3:8)

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**“This is a trustworthy statement” (v. 8a).**

- Paul intends that this theologically rich sentence of vv. 4–7 serve as the paradigm for understanding what happened to us in salvation.
- *Question:* “Explain your salvation.”
- *Answer:* “When the grace of God appeared . . .” (vv. 4–7).

# A TESTIMONY CHECKLIST

“Here is the story of my salvation . . .”

- ✓ *Its historical context (v. 4)* – root it in the historic work of Christ.
- ✓ *Its supernatural basis (v. 5a)* – deny personal worthiness and affirm God’s mercy as the foundation.
- ✓ *Its transformative means (vv. 5b–6)* – acknowledge the gift of a new life that makes a decisive break with the past.
- ✓ *Its ultimate purpose (v. 7)* – emphasize that it guarantees you more than just the forgiveness of sins—eternal life!

**“and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently,  
so that those who have believed God will be careful  
to engage in good deeds” (v. 8b).**

- **“These things”** – everything from vv. 1–7.
- **“To speak confidently”** – “to insist,” to communicate to the Cretan believers with all authority (see 2:15).
- **“Will be careful”** – “to give sustained thought, intentionality to.”
- **“To engage in”** – “to occupy oneself with.”
- **“Good deeds”** – the saved person’s proper output (2:14; Eph 2:10).

**“These things are good and profitable for men” (v. 8c).**

- Paul closes this section of instruction with an evangelistic push.
- The outcomes of “goodness” and “profitability” must be read in light of vv. 3–7.
- Having been saved from the unbelief and rebellion of their countrymen, the Cretan believers are to be channels for the salvation of others.

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:16



# IMPLICATIONS

- Do you see yourself in Titus 3:3–7?
- Do you give intentional thought to your display of good works?
- Is it your desire that your life will be an instrument used for the salvation of other sinners?

