

TITUS 3

Lesson 23

April 04, 2024

Titus 3:3 - 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.

In this verse, Paul points to the pre-Christian life before the salvation conversion. Frequently in Paul's letters he contrasts what Christians were before their conversion with their new potential in Christ. Paul had a realistic perspective, when dealing with this issue. He was not calling out others in an arrogant way, but from His own experiences. Paul referred to himself as the Chief sinner. **This is what Saul/Paul's pre-Christian life looked like:**

Stephen is stoned to death- Acts 6:1-15, Acts 7:51-57

Acts 7:58 - When they had driven him (**Stephen – one of the first disciples**) out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul (**He would later become the Apostle Paul**).

Acts 8:1-3 - Saul was in hearty agreement with putting Stephen to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Some devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him.

Saul Persecutes the church But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, then he would put them in prison.

Saul captures and is involved in their murders Christians –

Acts 9:1-2 - Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2) and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way (Christians), both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

We may not be murdering others or personally persecuting the church, but we are full of our own evil, sinful ways. Saul recognized his behavior after his conversion experience; it changed him!

Verse 3 draws attention to the past with a list of vices which are typical of pre-Christian experiences. Paul uses the term “foolishness” to refer to their disobedience (unbelief) and the deception they were under.

Paul refers to their behavior as slavery to passions and pleasures. In other words, you might say, I want this, I love that, I’m going to get mine! Get out of my way! Me, Me, Me!

spending our life in malice and envy,

Malice – “κακία” in the Gr. meaning ① the quality or state of wickedness, depravity, ② a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition, malice, ill-will ③ a state involving difficult circumstances, trouble, misfortune.

Envy – Jealousy of others; Spite and resentment toward the success or possessions of another.

hateful, hating one another - hateful is a hatred that comes from jealousy of others and operates alongside envy. Treating others differently because of the perception that they have something you want. “**Hating one another**” can come from stereotypes in culture, or in an ingrained teaching about a group of people that dominates your human thought. You can see this in the hatred of the Jews.

Titus 3:4-5 - **But when** the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5) 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,** In **verse 3**, you see **the ugly, the depravity and wickedness of mankind**. Then in **verse 4**, it begins with “**But –When**” The word “**but**” is a contrastive conjunction and translates as the undeserved, unexpected and completely surprising event of God’s saving act in Christ. The “**total depravity**” in **vs. 3** is then **overcome** with this contrastive conjunction.

Titus 3:6-7 - **whom He (God) poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7) so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

In **verse 6** we see that God poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ.

What did God pour out upon us richly?

A believer receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at faith.

This indwelling of the Holy Spirit had never been done for believers before Christ went to the cross. This action is trinitarian in nature. God (the father) poured out the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ (the son). None acts without the other. Each showing love towards us!

Ephesians illustrates this well, so we are going to look at it.

Eph. 2:1-10 – 1) And **you were dead in your trespasses and sins**, 2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4) **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us**, 5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ 6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7) so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches** of His grace **in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. 8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, “it” (subject is salvation) is the gift of God; 9) not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Eph. 2:7 - so that in the ages to come He (God) might show **the surpassing riches** of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Surpassing - ὑπερβάλλω “**HUPERBALLO**” to attain a degree that extraordinarily exceeds a point on a scale of extent, go beyond, surpass, outdo...

in riches - (Grace, Mercy Kindness, Tolerance, Patience and Love for mankind)

In **Titus 3:7** **When we become believers**, we are made to be **heirs**, according to the hope of eternal life.

There are 2 types of heirs the bible speaks about:

1. As a believer, you are a son or daughter in Christ – A Royal family member! This heirship is an eternal promise that you are sealed with as a believer and you will be in Heaven when you die. (Gal.3:26-29)
2. The next form of heirship is based on you Inheriting the Kingdom of Heaven and being a co-partner with Christ (Metochoi). This is experiential sanctification and happens after salvation.

There is a difference between **entering** Heaven and **inheriting** Heaven.

Example: If you rent a house, you may enter it, you have the right to be there, but could you move walls or remodel the house? **No!**

If you Inherit the house, you not only have the right to live there, but you now have the ability to remodel the house. Ownership has it's privileges!

When we Inherit Heaven, it is based off our works. Were we good tenants when we rented there? Did we handle things the way the owner desired?

Rebellious believers, guilty of perpetuating sins on the disturbing list, are like renters. There will be things they won't get to do or have in Heaven and restrictions they will have to observe.

Believers who grow up spiritually and do not fall back into their old sinful habits will inherit rights and privileges, beyond their wildest dreams. They will be granted the honor of co-ruling with Christ in the kingdom of God.

Rev. 2:26-27 - He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;

Christ promises believers who are faithful that they will join Him in His millennial rule (**Ps. 2:8–9; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4–6**). The word in verse 27 translated “rule” ποιμαίνω (poimaino) (v.fai) is a future time and the believer produces the action, and it means “to shepherd,” indicating that they will not simply be administering justice but will also, like a shepherd using his rod, be dealing with his sheep and protecting them as well. Though **Psalm 2:9** refers to Christ’s rule, John’s quotation of it here relates the ruling (**shepherding**) to the believer who overcomes. Believers will have authority just as Christ does (**1 Cor. 6:2–3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21**). Christ received this authority from His Father (**John 5:22**).

John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 938.

The Bible contains lists of sins that some think true believers would never commit. Two such lists are found in 1 cor. 6:9-10 and Gal. 5:17-21. They list the people who will NOT inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, drug addicts, swindlers, revilers, carousers, those who lose their temper, those who are covetous, impure, and jealous and those who cause dissention. Do these lists refer to unbelievers? **No!**

. Do they refer to believers who have lost their salvation? **No!** Or is it possible that such sinners may have had faith but not “saving faith” that was strong enough to secure their salvation? **No!** **These lists were written to confront people already saved who were guilty of falling back into their old sinful habits.** (1 Cor. 6:8) They were warned that by yielding to temptation, they would forfeit the privilege of being co-heirs and co-rulers with Jesus Christ during the Millennium. These verses do not say they won’t inhabit the kingdom of God. They say they will not inherit the kingdom of God.

For more about this subject, you can read, “Can you tell”? In our church library. The literature is free and written by our Pastor Mike Smith.

Titus 3:8 - 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.

Verses 4-7 in Titus 3 are acknowledged here in verse 8 as “A trustworthy statement.” Also, Titus is instructed to speak confidently so those who believed God will be careful in these things and engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

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