

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHRISTIANS

TITUS 3:3-8

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – APRIL 27, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 3:3-8

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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What is a situation you were in where you felt like you didn't belong?

SERMON RECAP

- **Who We Were:** Before Christ, all believers were characterized by foolishness and disobedience, enslaved to passions and pleasures, and living in broken relationships marked by malice, envy, and hatred.
- **How We Were Saved:** Our salvation came not through our own righteous works but entirely through God's mercy. This salvation happens through the regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, which comes through our Savior Jesus Christ.
- **How We Should Live:** Those who have experienced this grace should be devoted to good works, which testify to God's transforming power and makes Christ visible to those around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. According to verses 3-4, what was our condition before Christ saved us? How does Paul describe our choices, hearts, and relationships prior to salvation?
2. What reasons does Paul give in verses 5-7 for why God saved us? What was not the basis of our salvation?
3. What is the purpose of our salvation according to verse 8? What are believers instructed to devote themselves to?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Pastor Mike mentions that "there has never been a Christian who is the hero of their own story." How does this passage support that statement?
2. Paul uses the phrase "washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" in verse 5. What do you think this means? How does this relate to the transformation that happens in a Christian's life?
3. Why does Paul emphasize both God's mercy in salvation *and* our responsibility to do good works? How are these two concepts related rather than contradictory?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. The sermon describes our former condition as being "enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures." What areas in your life do you still struggle with this kind of enslavement, and how might remembering God's mercy help with those struggles?
2. How has your understanding of God's grace and mercy shaped the way you view yourself and others? In what ways has it changed how you interact with people who are different from you?
3. Verse 8 emphasizes that believers should "be careful to devote themselves to good works." What are some specific "good works" you could engage in this week that would put the grace of the gospel on display in your workplace, school, or family?
4. Pastor Mike asked, "Have you truly been saved by grace?" How would you explain to someone what it means to be



“saved by grace” based on this passage? How confident are you in your answer to this reflection question?

LEADER NOTES

VOLUNTEER AT KINDGOM ADVENTURE WEEK | Kid's Quest and Access are hosting a Bible day camp for children of all abilities and they need your help to bring the fun this summer! Volunteer needs include serving as room leaders or inclusion buddies for students with special needs. Day camp will run June 24-28 from 10 am-3 pm at MBC Tysons. Sign up to serve [HERE](#) or contact [Caleb Barnhart](#) for more information.