

“I DON’T DESERVE IT!”

TITUS 3:3-7

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INTRODUCTION

What is the most powerful motivation that the believer has to avoid “abusive speech” and rather to be gentle and to show “every consideration for all men”—even the defiled and antagonistic?

- 1) The undeserved grace of God in Jesus Christ (vv. 4-7), along with the fact that
- 2) We also were just like the wicked unsaved world before our conversion (v. 3). We are no better than they!

How we need to remember the words of “Amazing Grace” **[Recite them]**

In this passage Paul show us two primary facts:

- The wickedness of our condition BC—before Christ saved us.
- The Amazing Salvation Worked for and in us by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

YOU MUST NEVER FORGET HOW AMAZING YOUR SALVATION THROUGH GOD’S MERCY AND GRACE REALLY IS!

- I. I ONCE WAS LOST (3)
 - A. Foolish—both ignorant and not able to understand—“their foolish heart was darkened.”
 - B. Disobedient—disobey and disbelieve
 - C. Deceived—to be led astray by false teachers and leaders
 - D. Enslaved—having our own way in violation of God’s will **is enslaving**.
 1. Various “lusts”—various strong desires; evil desires here as often in the NT
 2. Various Pleasures—we get our word “hedonism” from this term
 - E. Spending (wasting) our lives
 1. In Malice—wickedness especially in our minds and attitudes toward others
 2. In Envy—begrudging others what they have; envy led Jewish leaders to execute Jesus; led Korah, Dathan, and Abiram to rebel against Moses
 - F. Hateful—odious, detestable, disgusting, repulsive
 - G. Hating one another

What a huge **“but”** at the beginning of v. 4!

- II. BUT NOW I AM FOUND (4-7)
 - A. God Came to the rescue (4)
 1. “God our Savior” [cf. “Jesus Christ our Savior” in v. 6]
 2. God’s “kindness”—*kindly, generous, good*
 3. God’s love for mankind—our word philanthropy, but not used with that sense here; more than mere help to people in distress and generosity. **The word literally means “love for/toward mankind”** and conveys the idea of *John 3:16; Rom. 5:8*.
 4. The *Appearance* is a second reference to the 1st Coming of Christ—His Incarnation—as in 2:11.
 - B. God Saved Us (5) [The verb does not come till much later in the verse—**very emphatic denial of human works having any part in salvation.**]
 - Salvation from sin, guilt, death, hell, punishment.
 - “Justification” in v. 7 is parallel with “salvation” here.
 1. Not through any human effort or merit
 - a. Not out of a source human works
 - b. Not in a condition of human righteousness—whether natural “righteousness” of man, or specifically that of conformity to Mosaic Law.
 - c. Not from deeds which we have done—**Sharp contrast between “WE” and “HIS” mercy.**
 2. **BUT**—according to, on the basis of, **His mercy** (v. 5) and **Grace** (v. 7).

- a. “Mercy” is God not giving us what we **really deserve**.
- b. “Grace” is God totally unmerited favor—giving us what we **don’t deserve**.
- 3. Through the Washing of Regeneration—The **New Birth** and the cleansing connected with it.
 - a. This does not refer to Water Baptism; cf. Eph. 5:26—only other NT use of “washing”—“With water by the Word.
 - b. Regeneration—“new life” does the washing; not literal water.
 - c. The context makes clear that the Holy Spirit is the effectual agent.
- 4. Through the Renewing of the Holy Spirit—**Sanctification**
 - a. Begins at conversion; continues throughout life.
 - b. Accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit
- 5. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit and His enabling of us with His gifts (6)
 - a. He poured out His Spirit (see Acts 2—Pentecost; then to believers individually in the present)
 - b. He did this through Jesus Christ—as Jesus tells his disciples in Jn. 14, 16, Acts 2, etc.
- C. God Justified Us (7).
 - 1. He declared us righteous through His grace—unmerited favor
 - a. Removed our guilt.
 - b. Credited to us Christ’s righteousness.
 - 2. His goal in saving/justifying us is that **we might be made heirs**.
 - a. As children we now have rights to all of His riches.
 - b. The full inheritance privileges become ours at our resurrection and entrance into the eternal state.
 - 3. This inheritance is **according to**, on the basis of, measured by the hope of eternal life.
 - a. Hope is confident assurance.
 - b. Eternal life begins now, is fully experienced later.

CONCLUSION

What an amazing passage! What a present salvation we have! What a future awaits us!

Our past misery is over with and gone forever!

Now, we can show kindness, gentleness, and compassion and real consideration toward wicked men through Christ.

Salvation, Justification, Regeneration, Cleansing, Sanctification, Spiritual gifts and Service, Inheritance, Eternal life!

All in these few verses. What a Salvation that we have.

I once was lost

But Now I am Found

TRUE FREEDOM ON INDEPENDENCE DAY—AND I DON’T DESERVE IT!

YOU MUST NEVER FORGET HOW AMAZING YOUR SALVATION THROUGH GOD’S MERCY AND GRACE REALLY IS!