

The ABCs of Salvation (Titus 3:3-8)

Introduction: *A useful passage to know what to say to others*

A. There is something to ADMIT (v. 3)

It is *sinner*s that Christ Jesus came into the world to save (1Tim 1:15). “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (Mk 2:17). “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you” (Matt 21:31). Story of the judge, “Man, nothing but the grace of God could have caused me to admit that I was a sinner on a level with that burglar! It was harder for me to get converted than for that burglar!”

B. There is something to BELIEVE (v. 4-8)

(1) about God (v. 4-5a)

What hope do people have that God might save them? Paul identifies three reasons in verses 4 and 5: God’s *kindness*, God’s *love* toward man, and God’s *mercy*. “By grace are you saved, through faith ... not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph 2:9-10).

(2) about the Holy Spirit (v. 5b-6a)

He gives a spiritual cleansing or washing which brings us two things, new birth or regeneration, and a new principle of life, or renewing. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of 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 keep My judgments and do them” (Eze 36:25-27).

(3) about Jesus Christ our Savior (v. 6b-7)

“The judges [must] *justify* the righteous and *condemn* the wicked” (Deut 25:1). “He wore my crown, the crown of thorns; I wear his crown, the crown of glory. He wore my dress, nay, rather, he wore my nakedness when he died upon the cross; I wear his robes, the royal robes of the King of kings. He bore my shame; I bear his honour. He endured my sufferings to this end that my joy may be full, and that his joy may be fulfilled in me. He laid in the grave that I might rise from the dead and that I may dwell in him” (Spurgeon).

C. There is something to CONSIDER (v. 8)

Hebrews 10:24, “Let us *consider* one another in order to stir up love and good works” Verse 8, “Those who *have believed in God* should be *careful* to maintain *good works*. These things are good and profitable to men.” God has not only saved us *from* something. He’s saved us *for* something. Salvation is not *of* works but *for* works. Chapter 2:14, “[He] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” “He who would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matt 16:24)

Conclusion: *Now there may be something you need to “D” do, pray...*

“Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free.

Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqueror be” (George Matheson).