

Theme: We have been saved by the mercy and grace of God. As heirs of eternal life, our lives are filled with good works, the evidence of that new life.

Background: Chapter 1 – Christian ethics in the church. Chapter 2 – Christian ethics in the community and/or home. Chapter 3 – Christian ethics in the society

Introduction: Reminders serve an important purpose. We are reminded of things we should know.

## I. Our Witness In the World

### A. Who we are to be (vv. 1, 2)

1. The believer under authority
  - a. Submissive to authority - Even Roman rule
  - b. An active social conscience - Seeking the best for the state and culture
2. The believer in relationships – Outside of the church
  - a. We do not...
    - 1) Speak evil of others
    - 2) Quarrel ("pick fights")

NOTE: We ought not to be offensive in speech or action.

- b. We are to...
    - 1) Be gentle/kind: conciliatory?
    - 2) Show perfect courtesy, kindness
  - c. Toward all people

### B. Who we were (v. 3) - Four couplets:

1. Foolish and disobedient - Our own doing due to our sinful nature
2. "Led astray" and "enslaved"
  - a. Foolishness and disobedience is helped along by the Evil One
  - b. What was pursued for pleasure becomes a prison
3. Living in malice and envy
  - a. Malice – wishing people evil, evil intent
  - b. Envy – coveting, resenting their blessing or good
4. Hated by others – hating one another - Our malice and envy is reciprocated

## II. Our Witness To the World

### A. The appearing of God our Savior

1. The epiphany of the Goodness & Loving-kindness of God
2. Revealed and embodied!

### B. Salvation is of God

1. Can't save ourselves
  - a. We are "enslaved"
  - b. In spite of what the culture says
  - c. God must act. It's a matter of God's mercy (v. 5), and grace (v. 7)
2. Salvation is found in Christ  
NOTE: Christianity is fundamentally a religion of salvation – not simply a moral code.  
(1 John 4:14; John 3:16; Luke 19:10)
3. Salvation must be "personal" - I must know He saved me

### C. He Saved Us (vv. 4-7)

1. It is necessary
2. It is rooted in the Character of God
  - a. God takes the initiative to save

- b. Salvation flows not from our deserving but from His mercy
- 3. It is accomplished in Christ
  - a. God acts to save!
  - b. Christ died for us (1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 6:10; Romans 5:8)
- 4. It is applied to us
  - a. Regeneration
    - 1) Washing - reference to baptism - The sign is intimately connected to the thing signified
    - 2) Regeneration - What was dead was made alive
    - 3) Renewal - Bringing transformation to the whole person
    - 4) Holy Spirit - Who is poured out on us
  - b. Justification - By His grace we are declared righteous  
NOTE: Regeneration and justification are inseparable! Salvation includes both.
- 5. Eternal life - As heirs of heaven!
- D. Remember this - A trustworthy saying

### III. A Credible Witness

- A. The evidence of faith - Good works (vv. 8, 14)
  - 1. Avoiding the "unprofitable"
  - 2. Pursuing what is "excellent and profitable" - As outlined in each chapter
- B. In both doctrine and duty

Conclusion: How have you answered the most important question you will ever be asked?