

Title: The Goodness and Loving Kindness of God

Scripture: Titus 3:1-7

Series: The Pastoral Epistles

1. Introduction:

- a. Chapters 1 and 2 taught us much about sanctification both in the congregational and family life of the church.
- b. Chapter 3 now gives us directions for living sanctified public lives.
- c. As believers, we look forward to the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ, but we must never forget our duty while we are here on earth. How we behave as citizens and neighbors will either evidence or deny the gospel message we preach.

2. Verses 1 and 2: Christians are to lead godly public lives:

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, (2) to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

- a. Our passage of scripture begins with seven positive commands that must be taught and expected from all Christians in their public lives.
- b. Titus is to **remind them** of these commands: A primary duty of any minister is to **remind** the people of God to live in harmony with Scripture. We are to

remind the people of God of what they should already know but must continuously hear. A pastor can never let the congregation forget to walk in love and obedience to God's Word.

- i. **2 Peter 1:12-13** Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. (13) I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,

c. **Submission to authority** evidences the new birth:

- i. The natural man has an aversion to any authority besides his own. Man typically wants to live as the captain of his own destiny. However, the new birth changes us. And through the example of Jesus' humility and meekness, we learn that we must be in submission to God's authorities in this world. In so doing, we demonstrate our submission to Him.

1. **Romans 13:1-2** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

d. **Obedience** evidences the new birth:

- i. We are to submit outwardly, but we must also obey inwardly. In other words, we are to obey from willing hearts. Our obedience cannot be just lip service or compulsory. We obey authority as Christ obeyed.
- e. Christians should always be **ready for every good work**. We are to look for opportunities to bless those around us.
 - i. **Galatians 6:10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- f. Christians are never to **speak evil of anyone**. We all know that insulting and abusive language is never permissible and something that should be far from the lips of any true Christian.
 - i. **Matthew 15:11** it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”
- g. Christians are to **avoid quarreling**. We are to avoid any type of fighting or contention. Christians are to be peacemakers.
 - i. **Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- h. Christians must be **gentle** and ready to yield personal rights,
 - i. **Isaiah 42:3A** a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench....

- i. Christians are to **show perfect courtesy toward all people**, even the sinful and arrogant. This, of course, is an impossible task apart from God's grace!

3. Verse 3: Christians must remember that we were once dead in sin: 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.
 - a. The new birth changes us from being carnally minded to spiritual beings:
 - i. Therefore, recalling what we once were before God's salvation makes it easier for us **to be courteous to all people**.
 - ii. **The phrase "For we"** includes Paul, Titus, and all believers everywhere. All of us, without exception, were sinners like the rest of mankind.
 1. **Romans 6:17** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,
 2. Speaking about our sinful past in **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of

the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- b. We were **foolish**, not only ignorant but by nature unable to discern the things of the Spirit.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
 - ii. **Ephesians 4:18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.
- c. We were **disobedient** to both divine and human authority. We find that man naturally resents correction.
- d. We were **deluded**, made to wander from the truth, living in a world of unreality. Thinking we were alive while we were dead! Thinking we were good while we were vile sinners.
- e. We were **enslaved to various passions and pleasures**, allowing these strong evil desires to dominate life and conduct.
- f. We lived **in malice and envy**. Malice is badness, perversity, wickedness; especially the evil disposition of the mind. One of its most soul-destroying manifestations is envy.
- g. We were **hateful**.

- i. Because of his attitude towards God and man, the sinner is hated by fellow sinners.
- ii. **We hated each other.** This happens naturally when hateful people are forced to live with each other in all their sinfulness.

4. Verses 4 and 5: We must remember the difference between them and us is grace: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) 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,

a. Contrasted with man's hatefulfulness in the previous verse, we see the dawning of the light of the Father's kindness and pity which brings sinners into the state of grace.

- i. **Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

b. Therefore, these words about the **kindness of God our Savior and his love toward man** move us to grateful worship.

- i. **Galatians 2:20B**And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- ii. It was **the kindness and the love of God our Savior** which came to our rescue. God the Father saved us, rescuing us from the greatest evil and granting us the greatest blessing.
- c. In verse 5, Paul stresses the fact that we, on our part, did not deserve this salvation. We read that **the Father saved us not by works which we ourselves had performed**, but according to his own mercy.
 - i. The implication is that there are no human deeds that can save any sinner. No one has ever performed a work worthy of salvation.
 1. **Isaiah 64:6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
 2. **Romans 3:10** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;
- d. God saves through the **washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**. The washing referred to is spiritual. It is the work of the Holy Spirit who regenerates and renews the believer. How?
 - i. **John 1:13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - ii. **Colossians 2:13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- e. Eternal life is the work of the Holy Spirit. In Scripture, it is especially the third person of the Trinity who is represented as the bestower of life.
 - i. It is a radical change so that those loaded down with sin beforehand are now the saints of God.
 - ii. **Commentary:** Sanctification is that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit, by which he delivers the justified sinner from the pollution of sin, renews his whole nature in the image of God, and enables him to perform good works.

5. Verse 6: God pours out the Holy Spirit on the Saved:

whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

- a. **The Doctrine of the trinity:** Beloved, please notice how in this passage, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are beautifully combined.
- b. God the Father not only gives his Son but also **pours out his Spirit**. The **Spirit was poured** out upon the church, has established His personal residence in the church, and never leaves it again.
 - i. The beautiful phrase “**through Jesus Christ our Savior**” indicates that Jesus, through His atoning sacrifice and intercession, secured for his people the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1. **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
2. **John 16:7** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

6. Verse 7: Justification by Grace: so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- a. We must remember, we were by nature children of wrath, but we have been made alive. Therefore, we now look forward by faith to the ages to come when we shall receive even greater glory
- b. **Having been justified**. This means having been declared righteous. Justification is an act of God the Father where he counts our sins to be Christ's and Christ's righteousness to be ours.
 - i. It is the opposite of condemnation. It implies deliverance from the curse of God because that curse was placed on Christ.
- c. The purpose, then, of the work of God in saving us is **“that ... we might become heirs ... of life everlasting”**. Even now in this present life, we have the right as children to look forward to the full possession of what we now possess only in principle.

All of this is accomplished through our mighty savior
Jesus Christ at the cross.

7. Benediction:

- a. **Romans 5:5** and hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Public Reading of Scripture:
Romans 5:1-6