

“Love and Mercy”
Titus 3:4-7
(Preached at Trinity, May 28, 2023)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verse 2** Paul charged us on how to live before the people of this world:
"to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men."
2. One of the motives for our patient grace towards all men is our memory of what we were.
We were just like them.
Titus 3:3 NAU - "For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."
3. But that was before God shined upon us with His grace and mercy.
Verses 4-7 describe God's wondrous salvation. This passage describes God's redeeming grace that was wrought in eternity. Paul describes God's Trinitarian work of redemption as each person of the Godhead makes His contribution.
The Father initiates His redemption by His love and mercy.
He works it out through the washing and renewing of His Holy Spirit.
He accomplished it through the finished work of Jesus Christ our Savior.
4. Our sin was great but God's grace was abundantly greater.
Romans 5:20 KJV - "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"
God has purposed to save His people from their sin.
- I. First, we have the root cause of our salvation – it is God's work alone.
Titus 3:4 NAU - "But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared"
 - A. It was founded upon God's eternal electing love.
 1. Paul again refers to God as our Savior. Paul also used it in 1:3 & 2:10.
It is a title usually reserved for Jesus but salvation is a work of the entire Godhead. It originated with the Father.
God determined in eternity to turn His kindness and love upon His elect people.
 2. Why did God choose to save us? Because of His infinite love. Why did God choose to love us? Because God delights in His love.
Micah 7:18 NAU - "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love."
Ephesians 2:4-5 NAU - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"
 3. Do you stand amazed over God's love for you – undeserved, unchanging, infinite love. It was particular electing love. God chose to love you.

Well I pledge my wife to heaven,
for the Gospel,
Though our love each passing
day just seems to grow.
As I told her when we wed, I'd
surely rather be found dead,
Than to love her more than the
one who saved my soul.

Keith Green

B. Paul says it was according to God's mercy

Titus 3:5 NAU - "according to His mercy

1. God's mercy is also according to His sovereign grace. Both love and mercy are Divine attributes. God manifests His attributes according to His sovereign will. He sovereignly chose those who would be the recipients of His divine mercy.

Romans 9:15-16 NAU - "For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy."

2. Sovereign mercy puts us in our place as human beings. It humbles us.
 - a. Statements like, "This makes God unfair" or "unjust" will never stand.

Romans 9:14 NAU - "What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!"
 - b. God has the right to do with fallen man as He pleases. God is God. He always works out perfect justice.
 - c. If God looked upon righteous people and chose to send some to hell and others to heaven that would be injustice.
 - d. In God's election He is dealing with wicked people. We all deserve Hell. If any are saved it is by mercy. How is God unfair by rescuing some from hell while leaving others to their just punishment?
 - e. In our sinful pride we think if God saves any He must show mercy to all and save all. This is foolish thinking. God is sovereign to do according to His good pleasure.

Romans 9:15 NAU - "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

3. Ultimately, God does all things for His own glory – to which we must say amen.

Ephesians 1:5-6 NAU - "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

God glorifies Himself both in the condemnation of sinners and in the salvation of sinners.