
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermon-archive
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Titus 3:3-7

[3] 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. [4] 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, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

1. The Source of Saving Grace (4)
2. The Way of Saving Grace (5a)
3. The Means of Saving Grace (5b-6)
4. The Results of Saving Grace (7)

Life Group Leader Notes:



•I know several groups took last week off for Christmas. If you have not discussed it yet, it might be a good icebreaker to talk about Bible reading plans for the year. We have put together a church-wide reading plan if somebody needs a place to start. You can pick up a hardcopy at the welcome desk or access it online:

https://www.abfboone.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2022_52-Week-Bible-Reading-Plan.pdf

•Pastor Scott made two comments about the gospel in the introduction:

1. It is a biblical position for us to be self-aware of our own wretchedness.
2. The closer we draw to Christ, the more we see our wretchedness.

Does the second statement seem counterintuitive to anyone in the group? Do you ever assume that the closer you draw to Christ, you should become *less* aware of your sin? Why is it, then, that the closer we draw to Christ, the more we see our sin? Have you seen this in your own life? When was the last time you were grieved by your sin? (It might help to use the metaphor of light - the closer you draw to light, the more stains you can see).

•Was anyone in your life group raised in a Christian home, where they were perhaps spared from the full potential of their wretchedness? If so, how does a text like Titus 3:3-7 speak to you? Was there a time when you discovered how much you need a savior? Why is this such an important step, even for someone who was raised in a healthy, Christian home?

•When we talk about the gospel, we cannot jump straight to the benefits and skip the *need* for the gospel. What would a gospel presentation look like if you simply presented the benefits? Take a few minutes to craft a “benefits-only” gospel presentation. Then take a few minutes to talk about why that would be insufficient. Why is it so important to talk about our need for a savior when we present the gospel? When was the last time someone in your group did this? What was the response?

•If someone were to ask you if people were basically good, what would you say? Would you agree with Joel Osteen that 99% of people are basically good? What passages in Scripture would you use to defend your answer to this question? Pastor Scott referred to Romans 1-2 several times this weekend, and of course, Titus 3:3 is a strong passage. It will be helpful to be prepared for this conversation. How do we account for the fact that non-believers are capable of doing good things? The doctrine of total depravity is different from utter depravity. This might be a helpful article:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/utter-depravity>

•In verse 5, Paul says that we were *regenerated* by the Holy Spirit? What does this mean? *When* does regeneration happen in our salvation? Did we have anything to do with it? Discuss Pastor Scott’s comment that “belief does not lead to being born again, but being born again leads to belief.” Does this change the way that you think about salvation?

•Verse 5 also says that we are *renewed* by the Holy Spirit. Are you closer to Jesus than you were a year ago? Are you praying for growth this year? Where would you like to see growth in your life this year? How can your life group help?

