

Salvation Is All Of God!

By

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“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3-7)

In the midst of writing about standards and separation, the Holy Ghost inspired the Apostle Paul to write about salvation. In plain language Paul makes it known that salvation is all of God. It is not commenced by God, and then continued and concluded by man. We are saved at the beginning by God; we are continuing to be

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saved by God; and we will be saved until the end by God. Salvation at no point is based upon anything that man can do. Some teach that man can lose his salvation and must stay right in order to keep it. That is not taught in Scripture! The work that is wrought in man’s heart at the moment of belief is done by God. It is an eternal work that yields eternal salvation. Salvation cannot be lost by man because man did nothing to earn it in the beginning. To say that man can lose his salvation is to make salvation based upon works. Man is not saved by works, neither is he kept by his works. Salvation is all of God! Let us look at Titus 3:3-7, and I believe we will conclude that salvation is all of God.

Notice the language in the passage indicates that salvation is all of God. In verse 4, the kindness and love of God is “toward **man**.” In verse 5, mercy is identified as “**his** mercy.” Notice also in verse 5 it says that “he saved **us**.”

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Verse 6 says that salvation was “shed on **us**.” Verse 7 says the grace is “**his** grace.” I emphasize these phrases to show that salvation is not of man at any point. Not the beginning, middle, or end. Salvation is all of God!

As we ponder the greatness of salvation, notice **The Prelude to Salvation**. Salvation is needed because man is a sinner. That is what Paul is describing in Titus 3:3. In this verse, he mentions The Behavior. Notice what we were like before salvation. He says, “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.” What an awful, but accurate, description of us as sinners.

Notice some things about this verse in detail. Paul describes *Our Condition*. He says before salvation we are “foolish.” Foolish means

“without understanding.” How accurate that is!

We had no understanding of eternity; no understanding of the Bible; no understanding of the things of God. He also says that we were “disobedient.” Disobedient means “refusing to be persuaded.” How true! Before salvation no amount of human persuasion could move a man. It did not matter how many people talked to you, they could not persuade you to believe the Bible. You were convinced that you were right. It was not until the Holy Ghost worked in your heart that He persuaded you of the truth. But in your sinful state, following your sinful lusts and desire, you could not be persuaded.

The Holy Ghost uses a third word to describe our condition in Titus 3:3—it is “deceived.” The word means “to be led astray.” Again, it is a perfect description of sinners. The sinner refuses to be persuaded to the truth, but he

We will take from others. We will do anything. As long as our wants are satisfied, we are happy. We can see a perfect example of selfishness in children. It does not matter who gets hurt as long as their desires are accomplished. But it does not disappear as adults without the change of salvation wrought by the Holy Ghost. It is our nature to be selfish. It is evident in all of our interaction with other people. We want what is best for us. Selfishness is an accurate description of sinners.

The third aspect of our behavior involves *Our Attitude*. The Bible says that we were “living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.” That is the sinner’s attitude described to perfection. In our sinful condition, we do not care about anyone. We are not happy when someone has a bigger house or car or boat. We want the same thing, and we hope that the other person loses his. Do you see why man needs salvation?

is easily led down the path of false religion. Most of the people in the world are religious. Very few, if any, practice no religion at all. But it is all false. They have been led astray by the lies of the devil and are being led down the path to hell. What an amazing description of the sinner’s condition—foolish/disobedient/deceived. Does that describe you? Do you understand the things of God? Do you reject someone when they try to tell you what the Bible says? Are you involved in a religion that says you have to “do” something in order to be saved? If you answer yes to any of these, then you are still a sinner and need salvation.

Paul was also inspired of the Holy Ghost to describe our behavior as characterized by *Our Selfishness*. He says that we were “serving divers lusts and pleasures.” As a sinner, our only goal is to serve our self. Often we will go to any extreme to satisfy our craving. We will neglect others.

His behavior is rotten! He is wicked! He is vile and hopeless and helpless! We are a stench in the nostrils of God! If we received what we deserved, it would be eternal judgment in Hell! We do not deserve anything from God, but He loved us enough to send His only begotten Son to die on the cross in our place. Jesus loved us enough to give His life for us. We are wicked! But God loves!

We have seen man’s wicked behavior, but in spite of that, God bestows The Benefits upon him. Titus 3:4 says, “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.” Kindness means “generosity.” Love in this verse is prompted by sense and emotion. It carries with it the idea of pity. When we deserved nothing but the judgment of God, He gave us kindness. When we were full of hate, He loved us. When we deserved Hell, He offers us Heaven. What a merciful God! Look back in verse 3 and

see how the Holy Spirit describes sinners before salvation. In reading that, it is hard to understand how God could love us. We are foolish, selfish, hateful, and provoking hate. Yet God in His mercy and grace looked down upon man and loved him and provided salvation. What a wonderful God!

The last thought concerning the prelude to salvation is The Benefactors. I mentioned this in connection with the benefits, but you need to hear it again. God's kindness and love was "toward man." It was man that rejected the Word of God and sinned in the Garden of Eden, yet God promised that He would provide salvation. Man rears his rebellious head against God and often sneers and mocks His holy name, yet the offer of salvation is still available. What an amazing God who offers salvation! Jesus died for you! Will you accept His offer of salvation?

will outweigh their bad works, and God will let them into heaven. There are several things wrong with that teaching. One, the Bible says in Titus 3:5 that salvation is not in the works that we have done. Two, you cannot do enough good works to outweigh your bad ones. Because we are born with a sin nature, our propensity is to sin. The Bible describes that in Titus 3:3, Ephesians 2:1-3, and many other passages. If salvation were possible by works, no one could attain it because our nature impels us to do wrong. Third, in God's sight everything that we do, even our best deeds, are wicked and unclean (Isaiah 64:6). Salvation is not, and cannot be, attained by works.

The second aspect of the process is The Agency. After making clear that salvation is not by works, the Holy Spirit through Paul declares that salvation is according to God's mercy. Salvation is not available because we deserve it, but because God extends mercy to us. Mercy is

We began with the prelude to salvation, now we will consider **The Process of Salvation**. So often salvation is misunderstood. People think they know what takes place at salvation, but when you listen to what they say, and then compare it with the Bible, there is often a big contradiction. Go around and question some people. Ask them, "How can you be saved," or "How can you get to Heaven?" Sadly, the devil, through false religions, has confused and deceived multitudes of people. They think they must work their way to heaven. They think that they must work to be saved, or they must work to keep being saved. But works has **nothing at all** do with salvation! Notice The Announcement that the Bible loudly proclaims in Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done." Salvation is not a result of works!

Often people espouse Catholic teaching when they say that they hope their good works

"the kindness or good will towards the miserable and afflicted joined with a desire to relieve them." It is also defined as "not receiving what one deserves, or the withholding of judgment." God looks at sinners and sees them as wicked and ungodly and deserving of judgment and hell. But He also looks on them with mercy and desires to extend to them salvation. It is not because of any good that is found in them. It is all because of God's mercy.

Notice that it is His mercy. God is the One showing mercy to the wicked. God is displaying mercy to the ones that cannot provide salvation for themselves. We do not do God a favor when we trust in Jesus and are saved. God is the One showing favor to us. We deserve judgment and hell. But He is withholding that judgment for now, and is offering salvation to those who will trust in Christ. But that withholding of judgment will not last forever. One day God will no longer

offer salvation but will extend judgment. Those who die without accepting Christ as their Saviour will immediately go to Hell. Then they will be brought out and judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. Upon examination, their names will not be found in the book of life. Then they will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all of eternity. God is a holy God. Sin must be judged and paid for. The sin debt was paid by Christ. But **you** must accept Him as your Saviour by faith. God is extending His mercy to you. Trust Jesus today!

The third thought concerning the process of salvation is The Activity. In describing salvation, Paul declares how it does not come (not by works), and then how it comes (mercy). Now he, as the Holy Spirit leads him, declares what happens in salvation. He will use a physical activity to describe a spiritual reality. Do not be confused! Paul is not contradicting himself, and declaring that a physical work must be done. He

church, and you will never be saved. Salvation is not in water, nor in baptism. It is in Jesus, and Jesus alone! As the songwriter said, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Water will not wash away your sins—only the blood of Jesus. You access the power of the blood through faith in Jesus Christ.

The washing is "a bathing or a bath." Paul, inspired of the Holy Ghost, is using a physical activity to describe a spiritual reality. The term washing indicates a complete work. Salvation is not an incomplete job that we have to add to in order to keep it or finish it. It is completed. Our souls are saved at the moment of salvation and the down payment is made on our bodies to be completed at the resurrection. That future redemption of the body is not a maybe; in the mind of God, it is already a reality. Ephesians 4:30 talks about the redemption of the body. To us, it is a future event, but in God's eyes, we are

has already refuted that idea. The washing **is not** baptism! It is an act of the Holy Ghost, not an act of man. Now let us look at a fuller explanation of the activity.

Paul declares that we are saved "by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." These are **not** two separate acts—one of baptism and one of the Holy Ghost. These two activities— regeneration and renewing—are both performed by the Holy Ghost! The Holy Ghost regenerates and renews us at the moment of salvation when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. I cannot state it enough. The washing **is not** baptism! If it were, then Scripture would contradict itself in the same verse, and there are no contradictions in Scripture. Baptism is a physical work and has no saving merit. It is an outward display of what has happened to someone internally. You can be baptized in every river and creek, or in every baptistry in every

already seated "in heavenly places." What a glorious picture this washing is—a picture of a complete salvation.

Notice that this is a washing of regeneration...of the Holy Ghost. I have left out the renewing for the moment. We will get back to that. Do not forget that the washing of regeneration is performed by the Holy Ghost. Again these are not two separate acts performed by different things, but two acts, both of which are performed by the Holy Ghost. He regenerates and renews. What is regeneration? It is a "new birth; a reproduction; a renewal; a recreation." The same idea is found in John 1:12-13 and 3:3-7. The born again of John is the same as the regeneration of Titus. It is an act performed by God the Holy Ghost. As we are physically placed into a family by birth, so we are placed into the family of God by a spiritual birth—a birth wrought by the Holy Ghost when we place our faith in

Jesus Christ. We are birthed into God's family, and we can never be removed from it. Hallelujah, what a salvation! We believe in Jesus as our Saviour, and the Holy Ghost births us into the family of God.

But not only does He regenerate us, He also renews us. Regeneration means "a renovation or complete change for the better." The idea that you can be saved and still live the same way you did before you were saved is not a Biblical salvation. II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24, and many other passages talk about the renewal that takes place at salvation. You do not stay the same. Your likes and dislikes will change. The places you like to go will change. Your listening habits will change. Everything changes—for the better. The Holy Ghost renews you. When He does the renewing, things will be different. Has there been a change in you? Do you love the things of God or the things of the

will be different. That is a Biblical salvation. Are your desires and wants different? Perhaps you need to make sure of your salvation. A true believer will be different.

The final aspect of the process is The Abundance. Verse 6 says, "Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." I said that the washing pictured a complete salvation. Here it is in plain language. Salvation has been shed on us abundantly. It is not a salvation good enough for today, but not tomorrow. It will keep us today, tomorrow, and forever. Our soul is saved, and one day we will experience the redemption of the body on the resurrection morning. Hallelujah! No longer will we have a body with aches, pains, and abnormalities. No more glasses, hearing aids, or false teeth will we have to wear. No more doctor visits will we have to schedule. One glorious morning our bodies will be fashioned like unto

world? If you love the things of the world, you have not been renewed. You are not saved. Believe that Jesus died for you, and be renewed by the Holy Ghost.

Not only does that renewal affect the sinner that is converted when he is older, but it also will affect the sinner that is converted when he is younger. The saved person will not desire the things of the world like the unsaved person. Sure, there will be temptations, but the renewed believer should overcome most of those temptations. He will stumble occasionally and sin, but that should be the exception and not the practice. Because the believer has been renewed, his focus should be on heavenly things and not on things on the earth. He should desire to lay up treasure in heaven and not on earth where moth and rust will corrupt it. The believer in every way, no matter when they are converted, should be different from the world. His thoughts, actions, and desires should be and

His glorious body (Philippians 3:21). That is possible because of the salvation that He provided on Calvary.

We have considered the prelude to salvation and the process of salvation; now ponder **The Prospects of Salvation** in Titus 3:7. Paul, inspired of the Holy Ghost, reminds us of The Basis of these prospects. Lest anyone should forget or think some other thought, he says that we are "justified by his grace." He began the passage saying that salvation is all of God, and he concludes the passage by saying that it is all of God. Justified means "to declare righteous." We are declared righteous by God's grace. Grace is receiving what you do not deserve. You can be declared righteous, but only if you receive it as a gift. You do not deserve it, but God is offering it to you. What a great and gracious God! Will you receive His offer of salvation?

The prospects are then identified as The Blessing. Salvation is a wonderful act, and notice what it provides for us as believers. Titus 3:7 says “we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” What does that mean? It means several things. We will be heirs of a new body. We now have a body ravaged by sin and sickness. At the rapture/resurrection, our bodies will be changed like unto Christ’s glorified body. No more sickness, pain, sorrow, or death. What an inheritance! We also will spend eternity with God. No more devil to tempt us and no more struggles to fight. We will have an eternity to worship and to praise God for saving our wretched souls. We also will receive access to the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21:1-22:8. All the beauties detailed there will be ours to enjoy for eternity. What a Savior! What a Salvation! It is all of God!

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Dear friend, the question that you must answer is, “What will I do with God’s salvation?” You have read the message, Salvation is all of God. You must realize that you can do nothing to earn salvation. It has been done for you at Calvary. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Will you accept Jesus as your Saviour today?

***Preaching the Gospel
to the Sinner,
Encouraging the
Believer,
and Exalting the Name
of Jesus Christ,
Until He Comes
Again!***