

Call To Worship

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is not deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:1-5)

Titus 3:1-8

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 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. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 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, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by grace by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Be Ready (vv.1-2)

1.) Remembrance and Readiness

- Submissive to those who have been appointed positions of authority;
- Obedience is lawful; demonstrates something bigger;
- Speak gently and with wisdom; respond and reflect humility (meekness) to all people;

2.) The Gospel in Practice

- Our motivation behind demonstrating the gospel to others isn't superiority or "achievement," but redemption; seeing others come to know Jesus
- The Christian isn't better; the Christian is repentant

Who We Were (vv. 3)

- Salvation isn't simply understanding that you've been saved, but what you have been saved from; eternal separation from God;
- Without a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, sin–
 - 1.) Deceives;
 - 2.) Enslaves;
 - 3.) Separates

The Mercy of God (vv.4-7)

→ Paul switches from who we once were to what God has done for us

1.) A Redemptive Work

→ Through the work of Jesus, God saved and came for us;

→ Paul removes human effort from the equation of salvation and says that salvation is according to

His mercy:

- God demonstrates His mercy through His love and kindness toward people;
- God demonstrates His mercy through His love for those who do not deserve it;
- God demonstrates His mercy through His love by dying for the ungodly;

2.) The Holy Spirit

→ Washing: If we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive AND cleanse (wash) us of our unrighteousness;

→ Regeneration: The gift of God is not only the grace of Jesus, but a spiritual heart transplant; God gives us a new heart;

• The heart is important because it is the source of our very being (idols, identity, treasure, and character);

→ Renewal: God pardons our sin, gives us a new heart, and places His spirit with us

- *"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)*

3.) Declared Righteous

→ Justified: This means that through the work of Christ on the cross, the sinner is declared right before God on the condition of faith alone, not works;

→ Grace: Unmerited favor from God toward sinners;

- *"...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is not distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:22-24)*

→ Inheritance: Eternal sonship in the presence of God; a gift given that we have not earned and one that no one can take from us;

- *"God himself has brought his people from wrath to blessing, from immorality to godliness, by the provision of his Spirit." (Philip Towner)*

Our Motivation (vv.8)

1.) Affirm Good Works

- We must know our "Why"
- Works are motivated not by self-righteousness, but redemption;
- Works are motivated not by selfish gain, but humility;
- Works are motivated not by entitlement, but for the glory of God;

2.) Devotion to Good Works

- We devote ourselves to work in order to glorify God and make disciples of Jesus;
- Works are a natural response to the work of God in the believer; they bear witness to the gospel

Benediction

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:13-16)