

Titus Overview

Paul's 3rd pastoral letter...written about the same time as 1 Timothy...when Paul is in Rome, in prison, awaiting his hearing before Nero (before 2 Timothy)
This was Paul's last communication with Titus

Like the first letter to Timothy, this letter was sent to a young pastor on a difficult assignment – in this case, bringing order to the churches on Crete

Titus was

- a travelling companion of Paul's
- letter carrier of the 2nd letter to Corinthians
- dispatched by Paul to Corinth to collect an offering for the church in Jerusalem
- pastoring the churches on Crete...a very tough place...
- a tough guy for a tough job in a tough place

Paul writes of

- Order in the Church...the establishment of Church leadership
- Sound doctrine
- Orderly relationships within the church
- Living the faith

Dominant Thought

- God our Savior (3 times)
- The Lord Jesus Christ our Savior (also 3 times)

Titus Chapter 1

v1 servant of God:
a **slave** by choice, not by compulsion
a servant could be paid, a slave had no rights, no property, no will
Paul calls himself a slave willing to surrender all to serve Jesus out of love

I was a slave of sin and worldly pleasure...a slave of Satan...but I was
supernaturally transformed into a slave of God...purchased by the
blood of Jesus Christ

I have learned that “servant of God” is the only title worth having!
life does not get any better than being a servant of God...
now or later!
It is an honor and a privilege to be counted His servant!

apostle of Jesus Christ:
the Lord sent God’s servants, humble messengers, with His message

faith of God’s elect:
the doctrine of election (remember the Drumstick ice cream cone...)

acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness:
acknowledging...that which is confessed/spoken

godliness...that which is done

only God’s truth...spoken and lived...can bring man into Godly living
only God’s Truth can change a slave of Satan into a slave of God

v2 in hope of eternal life:
the ONLY hope for eternal life lies in a personal relationship with
Jesus Christ...a hope based upon (“*epi*”) the righteousness of
God the Son
...given by God by grace thru faith

God, that cannot lie, promised:
there are some things God cannot do

- be surprised
- make a mistake
- change His mind (“repent”)
- lie...break a promise

Num 23:19

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son
of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and
shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he
not make it good?

Heb 6:18

That by two immutable things, in which *it was*
impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong
consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold
upon the hope set before us:

John 8:32, 36	is not a lie!
John 11:25-26	is not a lie!
1 Cor 15:54b-55	is not a lie!
2 Tim 3:12	is not a lie!
Gal 6:7-8	is not a lie!
2 Tim 3:16	is true!

There is no darkness in the Light of the world
God said, it, so it is true.
Therefore, the hope is a certainty

When was this promised?

Before God created the universe (Eph 1:4)

Why then?

Because the all-knowing God Who exists outside of space and time
knew the choice Adam would make in the perfect
environment of the Garden of Eden

How long is this promise good?

Long after this universe ceases to exist
God is eternal...His promises are eternal

v3

in due times:

in the fullness of time...at the appointed time...at the perfect time
God is perfect...His timing is always perfect!

manifested his word thru preaching:

made His word apparent...declared His Word thru messengers sent to
teach His words

Jer 1:4-9

for Paul, His Word: the Gospel of Jesus Christ...to Jew & Gentile

Rom 16:25-26

Col 1:23-27

thru preaching: Rom 10:11-15

committed unto me:

God has invested and entrusted His Word to us! Are you obedient?

Ps 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name
for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast
magnified thy word above all thy name.

God our Savior:

no power less than God Almighty is required to save us from eternal death
i.e. being dead in our sins

the Messiah is God...the promised Seed of the woman is God Himself!

I cannot save myself nor can any other man save me...only God
can save me (Phil 2:5-11)

v4

Titus, mine own son after the common faith:

believers in the shared faith in Jesus Christ...are family

grace, mercy, and peace:

pastors need mercy! Be merciful to me, folks!

Lord Jesus Christ our Savior:

linked to v2a and v3, the Lord Jesus Christ is God Almighty

Jesus Christ is LORD **and** Savior

The Word of God plainly declares Who Jesus Christ is.

Do you believe?

Matt 16:15

John 6:29

Is He the Lord of you life?

If He is not Lord of all...then He is not Lord at all

1st order of business...God's Order in the Church...

- Elders
- False Teachers

v5 Crete:

Barnabas and Mark established many churches on that island

set in order:

1 Cor 14:33

For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Cor 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

“to straighten”

requires order...is impossible in chaos...

God sets in order His Church...the kingdom of God is not a democracy

the root word is “orthos”, from which we get “orthodontist”

our crooked teeth need order

the teeth don't vote, the head decides to have order in the mouth

ordain elders:

the elders are the braces put on the teeth by The Orthodontist

God's order is not restrictive, it is for our health and well-being...

that we might prosper instead of flounder

v6-9 qualifications of an elder/overseer

(cross reference to 1 Tim 3, written about the same time...we can see
"where Paul's head was" while in prison...passing the baton)

1. blameless...blameless as the steward of God:

only the born-again are blameless!

An elder is a man

of good reputation...

with no proven charges against

(there will be false accusations...)

and a responsible investor of the things of God...

personally and corporately

2. husband of one wife:

faithful to God's order (Gen 2:24)

3. faithful children not accused of riot or unruly:

Does this mean only Ozzie Nelson can be an elder?

No, for it is not in the power of men to make their children such.

Salvation and sanctification are personal matters...

every individual 1:1 with the Lord

Therefore, it means that their children should be brought up in the

faith, in the sound doctrine of God's Word, and in the

nurture and admonition of the Lord...i.e. the elder has

God's order in his home

What happens when the child of a church leader rebels or
backslides?

Whose business is it – the child's family or the church's?

Where is the unruliness? In the child's heart.

Where is the "point of attack"? The child's family.

That is where God has given the authority over that child, therefore

where the accountability before God lies.

So that is where the matter belongs, that's the focal point of all

counseling to the child.

Pastor's kids and leaders kids are NOT fair game for the entire

church any more than are other kids.

What is the role of the church?

Prayer, love, support

4. not self-willed:

a slave of God is not self-willed

5. not soon angry:
not having a short fuse, constantly on the verge of blowing up
but meek, gentle, kind...bearing fruit of the Spirit
6. not given to wine:
his thoughts are not clouded and his judgments are not corrupted
by alcohol
only a fool arms his enemy...an elder/overseer is not to be a fool
7. no striker:
does not abuse the authority given him
8. not given to filthy lucre:
not money motivated, not looking at the ministry as
“good for business” (Matt 6:24)
9. a lover of hospitality:
has an open home...and heart and hands
10. a lover of good men:
seeks the fellowship of single-minded, like-minded believers
11. sober:
serious about the business of the church
12. just:
not a respecter of persons...does not play favorites
not a “Yes-man” to the pastor
13. holy:
Spirit-filled and Spirit-led...set apart...
God’s man, not man’s man...selected and raised up to serve by
God, not by the pastor or by the flock
14. temperate:
moderate...not excessive or impulsive...even-keeled
15. holding fast the faithful word:
a workman (2 Tim 2:15)
16. able to teach God’s Absolute Truth to encourage and teach those that
contradict and oppose God’s Word (1 Peter 3:15)...

Note: the faithful word...because God cannot lie
The Word of God never deceives us

an elder in the Church, an instrument of God's order in the Body of Christ, is to be a man

- supernaturally transformed by God...
- after God's heart...
- is a humble servant...
- of personal integrity...
- of the Word...
- of prayer...
- with a fruitful life

Why does the Church need elders? Why is God's order important?

v10-11 For there are many:

To guard sound doctrine...to protect God's flock from the unending attack of the enemy on God's Word

the Church has many teachers who are:

1. unruly, insubordinate, rebels against God's order
2. worthless talkers...talk the talk but do not walk the walk
3. deceivers...smooth, sweet-sounding
4. subverters of the faith...one family at a time
5. money hungry...in the world, it's all about the money

Whose mouths must be stopped:

Because the false teacher sows division...in families and in the Church... thru half-truths for the purpose of gathering power and influence over others

money is power...but so is "love with an agenda"

the enemy's attacks on the Word are sooo subtle and so convincing!

- Create doubt..."Did God say that? That is not for today..."
- The "tree view" of false doctrine vs the "forest view" of sound doctrine

One word/phrase/verse vs the entire counsel of God
e.g. Eph 5:22

Taking a truth and making it The Truth...makes a lie

Elders/overseers are raised up by God to "stand in the gap" for the church

v12-13a One of themselves...is true:

a spokesman for the false teachers gave this self-assessment...interesting
how the enemy is given over to occasional outbursts of pure truth

Matt 27:1-5

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.

John 11:50

Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

Every tongue will confess...

The Cretians are liars...but God cannot lie

“Titus, who are you going to trust and follow?”

v13b-14 rebuke them sharply:

religion and the traditions of men turn people away from the Truth...
and must be rebuked sharply

what is the purpose of a sharp rebuke?

- To strike back and cause as much pain as they caused?
- To win the argument?
- To drive them away and be done with them?
- To correct and to draw them closer to the Lord so they will repent in order to be restored?

The key is the motive of the heart...the burden of God (2 Peter 3:9)

The Sword of the Spirit...is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction,
and instruction...with meekness and love

v15 pure...defiled:

purity is an issue of the heart (who we are)

impurity corrupts

- the mind (how we think)
- conscience (God's imbedded governor of what we do)

purity is binary...possible only by God our Savior, Who cannot lie

v16 profess...but in works they deny:
the impure of heart, mind, and conscience can learn to say

- Praise the Lord!
- Hallelujah!
- I am walking with God.
- God told me...
- Don't judge me...
- Give me grace

while they are self-willed and self-centered...self-righteously kicking
against God's order

their actions speak louder...and are remembered longer...than their words
“Your life is speaking so loud that I cannot hear a word you are
saying.”

pride is that which defiles...spiritual pride is

- the ugliest of all...
- the hardest to crack...
- the most damaging...

when a person has a legal relationship with God rather than a loving
relationship...their life is King Saul-like

- a denial that Jesus Christ is LORD of ALL...
- disobedience while being deceived into thinking they are obedient...
- counterfeit wallowing in worthless thinking...not bearing fruit of the Spirit

Titus Chapter 2

The thought started in Ch 1:10 continues...

v1 But speak...sound doctrine:

as a contrast to the false teachers in it for the money, power, prestige, and influence...Titus will simply teach the Word of God

No

- Demographic surveys
- Family income studies
- Savvy marketing plans
- Scripted performances

sound doctrine...a dominant theme of Paul's pastoral letters...not

- Entertaining the goats...just feeding the sheep the entire counsel of God
- Trying to make Christianity "cool" to unbelievers...because Christianity is NOT cool...it is counter-culture!
Jesus did not come with peace...but with a sword!
Matt 10:34
- Trying to "be relevant" by blending in the thinking of the world...for nothing is more relevant than the entire counsel of God...there is nothing those in the world need more than the Word of God
- purpose-driven...but Spirit-led

The purpose of the Church is not to convert the world to Christianity but to equip...perfect...the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...

Eph 4:11-12

which is accomplished thru the study of the Word of God

2 Tim 3:16-17

the foundation upon which Paul built was Jesus Christ...the Word of God.

Therefore...

Paul's handoff to Timothy and Titus – the Word of God

Joshua 1:1-9

To follow God, Israel's sufficiency (Moses) had to die
Having delivered His people from bondage, God's replacement for
Moses to lead His people into their inheritance was not
Joshua...it was His Word
...so His people would also know His heart
*He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the
children of Israel. (Ps 103:7)*

The Gentiles followed Paul out of the bondage of sin, now must follow the
Word of God to enter into God's blessing

- taking the inheritance...one step at a time (v3)
- Not turning to (v7)
 - the left (liberalism...conforming the Word to culture)
 - the right (legalism...missing the grace of God)
- Led by the Word of God...living the Word of God (v8)

The philosophy of ministry at Calvary Chapel: the Holy Spirit working
thru the Word of God to change the lives of God's people
A unique "balance of power"...a proper mix of diet and exercise...seen
throughout the Book of Acts

Acts 4:1-4, 5-8a, 12-13, 18-20, 31-33

A fellowship not

- built upon sound doctrine of the Word of God is built on
sand...which does not hold up under the relentless,
crashing storm

Although under constant attack, the Word of God cannot be

- Constrained (Acts 5:19-20) Peter's jailbreak
 - Withstood (Acts 6:9-10, Is 55:10-11)
- empowered by the Holy Spirit will burn out trying to do a
spiritual work by the strength of the flesh

The Word of God is our guide – thoughts, words, actions, relationships
The power to obey the Word of God is the Holy Spirit

v2-6 sound doctrine...healthy teaching...regarding roles and responsibilities

1. old men (v2) are to be

- sober...vigilant, circumspect
- grave...having the fear of God
- temperate...moderate vs excessive
- strong in the faith...grounded in the Word
- strong in love...motivated by the love of Christ
- strong in patience...even-keeled with people and circumstances

- demonstrating fruit of the Spirit...
unlike the German air raid siren husband

how “ugly” is a crotchety old man...
how appealing is an old saint!

2. old (mature) women (v3) are to be

- holy behavior...separate...having the fear of God...
our culture prizes beauty...and equates youth with beauty
but...a holy woman possesses real beauty!
And a young unbelieving supermodel cannot hold a candle
to her!
- not false accusers...not mouthpieces of the Slanderer
- sober...not corrupted by alcohol...or drugs
- teachers of godly behavior...by word and deed...
of young women (less mature, perhaps a middle-aged
New Believer)

Maturity comes with doing
obeying
walking

Not just by knowing

James 1:22

3. young women (v4-5) are to be (so God is not blasphemed)
- sober...of a sound mind...receiving instruction in God's Word and applying it in their lives
 - love their husbands...to be affectionate toward...to care for what to do/not do vs how to feel
 - love their children...nurture, admonish, discipline, correct... provide a loving environment in which to grow

the order is important...a woman's ministry

1st: her husband

2nd: her children

- discreet...modest in appearance and in speech...contrary to women of the world
- chaste...pure, faithful, a one-man woman
- homemakers...making a house a home, caring for the home... caring for the family in the home

no work is more important for every mother!

no added luxury or income comforts when the home is in ruin because the home has been neglected

- good...not to nag, whine, or manipulate...like women of the world
- obedient to their husbands...following his lead, submitting to God's order (1 Cor 11:3)

If not a believer, follow the Bridegroom...meekly and Gently for your husband to see

4. young men (v6) are to be

- sober...having a sound mind, being in their right mind... because young men are :
 - hormonal...have a warped perspective of women David's son Amnon with sister Tamar
 - laced with pride/male ego Solomon's son Rehoboam and dad's advisors
 - careless because they cannot see beyond the end of their nose Esau and his birthright
 - must learn to walk by faith and not by sight
 - must learn to walk in the Spirit to not fulfill the lusts of the flesh

Underlying truths for all relationships in the family of God

- men are to counsel men and women are to counsel women
- all are to be doers of the Word, not hearers only
- all are to be sober...self-controlled...Just Say No (to the flesh)
- all to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- sin by believers give unbelievers cause to blaspheme God

v7-8 shewing thyself a pattern:

notice the personal pronouns “thyself” and “you”

a transition from young men to Titus...Titus was a young man

exhortation to Pastor Titus

- teach sound doctrine (v1)...and
- live sound doctrine...be an example

I am to lead you by the Word and by example

- How I speak
- What I do
- How I behave in public...and at home

As one living in a glass house, my lifestyle should be characterized by

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Fear of the Lord
- Purity
- Grace
- Truth

Because

- the lost and dying world is watching (e.g. the Olague family)
- the flock of God is following
- the enemy is prowling

Having no evil to say of you:

That way, enemies...of which there are plenty...will be without ammo
and toothless...left with only false accusations

v9-10 Exhort servants to be obedient:

in context of Ch 1:1, applies to servants of God and how we relate to Him

also applies to “employees”

remember Col 3:23-24...Who is your Boss?

- obedient...not giving back talk or arguments
- a man of integrity...not a thief, stealing office supplies/tools
- faithful and trustworthy
- a model employee
- low-maintenance

v11-12 For:

the reason for v2-10 is...the grace of God

the grace of God...teaching...denying:

Ch 1:2 is all about the grace of God

we are saved by grace alone (Eph 2:8-9)...but many are ignorant of the grace of God...thinking

- saved by works...stay saved by works
2 Cor 1:10
Jesus delivered us from death, is delivering, will deliver
- saved by grace...stay saved by works
Rom 7:14-24
Live a frustrated, defeated Christian life
- saved by grace, stay saved by grace...so have a license to sin
Rom 6:1-2
Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
God forbid!

Grace teaches us to

- deny our flesh, not to indulge it
- and follow Jesus
- live single-minded, clear-minded, right-minded
Rom 12:1-2
James 1:8
- please God...living orderly within the safe boundaries of His Word
- live a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life...**and**

v13 looking for the blessed hope:

- ...to live expectantly!

Looking: to watch expectantly

Because He promised to come back for us!

John 14:3 If I go I and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and receive you
unto myself that where I am you may
be also

and Who is Jesus?

THE great God and our Savior

Ch 1:2

(v12) this present world...because there is another one to come!

Contrary to the view of some in the Church, the blessed hope of the
Church is NOT the Great Tribulation!

the blessed hope of Jesus coming for us that we may be with Him gives us
the strength and comfort we need to endure

- the death of a loved one
- disease, pain, suffering
- crippling accidents
- financial ruin
- persecution by the world

Paul said 2 Cor 4:6-18

with v13 in mind...we

- have a sense of urgency to share the Gospel
- keep material things in proper perspective
- make better decisions
- live more holy and more pure...do you want to be “caught up”
while doing what the flesh wants to do?
It could happen at any moment so...

v14 Who gave Himself...redeem us...purify unto Himself:

Jesus' role in my eternity

- gave Himself...His death and His life
- paid the required price in the slave market...His blood
- To break the power of sin and death over my life...
- Wash away the impurities in my heart and mind...
- To re-create me into a living spiritual being unto Himself

keywords:

- gave
 - what Jesus did cannot be earned...they are gifts of God
 - Phil 2:5-11 set aside His glory
 - took on the form of a servant...our likeness
 - humbled himself
 - was obedient unto death
- for us – “instead of us”
 - He gave Himself the wrath of God...instead of us
- peculiar = “being beyond unusual, purchased, one’s own”
 - 1 Cor 6:19-20 we are not our own, bought with a price
 - Matt 13:45-46 by the Merchant Man Who sold everything
 - 1 Peter 2:9 to show forth praises to Him

Meditate on what Jesus Christ did...He purchased with His own blood

- The forgiveness of God
- Eternal life

Even though He needed neither...but we desperately did!

My role in my eternity:

- Surrender
- Submit
- Sell-out...live zealously for Him who died for me

As we surrender and submit and live zealously, The Lord is

- Purifying us...by fire, trials, affliction...
- Refining us
- Transforming us into His image (Phil 1:6)
- Renewing us day-by-day
- Equipping us
- Using us (Phil 2:13)

v15 These things speak:
v2-10 Godly relationships
v11-12 the grace of God
v13-14 the blessed hope

encourage and rebuke with all authority:
with God's Word
2 Tim 3:16-17
Ch 1:2

Let no man despise you:
Titus was a young man...no matter
he had God's calling upon his life

Speak God's Absolute Truth with confidence and boldness

- don't be swayed by the critics, be Spirit-led
- don't be Purpose-Driven to befriend the world,
- be Christ-driven to be salt and light in the world

2 Cor 5:14

[if need the power of the Holy Spirit to obey the Word of God...
v2-6
v7-8
v9-10

come forward and let's pray]

Titus Chapter 3

Thus far, Paul has exhorted Titus regarding

- Sound doctrine
- Order in the Church
- “Live it”

the exhortation to “Live it” is extended to all of us in Ch 3

v1-2 put them in mind:

remind God’s flock...to DO these things...

1. submit to rulers and authorities and
 2. obey government officials
- we are all under the authority of a government...but
Who rules?

Rom 13:1-5

1 Peter 2:13-17...be orderly

God rules!

The Bible does not teach civil disobedience...

The Bible teaches obedience to governments, whether we agree or not...and to resist the government is to resist God

Q: what if the government is perverted...e.g. Canada legalizing same-sex marriages? USA and abortion?

A: yes...

A nation has the leaders God in His Sovereignty has put there...including evil men sometimes
God allows evil men to reign to bring consequences that will cause the people to turn their hearts back to Him...

God judges nations also (Matt 25)

BUT if the government requires that which the Word prohibits, the Christian citizen...who has a dual citizenship (Phil 3:20)...is to obey God

- Paul is in a Roman prison when he wrote this because he is insubordination to a government that demanded the denial of Jesus Christ
- Acts 4

3. be prepared to do what Jesus would do
 - be on guard, watching, alert and prepared...
for whatever God wants to do thru you...
this moment!
 - Means being “interruptible” and available...
 - Means being sensitive to God’s small still voice 24x7
 - Means being a “NonStop” follower of Jesus

4. Speak evil of no man
slander/vilify no one
 - if you have nothing kind to say, say nothing...
 - if you would not say it to their face, do not say it behind their back
 - Do not be “devil-tongued”...give the Holy Spirit control of the most destructive muscle in your body

Matt 12:35-37

Matt 5:21-22

5. No brawlers
be peaceful
Rom 12:8 If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men

6. be gentle
mild, moderate, patient...considerate

7. Meekness
be humble
Ps 37:11 the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace
Matt 5:5 blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth

Keyword is repeated: ALL meekness...to ALL men
Who can do that apart from the Holy Spirit?

Models:

- Moses (Num 12:3)
The man Moses was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth
- Jesus (Matt 11:29-30)
Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall find rest for your souls

v3 For we ourselves also were:

v1-2 is how we are to behave AFTER being born again...
because we did these things BEFORE...when dead in our sin...
and still are sometimes DURING our transformation

this was my “resume BC”:

completely evil...self-centered...miserable...insane
this also characterizes a backslider walking in the flesh vs in the Spirit

1. foolish:
“unwise, unintelligent, sensual”
2. disobedient:
to parents, to civil authority, to the Lord
3. deceived:
by Satan...by sight...by self-centeredness
4. serving divers lusts and pleasures:
enslaved by passions...in bondage to sin, a servant of Satan
serving a forbidden longing...because it is destructive
no different than Israel serving Baal, Chemosh, Molech,
Ashteroth, etc
5. living in malice:
“depraved”
6. envy:
“jealousy”
7. hateful and hating:
“love less”

sometimes:

not “always”...just sometimes

the world says “on average, I am a good person so God will let me into heaven.”

Problem is, God does not grade on the curve.

He does not work with averages...but with an absolute

His standard is an absolute measurement: perfection...Jesus

Therefore, “sometimes” offers no comfort to works-oriented man

v4 But:

But God...

PTL God personally intervened in my life...and is faithful to complete the good work He has begun in me!

1 Cor 6:9-11

Eph 2:1-5

Rom 5:8 But God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

Jesus is the manifestation of God's kindness, love, and mercy toward men
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His
Glory (John 1:14)

We have seen...we have heard...we have handled...the
Word of Life (1 John 1:1)

He came to seek and to save the lost

the point of conversion from

- lost to found
- death to life
- filthy to clean
- profane to holy
- dishonor to glory

is the point of "But God"...the Cross

The Cross is

1. the ultimate profession of God's love
2. the place of
 - man's brokenness...and...God's personal touch
 - healing...where man loses his life that he would gain his life
 - eternal change...for helpless man by a loving God

v5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done:
Is 64:6
So PTL! It is by God's mercy...and not His justice...that we are saved

washing:

a bath...filled with "holy water" and "righteous soap" to cleanse me of my
sin...scrubbed cleaner than I ever was by my mother as a child...

ears and scalp!

I took my first bath when I was 34 years old...P – U !

Regeneration:

rebirth, restoration ("to fill with new life")

2 Cor 5:17 if any man by in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are
passed away; behold all things are become new

Renewing:

renovation

- to make something as if it were new...
- justification...
 - just-as-if-it-never-happened...
 - just as if Gen 3 never happened...
 - just as if v3 never happened!

such power to renovate is not possessed by a

- deceived
- blind
- foolish
- disobedient
- filthy
- hateful

servant of sin...such power resides only with the holy God

regeneration and renewing...God initiates, man responds...always
God acts, man reacts...always

Not only did God renew me when I was born again, He is renewing me
day by day...changing me still (Phil 1:6) !

It is amazing and glorious to "get out of the way" and watch!

v6-7 Jesus Christ our Savior:

in v4-7 we see nothing but God working on our behalf

1. God the Father is our Savior
2. God the Son is our Savior
3. God the Holy Spirit restores and renovates us

Note: simple algebra lesson #3

justified by His grace

by His mercy (v5) we are saved...from eternal death because our sins are forgiven

Ps 32:1-2 Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity and in whose spirit there is no guile.

And by His grace are we saved thru faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast...

our criminal record is wiped clean!

- The past (v3, Ps 103:8-12) does not even exist!
- we are given new life...old things are past away and all things are become new...
- we are renovated “back to original mint condition”...
- the fellowship that was broken by our sin (Is 59:1-2) is healed...
- and the Father adopts us and makes us heirs of His wealth
Rom 8:14-17
- the “good behavior is rewarded and bad behavior is punished” concept is not God the Father’s way with His children (Job understood grace!)

Monumental truth: the renewing and the renovation by God is because of His grace, not our performance

hope of eternal life:

Heirs get an inheritance...

The meek follow the meek

Out of bondage (Baptism of water...Red Sea...led by Moses)
Into the inheritance (Baptism of the Holy Spirit...Jordan River...
led by “Jesus”)

v8 This is a faithful saying:

“This cannot be disputed...”

Paul says this because

- We doubt
- We forget

put the people in continual reminder to

- do v1-2
- to remember v3
- meditate on by v4-7, Ch 2:11-14...

...so that they will

- be humble
- live Spirit-filled, Spirit-led lives...
- live holy and fruitful lives before God and man...
- live contented, peaceful, joyful lives in the center of God's will

we must be reminded because we forget...

- our behavior DURING the work of transformation as a child of God...sinks and stinks...unless these things are affirmed constantly
- summer comes along...and people “go on vacation”...and lose their zealously for the One Who neither sleeps nor slumbers, let alone go on vacation

God initiates, we respond

The motive of God initiation and our response is...love

The more we realize

- Our depravity
- What Jesus has done on our behalf

The greater is our response...and the less we struggle with the flesh

As we John 3:30

2 Peter 3:18 we realize more
respond more
love Him more

v9

But avoid:

on the flip side of

- live Spirit-filled, Spirit-led lives...
 - live holy and fruitful before God and man...
 - live a contented, peaceful, joyful life in the center of God's will
- these things are carnal and result in a discontented, contentious, miserable life in the flesh
- "stupid" non-essential questions that waste time and effort with people who are only looking for an argument
 - the Judaizers doctrine of "must be a Jew to be saved"
 - quarrels and battles over "the letter of the Law"... shunning the Spirit of the Law

Matt 23 "woes"... "Ye blind guides which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

Rom 14:17 the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

So "avoid" is the counsel Paul gave to Pastors Timothy and Titus

1 Tim 1:4

1 Tim 6:1-5

2 Tim 2:23-26

why avoid?

unprofitable and vain:

they are contrary to the kindness and love of God... His mercy and grace... that draw us close to Him in a loving relationship.

Truth: God cannot possibly love us more than He does right now!

So seeking His love and approval by your performance in a legal relationship is pathetically misguided

a legal relationship with God is a burden no man can bear... and the Rock will fall on him and crush him to pieces...

but a loving relationship with God is life and joy (Matt 11:28-30)... as we fall on the Rock and are healed

Grace is greater than the Law

What the Law cannot do (save me), Grace can.

John 1:17

v10-11 heretic:

one that makes schisms...creates divisions...an enemy agent

all heresy begins with a truth...which becomes corrupted when

- a pre-conceived idea is added to it...and...
- it is made THE truth...at the expense of the larger truth of the entire counsel of God

if such a man is warned, given the truth, and rebuked to correct his error but does not, he condemns himself in his perversion and his sin...

let the Lord deal with the heretic...outside the camp

Matt 18:15-17

cancer is a "heretic" in the human body

if it does not leave after being rebuked by radiation or chemo-therapy, it MUST be cut out if the Body is to live

We must all strive to protect the unity of the Body of Christ for its spiritual health and well-being

v12-13 diligent:

be speedy!

on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting:

be sure to generously supply Zenas and Apollos for their journey...and quickly so they can get going.

v14 let ours also learn to maintain good works:

we are to live productive lives.

1. devoted to the Lord
2. doing good...putting feet to our faith
3. providing for daily necessities (spiritual and material)

also, linking the need in v13 with the exhortation in v8, Paul exhorts Titus to exhort the churches on Crete to

- walk the talk
- invest in God's kingdom
- cheerfully give to the work of the Lord
- share in the blessing

v15 salute...greet...grace...amen:
Say hello to our friends!

Final words: Grace and Amen