

Week 6: The Kindness of our Savior

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:4-8
June 4

Sermon Discussion from Sunday,

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. 8 This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone.

Theme : God (Father, Son and Spirit) brings the kindness of salvation, the hope of Eternal life.

Week 6 Icebreaker: Share a story of how the kindness of a stranger has helped you through a difficult situation. How did their kindness impact your life and your relationship with others?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

Overview: Last week we began to look at God's work of redemption in our lives, and our call to godliness in response. While we never want our pursuit for Godliness to lead to legalism, it is important to understand God's role of redemption and our call to being devoted to doing good.

Summary Review: In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

Quick Overview: Read Titus 3:4-8 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Are there any repeated phrases or ideas that stick out to you?
- How were the members of the Trinity; Father, Son & Spirit, involved in our redemption story?
- What should our response to God's redemption story in our lives be?

Sermon Discussion Guide: Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing the major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

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- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

The Trinity: The Bible tells us that God eternally exists as one God in three distinct persons; Father, Son, and Spirit in eternal relationship. Last week we talked about Jesus, the grace of God, and his role on our redemption. Often times we forget that Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our story, past present, and future.

What do you know about the Holy Spirit's role in your life?

Titus 3: 4-7 When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

- According to this passage, how is the Holy Spirit active in our redemption story?

Tim Chester on Regeneration and Renewal:

Regeneration can also be translated as rebirth. Biblical regeneration is more than mere improvement. It is not that we were living badly, then after a regeneration program, we look better and live better. No, we were dead in our sin and then we are reborn. We begin a new life.

Renewal describes the same radical transformation. This does not mean that we continue to receive what we have already received, like a renewal of a subscription. Spiritual renewal means we have a new nature.

- What does it mean that we have received regeneration and renewal through the Holy Spirit?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration and renewal in your life?

In John 14, Jesus tells his disciples of the Holy Spirit's role in their lives. *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you... 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."*

Jesus would go on and say *“the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning (John 15:26-17)... When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged... 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16: 8-14)”*

- *Jesus told his disciples of how the Holy Spirit would work to regenerate and renew the people of God. According to this passage, what is the Holy Spirit doing in yours and my life?*
- *Because of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives, we can be devoted to godliness. Why do we need the Holy Spirit in order to live godly lives?*

From NT Wright:

What we see, in a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, is the direct result of God's lavish grace and generous love. That's why he wants us to be generous, kind and gentle in turn. It's not just that God has decided to set up some new rules and that one of them happens to be that Christians should be nice to people.

The reason we should avoid speaking evil of people, not to be quarrelsome, and so on, is because we ourselves are the creatures of God's generous love. If we are not showing that same generous, kind, and forgiving love, then we have obviously forgotten the path by which we have come. When we are kind and gentle to people it is part of the appearing of God's kindness and loving goodness. God wants to continue the work of self-revelation he began in and through Jesus, and one of the primary ways he does this is by his followers acting in such a way that people will realize who God is and what he is like.

- Why should we be devoted to good?
- How does our story of godly transformation help others experience the amazing grace of God.

Wrap-up: Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week’s study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week’s lesson or sermon?
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Conclusion: How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

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Regeneration can also be translated as rebirth. Biblical regeneration is more than mere improvement. It is not that we were living badly, then after a regeneration program, we look better and live better. No, we were dead in our sin and then we are reborn. We begin a new life.

Renewal describes the same radical transformation. This does not mean that we continue to receive what we have already received, like a renewal of a subscription. Spiritual renewal means we have a new nature.

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- How have you seen the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration and renewal in your life?

In John 14, Jesus tells his disciples of the Holy Spirit's role in their lives. *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you... 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."*

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- *Because of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives, we can be devoted to godliness. Why do we need the Holy Spirit in order to live godly lives?*

From NT Wright:

What we see, in a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, is the direct result of God's lavish grace and generous love. That's why he wants us to be generous, kind and gentle in turn. It's not just that God has decided to set up some new rules and that one of them happens to be that Christians should be nice to people.

The reason we should avoid speaking evil of people, not to be quarrelsome, and so on, is because we ourselves are the creatures of God's generous love. If we are not showing that same generous, kind, and forgiving love, then we have obviously forgotten the path by which we have come. When we are kind and gentle to people it is part of the appearing of God's kindness and loving goodness. God wants to continue the work of self-revelation he began in and through Jesus, and one of the primary ways he does this is by his followers acting in such a way that people will realize who God is and what he is like.

- Why should we be devoted to good?
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Week 6: The Kindness of our Savior

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:4-8
June 4

Sermon Discussion from Sunday,

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Theme: : God (Father, Son and Spirit) brings the kindness of salvation, the hope of Eternal life.

Week 6 Icebreaker: Share a story of how the kindness of a stranger has helped you through a difficult situation. How did their kindness impact your life and your relationship with others?

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Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

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Close in Prayer: Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

Week 6: The Kindness of our Savior

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:4-8
June 4

Sermon Discussion from Sunday,

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. 8 This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone.

Theme: : God (Father, Son and Spirit) brings the kindness of salvation, the hope of Eternal life.

Week 6 Icebreaker: Share a story of how the kindness of a stranger has helped you through a difficult situation. How did their kindness impact your life and your relationship with others?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

Overview: Last week we began to look at God's work of redemption in our lives, and our call to godliness in response. While we never want our pursuit for Godliness to lead to legalism, it is important to understand God's role of redemption and our call to being devoted to doing good.

Summary Review: In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

Quick Overview: Read Titus 3:4-8 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Are there any repeated phrases or ideas that stick out to you?
- How were the members of the Trinity; Father, Son & Spirit, involved in our redemption story?
- What should our response to God's redemption story in our lives be?

Sermon Discussion Guide: Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing the major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?

- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

The Trinity: The Bible tells us that God eternally exists as one God in three distinct persons; Father, Son, and Spirit in eternal relationship. Last week we talked about Jesus, the grace of God, and his role on our redemption. Often times we forget that Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our story, past present, and future.

What do you know about the Holy Spirit's role in your life?

Titus 3: 4-7 When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

- According to this passage, how is the Holy Spirit active in our redemption story?

Tim Chester on Regeneration and Renewal:

Regeneration can also be translated as rebirth. Biblical regeneration is more than mere improvement. It is not that we were living badly, then after a regeneration program, we look better and live better. No, we were dead in our sin and then we are reborn. We begin a new life.

Renewal describes the same radical transformation. This does not mean that we continue to receive what we have already received, like a renewal of a subscription. Spiritual renewal means we have a new nature.

- What does it mean that we have received regeneration and renewal through the Holy Spirit?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration and renewal in your life?

In John 14, Jesus tells his disciples of the Holy Spirit's role in their lives. *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you... 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."*

Jesus would go on and say *“the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning (John 15:26-17)... When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged... 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16: 8-14)”*

- *Jesus told his disciples of how the Holy Spirit would work to regenerate and renew the people of God. According to this passage, what is the Holy Spirit doing in yours and my life?*
- *Because of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives, we can be devoted to godliness. Why do we need the Holy Spirit in order to live godly lives?*

From NT Wright:

What we see, in a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, is the direct result of God's lavish grace and generous love. That's why he wants us to be generous, kind and gentle in turn. It's not just that God has decided to set up some new rules and that one of them happens to be that Christians should be nice to people.

The reason we should avoid speaking evil of people, not to be quarrelsome, and so on, is because we ourselves are the creatures of God's generous love. If we are not showing that same generous, kind, and forgiving love, then we have obviously forgotten the path by which we have come. When we are kind and gentle to people it is part of the appearing of God's kindness and loving goodness. God wants to continue the work of self-revelation he began in and through Jesus, and one of the primary ways he does this is by his followers acting in such a way that people will realize who God is and what he is like.

- Why should we be devoted to good?
- How does our story of godly transformation help others experience the amazing grace of God.

Wrap-up: Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week’s study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week’s lesson or sermon?
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Theme : God (Father, Son and Spirit) brings the kindness of salvation, the hope of Eternal life.

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