

# A New Year's Reminder

Titus 3:1-7  
January 7, 2024

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... - Titus 3:4-5

## I. A SOMEWHAT GENTLE YET DIRECT REMINDER (SORT OF)

- An apostolic reminder to:
  1. Be submissive to rulers and authorities (Rom. 13:1; 1 Tim. 2:1).
  2. Be obedient (Heb. 13:17).
  3. Be ready for every good work (Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 2:10).
  4. Speak evil of no one (Psalm 15; Prov. 4:24).
  5. Avoid quarreling (2 Tim. 2:23-24).
  6. Be gentle (Matt. 5:5,9; Gal. 5:22-23).
  7. Show perfect courtesy to all people (Rom. 2:18; Gal. 5:14-15).

## II. NOT WHAT WE WERE—NOT WHAT WE WILL BE

- At one time we were unable to even consider living out Paul's reminder to us (Vs. 3; Rom. 7:15-20).
- But God stepped into our world and saved us! (Vss. 4-5).
  - Not because of our good works (Vs. 5; Eph. 2:8).
  - But according to his mercy (Vs. 5; Eph. 2:4).
  - He did it by washing us in regeneration and renewal (Vs. 5).
  - This washing and renewal is a work of the Spirit (Vs. 5).
  - God poured out his Spirit upon us through Jesus (Vs. 6).
- We can now be justified by grace and heirs according to hope. What we will be is not what we are now! (Vs. 7; 2 Cor. 5:17-18, 21).

**KNOW:** We are called to submissiveness, obedience, and good works. To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward people. We do so remembering with gratefulness who we once were and what God has done to save us from that life.

**DO:** Live this text out in 2024 and beyond. Start by memorizing Titus 3:1-7.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

*A Little Book on the Christian Life* by John Calvin (Available in the LifePoint Library)

### For Children:

*What Does Love Look Like?* By Janette Oke (Available in the LifePoint Library)

## Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

### Please Read Titus 3:1-7

1. What does Paul want Titus to do in order to teach the Cretans how to behave as Christians?
2. This sounds like a list of "do's and do not's". Should that be a problem for us as Christ followers?
3. What were we like before we knew Jesus?
4. What should we be like after we know Jesus?
5. What is our hope as followers of Christ?
6. Paul says we should do good works (Vss. 1-2), then tells us we are not saved by good works (Vs. 4). How does that make sense?
7. What steps will you take to live out this passage in your life?