

**Series:** Salt and Light: God's Vision for the Church

**Sermon:** The Focus of the Church

**Scripture:** Titus 3:1-8 (ESV)

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

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Titus 3:1-8 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> *Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,*

<sup>2</sup> *to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,*

<sup>5</sup> *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,*

<sup>6</sup> *whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

<sup>7</sup> *so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

<sup>8</sup> *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.*

How is the church to be led? By Godly Elders (Titus 1)

What is the church to teach? Sound Doctrine (Titus 2)

What is the church to be focused on? Today (Titus 3)

What is the church to be devoted to? Next week (Titus 3 and book overview)

#### I. A Fundamental Reminder. (v. 1-2)

*All conscientious Christian teachers, once they have been delivered from the unhealthy lust of originality, take pains to make old truths new and stale truths fresh.*

John Stott

*Christians are not anarchist or rebels. We do not subvert the government or disobey the government unless it brings us into direct conflict with the commands of God (Acts 5:29). And even then our disobedience is passive not active, and we willingly accept the consequences of our actions. This submission is evidence of submission to and trust in God.*

Daniel Akin

2 Corinthians 10:1 (ESV)

*I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ ...*

*Here then is a very brief delineation of Christian behavior in public life. In relation to the authorities we are to be conscientious citizens (submissive, obedient and cooperative), and in relation to everybody, irrespective of their race or religion, we are to be conciliatory, courteous, humble and gentle.* John Stott

## II. A Fundamental Motive. (v. 3-7)

- The need of salvation. (v. 3)

*Do not let me talk about these things this morning while you listen to me without feeling. I want you to be turning over the pages of your old life and joining with Paul and the rest of us in our sad confession of former pleasure in evil.*

Charles Spurgeon

- The heart of salvation. (v. 4, 5, 7)

- Goodness of God (v. 4)
- Love of God (v. 4)
- Mercy of God (v. 5)
- Grace of God (v. 7)

- The effect of salvation. (v. 5, 7)

- Washing of Regeneration (v. 5)

*It [regeneration] is completely God's doing. It is God's transformation of individual believers, his giving a new spiritual vitality and direction to their lives when they accept Christ...it involves something new, a whole reversal of the person's natural tendencies.*

Millard Erickson, *Theology*

*Regeneration consists negatively of removal of filth and positively of a renewing, both brought about by the Holy Spirit. Regeneration washes us, makes us clean through the new birth.*

Daniel Akin

- Renewal of the Holy Spirit (v. 5)
- Declaration of Righteousness (v. 7)
- Heirs of Eternal Life (v. 7)

## III. A Fundamental Fruit. (v. 8)