THE KINDNESS, LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD

Titus 3:4&5a But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

What **WE** Were

Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

God’s Kindness

The word translated “kindness” essentially means “goodness.” Vine’s says it means “not merely goodness as a quality, rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds; yet not expressing itself in indignation against sin...but in grace and tenderness and compassion.”

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Ephesians 2:6&7 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

The Love of God our Savior Appeared

I John 4:9&10 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

The phrase “God our Savior” also appears in Titus 2:10. God the Father planned it, Jesus paid the price for our salvation on the cross, but any of us with children have to realize that the Father suffered as His plan was carried out.

God’s kindness, love and grace appeared – became visible – when Jesus came, showing forth grace and truth (John 1:7) and kindness and love.

He Saved Us

Salvation includes being saved from the eternal penalty of sin, being rescued from the wrath to come (I Thessalonians 1:10), being saved from the power of sin and in heaven being saved from even the presence of sin.

“Not because of righteous things we had done.” Romans 4:4-6, “Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Romans 4:7&8 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one who sin the Lord will never count against them.”

God saved us because of his mercy. Mercy is God not giving us what we deserve. Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve.

The Washing of Rebirth

Titus 3:5b-8a He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal live. This is a trustworthy saying.

Some have tried to make “the washing of rebirth” refer to baptism and pointed to John 3:5 where Jesus refers to physical birth in a typically Jewish way as being “born of water.” The next verses, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit…’You must be born again’” clarifies it. Making being baptized, something you choose to do to please God, a condition of salvation goes contrary to everything else in this passage.

I Corinthians 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Renewal by the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

John 3:8 “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Whom He Poured out on Us Generously through Jesus Christ our Savior

John 3:34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Having Been Justified by His Grace

Matthew 12:36&37 (ESV) “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give for every careless word they speak, for by your word you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

The NIV says, “by your words you will be acquitted.” To be justified is to be declared not guilty.

Romans 3:22b-24 There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

We Have Become Heirs Having the Hope of Eternal Life

Galatians 46&7Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba,* Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

“Hope” in the New Testament is the confident expectation of good. Ephesians 1:13&14, “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked by him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.”

“This is a trustworthy saying.”

Some Things to Remember

God’s kindness, love and grace were revealed when Jesus came.

We have been saved, “not because of the righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy.”

Salvation is a new birth. Jesus said you must be born again.

The Holy Spirit makes us new, He changes us, we do not change to receive Him.

We are justified, declared righteous, acquitted, by grace through faith.

Those who have been justified and are now God’s heirs have the confident expectation of eternal life.