

Heirs To Grace

Titus 3:1-8

MEMORY VERSE

TITUS 3:7

“That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough small prizes (stickers, erasers, pencils, etc.) for the number of children in your class.

Butcher paper for a banner, and markers or crayons.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Speeding Ticket

Choose two students to play out the following scenario (teacher plays the part of the policeman).

Student #1: Tell student to pretend he is speeding in a car and a Policeman pulls him over and is really mean to him. Tell him his record is already so bad that you have to drag him down to the station and lock him up. Put him in a corner “jail.”

Student #2: This student also pretends to speed. Policeman pulls him over. He tells him he is not going to give him the ticket he deserves. In fact, the policeman tells the speeder to follow him to the gas station so he can have the student’s car filled with gas, four new tires put on his car and a wash and wax.

Explain to the class that the first driver got what he deserved but the second received grace. God gives us what we don’t deserve. He gives us grace.

LESSON TIME!

Sometimes as Christians we can forget about how we should behave. We are not perfect and still sin, so we will make mistakes. Jesus was the only perfect man! He knew that we would have trouble remembering, so He reminds us in His Word how we should live. In this passage of Scripture that we will study today, God uses the apostle Paul to help the Christians in Crete (and us too) know how we are to live and behave.

He also reminds us that because of what Jesus did for us, through His death on the cross and His resurrection, we are heirs of His grace. An heir is a relative who receives an inheritance when a person passes away. Through Jesus' death we have received grace. **We are saved by God's grace.**

TITUS 3:1,2

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

Paul starts out reminding the Christians on Crete to be good citizens within their communities, to obey the government and its officers, and to always be obedient and ready for any honest work. Paul listed seven qualities expected of Christian citizens.

1. To be subject to rulers and authorities.
2. To be obedient.
3. To be ready to do whatever is good.
4. To slander no one.
5. To be peaceable.
6. To be considerate.
7. To show true humility toward all men.

Christians should be an influence for good in every way; we should demonstrate the love of Christ to all through courteous and gracious behavior, remembering that **We are saved by God's grace.**

Why should we as Christians do what is right and good? Is it so we can get God to like us and give us eternal life? No! We serve the Lord because of what He has already done for us. He has already given us eternal life when we asked Jesus to come into our hearts. He has made us a brand new person. Since our lives have been changed by Jesus, we begin to desire to live our lives according to His ways and His plan.

TITUS 3:3

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Paul never forgot the sinful condition from which he and his converts had been saved from and he reminded them of it too. He was reminding the Christians that they were once the total opposite of the Christ-like people that he was encouraging them to be.

They were foolish, instead of sensible. Disobedient instead of submissive. Deceived and enslaved by all kinds of evil pleasures and wicked desires, instead of self-disciplined and ready for every good work. Before they were Christians their lives were full of resentment and envy. They hated others and others hated them.

There are a couple of things in our lives that these verses help us to understand. First of all, we need to understand that anything good in our lives today is a result of God's grace in our lives. We would not have any hope if it were not for God and the truth of His salvation. We would still be living a very selfish, disobedient and deceived life that would lead to destruction, but God, in His mercy and grace, reached down and saved us when we received Jesus. So it is important at times to remember what we have been saved out of and to remember that it was all of God's grace and that apart from that grace we would all be in BIG TROUBLE!

The second thing to notice is how should we see other people in the world who are not Christians and who are still struggling with these things. Should we forsake them and never share with them? We need to remember that people who do not know Jesus today are just like we were before we knew Jesus. We need to have compassion and love for those who are separated from Him. We need to be willing to share the gospel with them. The Lord may want to use us to help them come out of living a life of sin to a glorious new life in relationship with Jesus. **We are saved by God's grace.**

TITUS 3:4

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

Now Paul reminds them how everything changed for us when God's kindness and love was revealed to us. God, in His grace, saved those who believed, not because of any good thing in us but because of His mercy. We were not "good enough" to be saved, but because of God's kindness He washed away our sins. He gives us an eternal life, makes us a new person, fills us with the Holy Spirit, all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did for us on the cross. **We are saved by God's grace.**

Free Gift Or Works

Have as many small prizes as the number of children in your class.

Divide the class in half. Have the first half watch half two. Tell half one that they will receive a prize when they have finished doing some good things you ask them to do. Give them some commands like "look around and pick up any scraps of garbage you can throw out" or "give someone a compliment" etc. When you have given them several good things to do tell them you will give them their prize because they earned it with their good deeds.

Then give half two a prize also, just by them asking. Explain to the second half that they did not earn their treat, but you gave it as a gift. Explain that we cannot earn God's gift of salvation by doing good things. He gives it to us as a free gift just for the asking. **We are saved by God's grace.**

TITUS 3:5,6

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Even though Paul is writing this to Pastor Titus in Crete, it applies to us too! Many of us did all or some of these things before we became Christians. We had a sinful condition just like Paul, but Jesus saved Paul from his sinful condition and He saves us too. **We are saved by God's grace.**

Some people believe that just because they do good things they can please God. These verses clearly state that it is not by the good things that we do that we are saved, but it is by His grace through Jesus. There is nothing good that we can do that will get us into heaven. We do good things because we have asked Jesus into our hearts and we now live to please Him.

Let's look at how we are saved. We see first that it is according to His mercy. Mercy is kind of like a prisoner who is on death row. The prisoner is going to die because of their crime. Then when the time comes for the execution the judge says, "No, the prisoner is freed." Mercy is when we do not receive what we deserve. Because of our sin we are under the sentence of death, separation from God. But God has given us mercy and is willing to not give us what we deserve because Jesus took the sentence for us on the cross.

Grace is receiving what we do not deserve. Not only has the Lord given us mercy, allowed us to be rescued from the penalty of our sin, but He pours out blessing after blessing upon us. So like the prisoner on death row that is saved from death it would be like that prisoner being given freedom, a new life, a new identity and adopted into the family of the judge. The prisoner would be able to inherit everything that the judge owns. He would become a son. Pretty amazing, huh? That's grace!

We also see that we are washed in regeneration. The Bible often talks about being "washed" in the blood of the lamb. What that is talking about is how Jesus' blood, which was shed on the cross, is sufficient to wash us of all of our sins and bad things we do. We cannot wash ourselves; we will just get dirty again. Only Jesus can wash us with His blood. Regeneration means to be brought to life. We were dead before we came to know Jesus. Then through the Holy Spirit our spirit is made alive and we begin to have a relationship with Jesus.

Then the last thing we see is that this grace and mercy is provided abundantly to all who would receive it. God is not stingy with His grace, only giving it to certain people and not to others. He has enough mercy and grace to give abundantly to all that would simply receive and come to Him. Have you come to Jesus to receive mercy and grace? You can do that today! **We are saved by God's grace.**

TITUS 3:7,8

that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Paul says we were justified by our faith in Jesus Christ, and now because we are justified by His grace we have become heirs according to the hope of eternal life, which means we inherit eternal life. What is justification? That just means that we have been declared righteous or made right before God.

Remember back when we said that we were not righteous. That means we are not good. We are sinners and will do wrong things. When we accept Jesus then God declares us righteous. In God's eyes we are perfect because Jesus' blood has cleansed us, not because we are good. We will still sin, but when we ask for forgiveness Jesus is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Paul ends by saying that the things that he has told them are all true and trustworthy. He wanted Titus to stress these things in order to promote godly behavior. Not just because it is right, but because it brings results. A life that knows Jesus will begin to act like Jesus.

It is important that we receive Paul's instruction as well. We too, need to behave in a way that glorifies and honors our Lord Jesus Christ. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us live and act the way that pleases Him, and let's remember that **we are saved by God's grace.**

G*R*A*C*E

Make a banner out of butcher paper that says:

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense.

You can write out hollow letters on the butcher paper and allow the children to color and decorate the banner with crayons or markers. As you make the banner explain to the children its meaning.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that God has shown us His love for us by giving us His son Jesus who died for our sins. Also lead the children in a prayer of commitment to respond to His love by doing what is good and right. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.