

# HOW GOD SAVES US

Part 28 of Foundations 260. Titus 3:1-8.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 7, 2025.

## LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

**Life's most important questions are:**

- Who is God?
- What does God feel about me?
- How can I know God?
- How can I get right with God?

**The answers are found in Titus, chapter three.**

## THE CONTEXT & TEXT OF TITUS 3:1-8

**The apostle Paul sent his coworker Titus to the island of Crete to organize the churches there.**

Titus 3:1-8 (CSB) Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. 3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

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.

# **WE NEED GOD TO SAVE US**

## **Paul anticipates objections to his teaching.**

- “I don’t need God, and I don’t need salvation.”
- Paul’s response was verse 3, illustrating that life without God was dark and dysfunctional.

## **We need God to save us.**

### **HOW GOD SAVES US: THREE PHASES**

#### **Phase one: Jesus Christ came into the world - verse 4-5a.**

- The keyword here is “appeared.” That’s referring to Jesus. God came into the world in Jesus. Who is God? Jesus is the great God - Titus 2:13.
- “He saved us.” The rest of the Bible defines salvation as:
  - Restoration: It brings us home to God as our Father.
  - Forgiveness: It removes our guilt and gives us right standing with God.
  - Freedom: It frees us from bondage to sin’s controlling power.
- God’s motivation was his kindness, love, and grace (2:11). That’s what God feels about us.

#### **Phase two: Jesus Christ came into our hearts - verses 5-7a.**

- This refers to the new birth by the Holy Spirit. Take note of the multiple “salvation events” that take place simultaneously.
- God’s mercy was extended to us.
- The Holy Spirit made us a new creation - regeneration. He gave us a fresh start - renewal. Received through faith in Jesus, our God and Savior.

- We were justified by grace. God declared us to be right with him. God credits the perfect righteousness of Christ to us (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- The Holy Spirit was poured out on us. He lives in us, and we are his Temple (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:21-22).
- How do we get right with God? God does it.
- The result is a new lifestyle propelled by the Holy Spirit - verse 8.

### **Phase three: Jesus Christ will return for us - verse 7b.**

- Salvation is incomplete until Jesus returns. Today, we are “heirs with the hope of eternal life.” We’re heirs, but we haven’t inherited anything yet.
- We’re waiting to see Jesus in his glory (2:13). It is a “blessed” hope because when Jesus returns:
  - We’ll see him face-to-face - 1 John 3:2.
  - We’ll share in his glory - Colossians 3:4.
  - We’ll receive immortal, indestructible, eternal bodies - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20-21.
  - We will reign on earth with Jesus - Revelation 3:21; 1 Corinthians 6:2.
  - We will inherit the new creation - Revelation 21; Romans 8..

## **RIGHT NOW COUNTS FOREVER**

**The past is past, the future is coming, what matters most is the present.**

- Do I want to know God?
- Do I want to be right with God?
- Do I want to be ready for Jesus to return in glory?.

**Turn from yourself and your sin to trust in Jesus as God and Savior.**

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## Review

- Review Peter's September 7<sup>th</sup> teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

## Discuss

- Paul reminds believers of their former way of life before Christ (foolish, disobedient, deceived, etc). Why do you think it's essential for Christians to remember who they were apart from God?
- How does understanding God's grace, kindness, and love as God's motivation to save us impact the way you view God and communicate the gospel to others? Also, how does this lead to doing good works as a follower of Jesus?
- Titus 3 highlights that believers are now "heirs with the hope of eternal life." In what situations do you find it hardest to maintain this hope? What helps you to maintain or strengthen this hope in those hard times?
- Peter's sermon closed with, "Right now counts forever." Share with the group when and how you made the eternally significant decision to turn to Jesus as your great God and Savior. If you have never done this, discuss your reasons with the group (if you're ready and willing to do so).

## Prayer Focus

- Praise God for his saving kindness, love, and grace revealed in Jesus Christ.
- Ask for more people to hear the gospel and respond in faith through the people and ministries of the Cornerstone Church.