

Rescued by Love: Unwrapping God's Awesome Gift

Titus 3:4–7

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

The natural person's life is sinful, foolish, and enslaved to various lusts and passions that condemn them to Hell. But God has come, and He cares, changes, and comforts us with a rescue plan of Hope.¹ Do not take the great salvation of God for granted. Do not suppress the Holy Spirit; ensure that your relationship with Jesus is real. Do you live for God or Satan?

1. But **when** the **kindness** of God our Savior and His **love** for mankind **appeared** ... (v. 4)
 - He **Saved** us (v. 5)
 - **Not by** works (deeds)
 - of righteousness (*good behavior*) that **we** had done
 - But according to His **mercy** – (v. 5)
- ❖ Through the **washing** (*i.e., spiritual cleansing*) of regeneration (*i.e., a new birth, born again*) (v. 5)
 - and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**
2. He poured out his **Spirit** (*Holy Spirit*) on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that
 - Having been **justified** by his grace
 - We may become **heirs** with the hope of **eternal** life

What did Jesus do? **God showed His kindness and love when Jesus Christ came into the world.** He lovingly made it possible for all people (as sinners) to be saved. When people listen to the truth in God's Word, the Spirit of Christ (also called the Holy Spirit) leads them to realize that they need a savior because they have done wrong things.

By truly believing and having faith, the old way of living changes, and your spirit is born again. This renewal ("making new") isn't about getting new powers; it's about God truly changing us through the Holy Spirit. Being "justified" before God means being declared "righteous." The penalty you deserve was paid by Jesus. When you stand before God, He sees Christ in you, so it's as if you never did anything wrong and always obeyed perfectly! You aren't "made" justified; you are DECLARED justified.

How did you get this 'pardon' from God, the judge? His goodness, kindness, and love led Him to save you. This is true hope for sinners because they become rescued, pardoned, and adopted family members in God's Kingdom, with the promise of living forever in peace with God. Because of God the Father (v.4-5), the Son (v.6), and the Holy Spirit (v.5), the gift of salvation is a confirmed, guaranteed, and settled matter for all who believe in Jesus.

¹ Platt, David, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida. *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2013.