



FRAGRANCE OF GRACE.

“BUT WHEN THE GOODNESS AND LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD OUR SAVIOR APPEARED, HE SAVED US, NOT BECAUSE OF WORKS DONE BY US IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN MERCY...”

TITUS 3:5

GOD’S DESIRE FOR THE CHURCH:

1. That God’s people and church would be distinct from the world around it.
2. Because God’s people would be...
 - o Faithful Worshippers of Jesus Christ.
 - o Faithful Witnesses of Jesus Christ.

HE SAVED US...

“Paul’s assertion, “he saved us,” in v. 5 constitutes the main verb in this lengthy sentence (vv. 4-7). It is the fact of God’s saving action in Jesus Christ that is amplified and explained by each additional clause and phrase.”¹ – **Thomas Lea**

His process of salvation is a result of his gracious justifying work (v. 7) as a result of his goodness and loving kindness (v. 5).

- According to his own mercy. (v. 5a)

“Mercy is a loving response prompted by the misery and helplessness of the one on whom the love is to be showered.”² – **D. A. Carson**

“Mercy looks especially upon the miserable consequences of sin. So that mercy really means a sense of pity plus a desire to relieve the suffering. That is the essential meaning of being merciful; it is pity plus the action... The perfect and central example of mercy and being merciful is the sending by God of His only begotten Son into this world, and the coming of the Son. Why? Because there is mercy with Him. He saw our pitiable estate, He saw the suffering, and, in spite of the law breaking, this was the thing that moved Him to action.”³
– **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Matthew 20:29-34 – “And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, ‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!’ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, ‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!’ And stopping, Jesus called them and said, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, let our eyes be opened.’ **And Jesus in pity touched their eyes**, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.”

- By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. (v. 5b)
 - o Regeneration
 - i. Washing = cleansed of sin.
 - ii. Renewal = Made new.

Regeneration means you are **clean** and **new**.

- To an eternal hope. (v. 7b)

“Our present experience of salvation can give us only a tantalizing foretaste of the nature of our future inheritance.”⁴ – **D. Edmond Hiebert**

¹ Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, *1, 2 Timothy, Titus*, vol. 34, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 321.

² D.A. Carson, *Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and Confrontation of the World: An Exposition of Matthew 5-10*, (Baker Books, 2004), 25.

³ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), 84.

⁴ D. Edmond Hiebert, “Titus,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 446.

We are heirs.. part of the family, but we don't see things in full yet. Instead of being marked by malice and envy, lust for passions and pleasures, and hatred, the children of God eagerly await the day we see Christ in full with great joy! We are looking forward to spending time with God forevermore in a world free of pain, of sickness, of anxiety, of depression, of misery! He's taken us from misery given us hope! One day we hope to feel that hope in full!

- With feet firmly planted in today. (v. 8)

Q: What does it mean to live as an heir of eternal life?

→ We have been given the promise of a future inheritance.

→ But we don't get to possess it fully yet.

→ So we live a life worthy of the hope to which we cling.

Illustration: A King and a Prince.

A FRAGRANCE OF GRACE TO AN UNDESERVING WORLD...

- Your good works are evidence that your heart is the Lord's. (Titus 2:14; James 2:14-18)
- Your good works are worshipful sacrifices to God. (Romans 12:1-2)
- Your good works are the fragrance of God's grace to an underserving world. (Titus 3:8; 1-2)
 - These things are profitable for all men.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 - "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life."