

TITUS

A HOUSE IN ORDER



Craig Smith • Rebirth • February 21, 2021

Life as God made it: blessed – God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Gen. 1:28). **Why do you think God bestows blessings on His creation? In the case of man, what is specific about God’s blessing in Gen. 1:28? Are the blessings of authority and responsibility always made in tandem in God’s economy?**

Life as we made it: broken – “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” (Gen. 3:7-8) **Sin causes blessings to be broken. Harmony is transformed into separation and division. Was there a time in your life where your own decisions separated you from God?**

- **Broken places within us** – “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.” (Titus 3:3a). **Perhaps one of the most on-point descriptions of our spiritual condition before our rebirth, this verse says it all. Take a moment to meditate on the power of God that saved you from this condition and give Him praise for His great mercy!**

¶ **Whatever is in the water came out of the well** – “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matt. 15:19)

- **Broken places among us** – “We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.” (Titus 3:3b) **We often idealize the first century church as being characterized by a strong faith and incredible harmony. Sadly, that church was very much like our own. In this verse, Paul describes the characteristics of a worldly “community.” What were they?**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy... (Titus 3:4-5a). Thinking about memorizing a new verse? Try this one. (Hint: It's a great verse to use in evangelism because it describes the kindness and love of God before it describes His work)

¶ **The gospel of grace in two words** – “But...God...” (Titus 3:4)

- **Salvation is not merely a new start, it's a new birth** – “...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 life.” (Titus 3:5b-7). **It is said that if a man is born once, he will die twice; if he is born twice, he will die only once. That second birth ensures the receipt of God’s Spirit and the honor of working for His glory. What are you doing these days to live in that recaptured state of blessing? How are you blessing others?**
 - **Washed from the past** – “...the washing of rebirth...”
 - **Renewed for the present** – “...and renewal by the Holy Spirit...”
 - **Restored in the future** – “...we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

◆ **Common temptation: to live out of our brokenness and not our blessedness** – “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:22-24)

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 1:6)