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We All Need A Savior

TITUS 3:3-8

Introduction

1. As most, if not all, of you know, forty-one people, represented by seven congregations from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas spent six days recently on a mission trip to El Salvador.
2. During those six days we worked with nine congregations of God's people and the Exodo Children's Home.
3. While there, God blessed us with two baptisms this past Sunday.
 - a. One involved Maria Paz Sunday morning at the Apulo c of C.
 - b. The other involved our own MacKenzie Elmore, Sunday evening at the hotel.
4. I am sure that you will hear more about the trip in the week ahead, but I want you to consider this morning the name of the country to which we went — El Salvador.
5. El Salvador is Spanish for "The Savior," a reference to Jesus Christ.
6. This was the result of a law passed by the legislative assembly in 1915 and reaffirmed again in 1958 by their passing of another law.
7. Our mission group went there two weeks ago this Tuesday to share the good news of "Jesus Christ our Savior," but the truth is that all of us here today and those either watching or listening to this sermon need a Savior.
8. This morning I want each of us to consider . . .
 - a. Why we need a Savior.
 - b. How we were given a fresh start.
 - c. The new responsibility required of us.

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I. We Need a Savior Because of Who We Once Were

A. FOOLISH

1. When we think of someone who is foolish, we tend to think of that person as lacking in good sense, judgment or discretion.
2. From a Biblical standpoint, it means someone who has no spiritual understanding.
3. On the afternoon following His resurrection, Jesus called the two disciples on the way to Emmaus “foolish” because they did not understand the meaning of the empty tomb (Luke 24:25).
4. Prior to our obedience to the Gospel, we were foolish in that we did not understand all that God has been doing since the beginning of this world which He has created.
5. Satan used our lack of spiritual understanding, our foolishness, to keep us away from God.

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B. DISOBEDIENT

1. We were disobedient to God.
2. Paul told the Christians in Rome, “you once were disobedient to God” (Romans 11:30).
3. This disobedience is seen in our attitude and actions toward those in authority.
4. Here in Titus 3:1, Paul instructs Titus to remind the Cretans “to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient” (Titus 3:1).
5. He told the Romans that “whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God” (Romans 13:2).
6. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul described the ungodly as those who were “disobedient to parents” (2 Timothy 3:2).

7. Disobedience seems to be wired into our DNA.

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C. DECEIVED

1. Satan “deceived Eve by his craftiness” (2 Corinthians 11:3) and he continues to do so today.
2. In Revelation 12:9, John wrote that “the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan . . . deceives the whole world.”
3. Paul told the Christians in Corinth, “Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”” (1 Corinthians 15:33).
4. He told the Galatians, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).
5. No doubt, all of us have been deceived at one time or another in our lives.
6. We need a Savior.

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D. SLAVES TO VARIOUS LUSTS AND PLEASURES

1. Our desires and pleasures determined our course in life.
2. Paul told Timothy there would come a time when people love pleasure more than they love God (2 Timothy 3:4).
3. James said that each of us is tempted when we are “drawn away and enticed by our own evil desires” (James 1:14).
3. He went on to say that “after [our] desire has conceived it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death” (James 1:15).
4. We find ourselves being “held captive by [the devil] to do his will” (2 Timothy 3:26).
5. Jesus is the only one who can set us free.

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E. WE SPENT OUR LIVES IN MALICE AND ENVY, HATEFUL AND HATING ONE ANOTHER

1. When it came to our relationships with others, we were motivated by getting back at others for what they had supposedly done to us (“malice”) or getting even because they had what we did not (“envy”).
2. These self-oriented attitudes damaged our relationships — not only were we “hated” by others, we in turn hated those around us.
3. In his first letter, the apostle John wrote, “the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going because darkness has blinded his eyes” (1 John 2:11, NASB95).
4. Only Jesus as our Savior who can set you free from such a miserable existence.

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II. How We Were Given A Fresh Start

A. THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO TO SAVE OURSELVES

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness . . .” (*Titus 3:5a, NASB95*).

1. No matter how many good deeds we have done, nor the quality of those deeds, they are not sufficient to save us.
2. Long ago, David asked God, “do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous” (*Psalms 143:2, NASB95*).
3. His son Solomon wrote in *Ecclesiastes 7:20*, “there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.”
4. Any good deeds we may do are quickly negated by our sinful thoughts and deeds.

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B. GOD'S GRACE CAME TO OUR RESCUE

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” (Titus 3:4–6, NASB95)

1. There are three words which Paul uses that make up the grace by which we have been saved — “kindness,” “love,” and “mercy”.
2. Back in 2:11 of this letter, Paul wrote, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men” (Titus 2:11, NASB95).
3. This “grace” of God, in the form of His “kindness,” “love,” and “mercy” appeared to us in the form of Jesus Christ our Savior.
4. In his letter to the saints in Ephesus, Paul wrote, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” (Ephesians 2:4–5, NASB95)
5. How did all of this come about?
6. Paul tells us that it was by “the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” (Titus 3:4–6, NASB95)
 - a. What is this washing of regeneration? What does it mean?
 - b. It comes from a Greek word which literally means “new genesis” or “coming back from death to life”
7. Some years before this, Paul wrote to the saints in Rome and said,

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead

through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

(Romans 6:3–4, NASB95)

8. In our baptism, we are re-enacting the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, through our baptism, we are born again.
7. Some thirty years before Paul wrote these words, Jesus told a man named Nicodemus,
 - a. “Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).
 - b. “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).
8. Ten days after Jesus had ascended back to His Father in heaven, Peter responded to the crowd gathered in Jerusalem who had asked him what they must do and told them to “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38, NASB95)
9. Paul, at his own conversion, was told by a man named Ananias who our Lord had sent to him to “Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16, NASB95)
10. Peter, in his first letter to the churches of Asia Minor, utilized God’s salvation of Noah and his family through water and said, “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 3:21, NASB95)

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C. OUR NEW LIFE

1. We have been “justified by His grace” (v. 7a).
 - a. Justification is a term from the law courts.
 - b. When all of the evidence is presented, the verdict handed down by the judge or jury is “not guilty.”

- c. Satan is not only our tempter, he is also our accuser.
 - d. He tells God that we should be condemned.
 - e. However, because of what God's grace has accomplished through Jesus Christ, the debt which our sin requires has been paid and we are declared "not guilty."
2. We are now "heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (v. 7b).
 - a. As a result, God has given us the Holy Spirit as a seal upon His promise of our eternal inheritance.
 - b. It is "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away," one which has been "reserved in heaven" for us (1 Peter 1:4).
 - c. On the final day, our Lord will say to us, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 25:34, NASB95)

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III. The New Responsibility Required Of Us

"This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men." (Titus 3:8, NASB95)

A. WE MUST SPEAK CONFIDENTLY OF THESE THINGS

1. How do we respond to our salvation?
2. We speak confidently of what God has done on our behalf.
3. One of those ways is through the hymns we sing every time we gather together.

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;" (Ephesians 5:18-19,

NASB95)

- a. "I've a home prepared where the saints abide . . ."
- b. "Oh they tell me of a home . . ."

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B. WE ARE TO ENGAGE IN GOOD DEEDS

1. While upon this earth, Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38).
2. We are to imitate Him.
3. Paul instructed the saints in the churches of Galatia, "while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (Galatians 6:10, NASB95)

Conclusion

1. Why do we need Jesus?
2. We need Him to save us from the power which sin and death hold over our lives.
3. We need Him to grant us access to our Father's throne (Hebrews 4:15-16).
4. We need Him to prepare a place for us in His eternal realm and then to come take us there (John 14:3; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
5. As our children sometimes sing, we need Him to be our rock, our sword, our shield, the wheel in the middle of our wheel.
6. Unless He is the fairest of ten thousand to our souls, we have no hope.
7. Will you come to Him today and let Him wash your sins away?