

**God Blueprint for a Healthy Church**  
**Living on Mission: The Motivation for Mission**  
**Titus 3:3-8**  
**August 20, 2017**

We are coming to a close of our summer series, “God’s Blueprint for a Healthy Church” based on the New Testament book of Titus. The apostle Paul wrote this letter to one of his disciples, Titus, who assisted him in helping churches. So far, we have looked at leadership in chapter one, discipleship in chapter two, and now chapter three, Living on Mission, looking at what it means to live faithfully in a non-Christian world. Today, we look at “The Motivation for Mission,” from 3:3-8.

**BI** – The motivation and means of living on mission is the saving work of God.

Last week we saw Paul writing Titus to remind the Cretan disciples to live faithfully and so be a light in the communities in which they live. Now he gives the motivation for living faithfully in a faithless world. Let me outline it before we read it. Live faithfully to be a light because you too were once hopelessly and helplessly trapped in your sin. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us. He saved us, not because we earned it or deserved it, but because of God’s mercy and so we too should be merciful toward those who face a Christless eternity. He saved us by means of the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit so that we become heirs of eternal life.

First, he reminds us that we were once just as lost as everyone else (3). First, he says we were all foolish. Listen as I read a couple of verses that shed light on foolishness. “The natural person *does not* accept the things of the Spirit of God, *for they are folly to him*, and he is *not* able to understand them *because* they are spiritually discerned (1Co 2:14).” Outside of grace intervening in our lives, we are spiritually incapable of embracing spiritual truth. “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God *because* of the ignorance that is in them, *due* to their hardness of heart (Eph 4:18).” Then he says we were disobedient. Our natural inclination is rebellion against God. Then he says we were led astray by Satan, slaves to various passions and pleasures. Satan had his grip on us, yet we were so spiritually insensitive we thought we were free. “And you were *dead* in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, *following* the course of this world, *following* the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and *were by nature* children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (Eph 2:1-3).”

Then he reminds us that God is a Good and Merciful Savior (4-7). “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,<sup>1</sup> he saved us (4). Jesus appearing in history is ultimate proof of the goodness and love of God for humanity. God loves to lavish his goodness on us and promises to do so for all eternity (Eph 2:4-7). It is not just his goodness that moves God to save us, but also his loving kindness. Loving kindness is a compound word made up of two smaller words, brotherly love and humanity, where we get the word philanthropy, meaning love for and generosity towards humanity. If you are here today and you are a Christian, it is because God’s heart is inclined toward you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, *he* saved *us*. You cannot save yourself. He saved us, not because works done by us in righteousness but because of his own mercy (5). Mercy is a person taking pity on a person in a helpless and hopeless situation. You cannot do anything to save yourself, to appease God. Outside of God’s intervention in our lives, we are hopelessly and helplessly lost and enemies of God. Scripture says that every inclination of our hearts is evil (Gen 6:5), we are hostile to God and cannot submit to God (Rom 8:7) even when we are religious (Jn 3:1-12). Then he goes on to describe how or the means by which he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (5). Regeneration is another compound word made up of genesis and again, regeneration is a new genesis in us. Wayne Grudem, in his book Systematic Theology, defines regeneration as a secret act of God in which he imparts new life

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<sup>1</sup> He is speaking of Jesus Christ (v. 6), a clear statement of the deity of Jesus Christ. This is the third time the phrase occurs in Titus, see 2:11, 13.

to us. With the coming of Jesus Christ, there is a new genesis in which God is restoring what was lost in the fall. That is why John starts his gospel with in the beginning was the word (Jn 1:1) and Paul says that Jesus Christ is the last Adam restoring what the first Adam lost (1 Cor 15:46) and that we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus uses the same word when he said, "truly, I say to you, in the new world,<sup>2</sup> when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Mat 19:28)." God saving humanity by regeneration is part of a larger regeneration which includes all of creation, with the complete removal of the effects of sin on all of creation. When humanity fell creation was subject to sin. God made creation a visible reminder of the horror and devastation of sin -- destruction, violence, disease, decay, and death. We are told that creation groans as it awaits its own regeneration, new genesis new (Rom 8:20-23). God's plan is for a new genesis of all things in which we are the first fruits. This regeneration or new genesis has a goal, that being justified we "become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (7)." Regeneration secures our inheritance as heirs of eternal life, life in the new creation, the renewal of all things. The motivation for mission is also the means for mission. Look at verse eight, "This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people." We are to be devoted to good works, living faithfully in a faithless world, so that others may see the transforming power of the gospel in our lives and turn to Him.

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<sup>2</sup> Other versions translate this word as "new age" (NAB), "the renewal of all things" (NIV).

## God Blueprint 4 a Healthy Ch – Living on Mission: The Motivation for Mission

### Titus 3:3-8 **John**

coming close summer series, “God’s Blueprint 4 a Healthy Ch” based NT book Titus.

Apos Paul wrote letter his disciples, Titus, assisted him in helping churches.

3 ch: leadership; discipleship; mission – **repetition key to learning; expository**

Today, we look at “The Motivation for Mission,” from 3:3-8.

Last saw P writ Titus ~ remind Cretan Xns live faithfully tba light in communities

Now gives motiv 4 living faithfully in faithless world.

outline bf read - Live faithfully, GW, bc u too hopelessly & helplessly trapped

But when goodness & LK God r Savior appeared, **he** saved **us**.

Clarify focus GW - not bc earned or deserved, but bc G mercy & too be merciful tw

then descr means~ wash regen & renew of HS so bc heirs of eternal life

#### **Read**

1<sup>st</sup> - reminds us we were once just as lost as everyone else (3).

Starts descr foolish - read couple vs shed light on foolishness. 2 Co 2:14

Outside grace intervening in lives, we r spir incapable of embrac S truth.

Eph 4:18 **le dead man**; Dark room

Then says were disobd ~ r nat inclination rebel ag God. **le always known & loved G**

Then says were led astray by Satan, slaves various passions & pleasures E 2:1-3

Satan had grip, yet were so spiritually insensitive thought free.

**le donut shop; not recog or ack how broken we are – cover it up**

Then reminds us that God is a Good and Merciful Savior (4-7). Read v 4

J appearing in history is ult proof of goodness & love of God for humanity.

G loves lavish goodness on us & promises do so for all eternity (Eph 2:4-7).

is not just goodness moves G 2 save us, but also loving kindness.

LK ~ compound~ bro love & humanity, ~ love for & generosity tw humanity.

If u r Xn, it is bc G heart inclined tw u – goodness and love and generosity

When goodness & LK of God r Sav appeared, he saved us - cannot save self.

v.5 – clarifies so no confusion bw salv & GW – by GW vs for GW

Mercy ~ taking pity another in helpless & hopeless situation **le turtles; dog shelter**

cannot do anything save self, satisfy G

Outside G intervention we r hopelessly & helplessly lost & enemies

Scr ~ every inclin hearts (G 6:5), hostile G & cannot submit (R 8:7) even relig

**le Chadwell; my family**

Then goes on descr how/means by which G saved us, by washing of reg & renew of HS

Regen another compound word made, genesis & again ~salv ~ new genesis

– not reform; rehab; moral improvement – new genesis

WG defines regen - secret act of God in which he imparts new life to us.

w/coming of JC, is a new genesis which restoring was lost in the fall (**CFRC**).

John; last Adam; NC in X

J same word “truly, I say 2 u, in new world,<sup>3</sup> when S of M will sit his glorious throne,

G saving humanity by regen part of larger regen; new Genesis includes all creation

When humanity fell creation subj 2 sin - visible reminder horror & devast of sin

creation groans as awaits own regeneration, new genesis new (Rom 8:20-23).

God’s plan new genesis of all things in which salv/ regeneration first fruits.

Salv/regen has goal, v6-7

Salv/reg secures inherit ~ Et life, life in new creation, **ie** 1<sup>st</sup> aspar; fishing hole

motivation 4 mission is also means for mission – look v8

2b devoted GW living faithfully in faithless world, so see trans power of gospel **ie Q**

**le apocalyp movies**– Mad Max; Terminator Gen, Salv; Zombie; Planet Apes; Matrix

Living faithfully fruit salvation – GW in light of mission

<sup>3</sup> Other versions translate this as “new age” (NAB), “the renewal of all things” (NIV).

This dynamic of having the love of God create an intolerance for sin is what the Puritans called the power of new affections. What will ultimately make us holy is not willpower, not guilt, not an inspiring message, but apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ that actually causes love for God to drive out and replace love for sin.