



New Birth, New Life
Titus 3:1-8

How would those who know you or observe your life and character describe you?

Paul is deeply concerned that we are being transformed by Christ so:

- we experience the full life of Christ
- our churches are healthy
- the lost world around us would clearly see Jesus in us

Titus 3:1-8 (NIV)

1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The expectation is that we actually follow Christ and become like him.

What was your life like before Christ?

How did you come to know Christ?

What are the clear evidences of the ongoing work of Christ in you?

Honorable submission to governing authorities:

- God's order for the world includes rulers and governments.
- There is room to say, "It's better to obey God than man."
- Choose to obey amicably and accept consequences when you don't.

There are some very clear descriptions about what our changed lives are to look like:

- ready to do good in our communities
- don't talk badly about people
- be peaceable, not seeking unnecessary fights
- considerate of those who see the world differently
- gentle and kind, from strength

Is your internal life being transformed from ungodly passions to an eagerness to do good?

Are you living self controlled and godly lives because you love your Master, Jesus?

Are you kind to all, especially those who offend you?

We wait for Jesus to come again, and live for his glorious reputation through us.

The cross gives us the meaning in life we desperately want- sharing the gospel to all.

vv. 3-8 never get bored with the cross of Jesus!

why is this here?

- to remind us of the incomparable power of Jesus in us
- to catch us in our "holier than thou" attitude toward the lost

- to keep us from being lazy in sharing the gospel
- to cause our lives to be a shout to the Lord and praise that points people to Jesus

“washing of rebirth/regeneration”- also in Matthew 19 (only)

- a future day when Jesus restores all
- God’s future grace is placed in us at salvation
- the same power that will end all sin and restore all creation is working in us now!

It’s the installment payment plan of God’s restoration:

- the resurrection of Christ
- the rebirth of all who come through faith in Christ
- the future restoration of creation by Christ

“Don’t ever underestimate the power of the new birth to change somebody.”
Tim Keller

So what?

- Our “loves” must be re-ordered.
- Our actions must be geared toward the good of everyone.
- Our lives are living sacrifices of praise to our Savior.
- We aim all that we are and have at the mission of God to save as many as possible. (2:14)