

The message of Titus is this – **In light of God's Grace, Be and Do Good**

There are other points and things to grasp but as we look at the entire book and we seek out what God wanted Titus to know and do.... it all points to this.

In light of God's grace BE & DO Good. (and we see this so strong tonight)

We're really just focusing on one verse tonight – a shocker, comfort, reality check, foundational thought. It's a verse that screams out what we once were.

Look at **Titus 3:3** – **the heart of this verse is to reveal to us who we are before Christ (remind us of the grace of God)**

NOW in this room there are **people who are cocky**, very confident in their ability.

- these people are in danger of not valuing Christ as their all,

there are **some who are very insecure**, thinking they aren't capable of doing anything good.

- these people are in danger of not trusting in Christ as their all (identity/provision)

So we have some people who are in danger of not trusting God, cause they got this....

& others who are in danger of not really believing God is able, they don't trust, why should I, they say.

the reality is that it's just as bad to think you're useless in the hands of God than to be cocky and feel as though you don't need God – **both attitudes fail to trust God and view Christ as all they need.**

all this to say that if we aren't careful we are in danger of neglecting the grace of God

we forget that in every situation we need Him...that He is all we need, He is our only hope.

(we forget all He has done and our life shows it) **Read Galatians 2:20-21**

Tonight this short verse, Titus 3:3, reminds us of one huge thing.

it's **our bottom line: In Christ we are not what we Once Were.**

That's the weight of this short verse....the power of the Gospel. the power of God...to change us.

Because of the message of the Gospel we are no longer dependent on what we can do.

Whether that be something great, less than great, or maybe in our eyes, nothing good at all.

What happens is once we follow Christ, give our life to Him, the dependence and attention goes from you to HIM..... in all things. **(Rom. 8:31-37) He's got you! and because He's got you, you got this....**

it really takes the pressure off knowing your task in life just got way simpler (Know Him – Make Him Known)

Still doesn't make it easy right----life is tough----but we hold to the fact that we know Him.

Here's a good place to start: {WRITE THESE DOWN} BOARD OR TV

Is God faithful? Is God able? Can we trust Him? Lets **start here** and live life in those answers, what you know!

NOW LISTEN – this doesn't mean you no longer have value, something to offer, have talent and gifts.

It simply means why you do, what you do, with what you have, has changed.

Verse 3 is a great reminder of the grace that has been shown to us...a change has happened.

You see the word **(ONCE)** KJV (SOMETIME) – literally means "IN TIMES PAST"

Why is this important?

Because this is not you anymore...it's time we stopped living in fear or with thoughts of who we were.

stop living as if it's all about you, for you, and through your strength. **(both cocky/insecure)**

Verse 1 & 2 is this plea to show grace because of **v. 3** (the grace that was shown to you)

Paul says Live in this way (v.1-2) because at one time you too were:

Foolish — we were stupid, unable to see,. **Disobedient** – we wanted to seek our own way

Enslaved –lust and pleasure controlled us. no matter how much we gave it, it was never satisfied

We lived in malice –means you were horrible, vicious – **We lived in Envy** – never satisfied, always craving more –

We were Hateful – instead of living a life of love it was hate –

This is a picture of who we were, before Christ, cocky and insecure but not a picture of who we are, in Christ.

The Cross, Jesus, The Gospel has changed us – the only thing that could help, our only hope.

Paul is telling Titus –Tell them to show grace in light of the grace God has shown to us.

We are a people of grace. But where is the change? Where are the fruits of this grace being shown to us?

Tonight is not meant to depress you or kick your chair out from you but to open our eyes.
To reveal that many times we still live in the past even after being freed and forgiven (redeemed) made new!

Tonight Titus 3:3 is saying, be still and know that He is God. This God has changed you.
NOW GO, Walk in this newness of life. Show Grace because in this you are sharing the Gospel and the hope that you have found in Jesus Christ.

We must never forget the grace God has shown to us – we take confidence in KNOWING HIM.

Phil 3:8-9 Is Knowing Christ enough for me? Do I really believe I need Him
Do I believe He is faithful? Do I believe He is Able? Can I really trust Him
For me...**The Answer is Yes...**and in light of all that God has done, His grace...
go and show grace (Be and do good)

The response to all this is really simple...in light of God's grace, Be and Do Good.
Show Grace because you've been shown grace

What does that look like though?

We share the Gospel, GRACE, in the way we respond to the world, trials, issues, victories, drama, life!
Instead of hitting my brother I have patience instead of getting on the teachers nerves I act right
instead of disrupting I bring peace, instead of living for me, I live for Him
instead of looking down on people I see them through the eyes of Jesus remembering that at one time, I was the nasty...I can't think for one minute that I brought this change about...it was Him, and I live with that in mind.

So I can't be cocky because left to my own I'm foolish, disobedient, enslaved and hateful
I can't be insecure because as a child of God I'm more than a conqueror.
So I Trust Him and live a life that shows this each day.

Questions: REACH DEEPER WITH THESE QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from tonight's sermon and Scriptures? How does all this push me to respond?
2. Read through Ephesians 2:1-10 and answer the questions below:
 - What do these verses teach us about God?
What does it say about Him, how does it describe Him, His standard?
 - What does vv. 1-3 teach us about Man/Us? (before Christ)
 - What did God do for us, even though we were like this? (see verse 5)
 - How does this point us to Jesus?
 - What does vv. 6-10 say about those who "in Christ"?
3. With Titus 3:3 and Ephesians 2:1-3 in mind, how should we live our lives?
Should this change the way we think of ourselves, our abilities?
Should this change our dependence?
Should this change what's most important in our life?
Should this change how we do things in life.
Talk these out....what should change because of the fact that in Christ we are not who we once were?
read Phil 3:12-16
4. Do you struggle at all with having too much confidence in what you can do? How about feeling inadequate or useless? What does this say about how we depend on God to meet needs and change us? **Read Proverbs 3:5-6** – What does the Bible say about the above?
5. The heart of the message tonight is that in Christ we are changed...not who we once were.
But we still struggle with this. How much does "how good we have it" effect this way of living?
Where is there hope in tonight's message?
How does tonight turn us towards the Gospel message?
Maybe you can finish the time just talking through the Gospel.
What is it and how is it good news?
6. Finish by praying together...pray that we, in light of being comfortable in life would become brave and bold to stand firm in Christ despite how we are viewed. that we would see our value in Him and in turn live our lives for His glory alone, fully dependent on Him.
Also, pray for those who do not have it so good...