

OUR SALVATION

Text: Titus 3:4-7

Introduction

1. We are Saved by Grace through Faith Alone

- a. Paul is clearly talking about our salvation. He says: “*he [i.e. God] saved us*” (v. 5).
- b. We are saved not by our “*works of righteousness*” (v. 5), but by God’s mercy and grace of justification (v. 7; cf. Rom 3:10-12, 20-23; Eph 2:8-10).
- c. But all true converts will also experience the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

2. Washing of Regeneration or Baptism is Important

- a. Almost every commentator see that Paul is alluding to water baptism by “Washing of Regeneration.” Matthew Henry says:
 Here is the outward sign and seal thereof in baptism, called therefore *the washing of regeneration*. The work itself is inward and spiritual; but it is outwardly signified and sealed in this ordinance. Water is of a cleansing and purifying nature, does away the filth of the flesh, and so was apt to signify the doing away of the guilt and defilement of sin by the blood and Spirit of Christ...
- b. Water-Baptism signifies Spirit-Baptism just as Fleshly-Circumcision signified to Heart-Circumcision in the Old Testament. There is a sacramental relationship that makes participation in the sign ordinarily necessary for anyone who would enjoy the thing signified (cf. Jn 3:3, 5; Acts 22:16; Eph 5:26).
- c. A Professing believer who has the opportunity to be baptised, but refuses would be guilty contempt against God’s ordinance. Such a contempt is a “great sin” (*WCF* 28:5).

3. Renewal of the Holy Spirit or Sanctification is Essential

- a. Paul appears to be thinking of regeneration as something that happens at a point of time, but renewal as being a process of change.
- b. Regeneration is a work of the Spirit upon the heart of the elect that changes him from inside out. Renewal is a continual work of sanctification.

“In the economy of our salvation, the applying and effecting part is especially attributed to the Holy Spirit. We are said to be born of the Spirit, to be quickened and sanctified by the Spirit, to be led and guided, strengthened and helped, by the Spirit” (MH).

- c. The Spirit and His work are essential in our Christian life. Without the Spirit’s work of regeneration and renewal we would essentially be hypocrites, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. And there are many who are such (cf. Mt 7:22-23).

Conclusion