

“The Blessings of Redemption”
Titus 3:7
(Preached at Trinity, June 11, 2023)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. At the beginning of **Chapter 3** Paul reminds us of the importance of treating others with grace and kindness.
Titus 3:1-2 NAU - "to be ready for every good deed, ² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men."
2. As we are tempted to respond to the lost with impatience and harsh criticism Paul reminds us we must never forget God’s grace in our own lives. We must never forget from whence we came. Apart from God’s grace we too would be enslaved to sin.
Titus 3:3 NAU - "For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."
3. Beginning with **Verse 4** Paul describes the wonder of God’s grace upon fallen humanity. Our sin was great, but God’s grace is abundantly greater.
Romans 5:20 KJV - "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"
4. Paul points out that it was a Trinitarian work.
The Father has elected a people by His kindness, love, and mercy.
The Holy Spirit came regenerating, illuminating, and convicting, granting faith and repentance.
The Lord Jesus Christ came as our Redeemer, providing forgiveness and reconciliation through His suffering and death on the Cross.
5. **Verses 4-7** is a single sentence. **Verses 4-6** describe God’s work of redeeming grace. Now as we come to **verse 7** we find the logical conclusion - the fruit of salvation.
Titus 3:7 NAU - "so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life."
6. Paul lists three fruits that accompany God’s salvation.
 - The believer is justified by His grace
 - The believer is an heir – this points to the grace of adoption
 - The believer has the hope of eternal life
7. This morning I want us to rekindle our sense of amazement over God’s salvation. The world yawns at it, but do we? How quick we are to lose our sense of wonder and awe. We quickly see amazing things as mundane – cars, airplanes, electricity, computers, cell phones, air conditioning, refrigeration. Can you imagine trying to explain these things to Abraham Lincoln?
Consider the greatness of our Creator. Consider that the Milky Way galaxy is estimated to have 200-400 billion stars. And consider that astronomers estimate that there are 100 to 200 billion galaxies.
Are you amazed that the Creator of the universe would raise us up to such infinite heights adopting us as His own children.
8. Let us consider the glorious blessings of our redemption and may it fill us with fresh awe and wonder.

- I. Justification = God declaring or pronouncing us as righteous.
- A. Two important things happened at the cross.
Both by way of imputation. Imputation refers to a transfer from one to another.
1. Our sins were transferred to Christ or imputed to Christ—He bore our sins.
Isaiah 53:4-6 NAU - "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."
1 Peter 2:24 NAU - "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."
 2. His righteousness was transferred to us – Again, we use the word imputation.
- B. Our justification has been accomplished completely by God’s grace through Jesus Christ.
1. Jesus lived a perfect spotless life. He met all the demands of the Law. His perfect righteousness has been imputed to us – double imputation: Our sins to Him, His righteousness to us.
 2. Justification is a one-time legal act. It is not a process of renewal but a once for all time act whereby our guilt is removed. It isn’t righteousness performed but righteousness declared.
 3. It does not affect the condition of the sinner but the state of the sinner in which he is declared righteous through the righteousness of Christ.
 4. And faith is the means by which the grace of justification is applied to us. God enables us to believe and receive His gift.
- II. Adoption – “we would be made heirs”
- A. God chose us in eternity that we might be His children – heirs of promise.
1. One of the best descriptions of our adoption is found in Chapter 12 of our confession: You can turn to page 677 in our hymnal.
“All those that are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put on them, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a Father, yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.”
 2. The Gospel of John ties it to the Gospel
John 1:12 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name"
 - a. The word for “right” is *ἐξουσία* – it refers to a legal right or authority.

- b. John is saying that for those who receive Christ, His Father has become our Father. We have become heirs with Christ.
Romans 8:16-17 NAU - "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*."
- B. Adoption began with Divine Sovereign Election
1. God chose us before the world began
2 Thessalonians 2:13 NAU - "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."
Ephesians 1:4-6 NAU - "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."
 2. As we saw in **Verse 5** this Election unto the adoption of sons was unconditional—in other words it was not conditioned upon any good deeds that we have done. Not because we were more special. God chose us simply according to His own sovereign good pleasure.
Ephesians 1:5 NAU - "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."
- C. Our adoption was made possible through the atonement of Jesus Christ
Galatians 4:4 NAU - "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."
1. Something had to be done to change us from the enemies of God, defiled and worthless to that which is beloved and precious.
 2. The death of Jesus brought about this change. His death upon the cross purchased our adoption through justification.
- D. Through adoption we have become heirs. We have inherited all that pertains to Christ.
Revelation 21:7 NAU - "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."
Romans 8:17 NAU - "and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*."

III. The third fruit of our salvation is eternal life

- A. The New Testament gives great attention to eternal life.
1. It's repeated over 40 times.
 2. It was the grand focus of our Lord's teaching to Nicodemus.
John 3:14-15 NAU - "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."
John 3:16 NAU - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."
John 3:36 NAU - "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- B. Eternal life is far more than just eternal existence
1. All human beings have eternal existence. This is one of the unique characteristics of the human creature. We have eternal souls.
 - a. All will spend eternity in one of two places: heaven or hell
 - b. Hell is referred to as eternal death - eternal separation of the human being from God. It is existence void of the life of God.
Romans 6:23 NAU - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 2. Eternal life conveys both a quantitative as well as a qualitative connotation.
 - a. Eternal life is eternity in the presence of Christ – life without end.
 - b. If eternal death is an existence void of the life of God, the presence of God, and the blessings of God, eternal life is an existence filled with the life, presence, and blessings of God.
- C. Eternal life is the annihilation of sin
1. All of the pain and sorrow that sin has brought will be gone
 2. Our mortal body will be glorified
Philippians 3:20-21 NAU - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."
 3. No more will temptation undo us. No more will we weep over our sins.
- D. Eternal life will be a new existence in a new place.
1. There will be a complete redemption of God's creation – the old will pass away.
2 Peter 3:12-13 NAU - "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."
 2. It will be a physical place to coincide with our physical resurrection. A new earth completely free from the ravages of sin. There will be no death, no decay, no corruption, no resistance to God's wise governing.

Conclusion:

1. This gift of eternal life can only come through Jesus Christ.
 - A. Sin bars us from eternal life
 1. Sin banishes us from the presence of God. Sin places us under the wrath of God.
 2. The wages of sin is death. Something must be done about our sin.
 3. Through Jesus Christ we have been reconciled with God – forgiven, justified.
 - B. God has provided eternal life through the Gospel
 1. Only Christ can provide the righteousness we must have. Only Christ can satisfy God's justice by suffering the full penalty for our sin by suffering in our place.
 2. We must receive this gift by faith alone.
Adoption is a gift. Eternal life is a gift. It cannot be earned. It can only be received by faith.
 - C. For the Christian, this endless life has already begun. Eternal life is life in Christ, and our life in Christ is a present reality. We have not yet been glorified but we have already been given the abundant life of Christ.
 1. We are already partakers of His presence, of His love.
 2. We have already been freed from the bondage of sin and given the grace of sanctification unto holiness.
Romans 6:22 NAU - "But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life."