

*Titus 3:3 — “Remembering How Depraved You Were Before Salvation Increases Your Wonder in His Gospel!”*

*Introduction:*

- **Hamartiology.** *The study of the theological doctrine of sin.*

“Sin always disappoints and never satisfies” (Richard Mayhue)

**TOTAL (pervasive) DEPRAVITY -- joining 3 tragic realities:**

1. The pollution and corruption of **ALL** aspects of a person; he is thoroughly, completely, pervasively sinful (thought, word, deed)
2. The complete **inability** of a person to please God (un-able)
3. The **universality**, in that all are conceived and born as sinners  
>> these show the horrendously hopeless state of all unredeemed humanity

Scriptures that teach that man is radically, pervasively depraved: Rom 5:12, 19; Ps 143:2; Rom 3:23; Isa 53:6; Rom 3:9-18; Mark 7:21-23; Jer 17:9; Gen 6:5; John 8:34; Eph 2:3; Isa 1:5-6; Jer 13:23; Rom 8:7; Ps 51:5; Ps 58:3; Col 1:21; Prov 15:9; Isa 64:6; Heb 11:6; John 6:44

Similar texts found in Rom 1.29-31; 1 Cor 6.9-11; Gal 5.19-21. This is the tragic ‘bad news’ that makes the good news all the sweeter!

*Background & Structure of Titus 3:1ff*

- What you’re to do! (verses 1-2 - obey!)
  - think on your **abominable corruption!** (vv.3)
  - meditate on your **unfathomable Salvation!** (vv.4-7)
- What you’re to do! (verse 8 - obey!)

*Why is the structure so profoundly important?*

- ✓The practical exhortations (vv.1-2) are now followed by the **THEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION** (vv.3-7)
- ✓Verses 3-8 are the theological basis for the right living amidst non Christians (vv.1-2)

❖**WHY ALL THIS?** — not to change your view of the lost *BUT* to increase your wonder in God’s grace shown toward you!

**THESIS** — *From Titus 3.3, Reflect on Your Godless & Depraved Past.* We’ll do so in 4 headings.

**I. YOUR DEPRAVED CONDITION**

- This is *who you were*

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We were wholly depraved, thoroughly unclean, pervasively polluted and radically repulsive to God -- dead in sin, squirming in our blood. Thoroughly, pervasively, completely, radically unclean! We were lepers in our souls!

## **II.YOUR DISOBEDIENT CONDUCT**

- This is *what you've done*

## **III.YOUR DESTRUCTIVE / DOMINATING CRAVINGS**

- What you *desired*.

## **IV.YOUR DEPLORABLE CONFLICTS**

- This is *how you related to others*.

“GOD HAS SAVED THE READERS WHO WERE ONCE ENSLAVED BY SIN;  
AND GOD HAS TRANSFORMED THEM BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT SO THAT THEY ARE NOW DELIVERED FROM SLAVERY TO SIN &  
EMPOWERED TO LIVE A NEW LIFE!” (I Howard Marshall)

“Though my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly -- (1) I am a great sinner and (2) Christ is a great Savior” (John Newton).

**ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST****VERSE 1**

I once was lost in darkest night  
 Yet thought I knew the way  
 The sin that promised joy and life  
 Had led me to the grave  
 I had no hope that You would own  
 A rebel to Your will  
 And if You had not loved me first  
 I would refuse You still

**VERSE 2**

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
 Indifferent to the cost  
 You looked upon my helpless state  
 And led me to the cross  
 And I beheld God's love displayed  
 You suffered in my place

You bore the wrath reserved for me  
 Now all I know is grace

**CHORUS**

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ  
 Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

**VERSE 3**

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone  
 And live so all might see  
 The strength to follow Your commands  
 Could never come from me  
 O Father, use my ransomed life  
 In any way You choose  
 And let my song forever be  
 My only boast is You

**MARVELOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING LORD!**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
 grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
 yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,  
 there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
 freely bestowed on all who believe;  
 you that are longing to see his face,  
 will you this moment his grace receive?

**REFRAIN:**

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
 grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
 grace, grace, God's grace,  
 grace that is greater than all our sin.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
 what can avail to wash it away!  
 Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;  
 whiter than snow you may be today.