

## The Goal and Result of Our Salvation (Titus 3:7-8)

There are six ingredients of salvation noted from verses 3-8:

- The Need: Mankind is in a state of moral and spiritual depravity and in desperate need of divine deliverance (verse 3)
- The Source: God's loving kindness towards humanity (verse 4)
- The Grounds: God's mercy, in opposition to our good works (verse 5)
- The Means: The washing, rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit (verse 7)
- The Goal: Adoption, or heirship (verse 7)
- The Evidence: That we would be devoted to good works (verse 8)

"Salvation" in Scripture refers to:

- Our Past: Justification (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Our Present: Sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:18)
- Our Future: Glorification (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

Justification is "to declare righteous." It is a right standing before God that is instant. Similar to regeneration, it occurs at once and is not (unlike progressive sanctification) a drawn out, life-long process.

Note that God's grace is the vehicle for our justification. Mercy (v.5) and grace (v.7) are necessary components to salvation.

### 1. Our New State as Fellow Heirs with Christ (Goal of Salvation)

- With heirship is always inheritance. An inheritance is a legal transition of property or assets after death from one person to another.
- In Greek and Roman culture, possessions were passed to anyone named in the will (it could be immediate family, or even friends and loyal servants). Children received equal inheritance.
- Even though inheritance in Jewish culture was typically in the immediate family (sons), they did not receive equal inheritance. The oldest would receive double portion (Deuteronomy 21:17).
- Heirship in Paul's mind is as a Roman and not a Jew.
- No one is born naturally into God's family (Romans 9:8). They must be adopted by God into his family; they must be born again (John 3:1-8).

Heirship is according to the guarantee of eternal life:

Eternal life is:

- the Word of God (John 12:50)
- given when one hears and believes the Word of God (John 5:24)
- never lost in the believer (John 10:28)
- in knowing the Son and also the Father (John 17:2-3)
- a byproduct of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 6:8), which refers to our present and future inheritance with eternal life
- given to the one who strives with the might and strength of the Spirit (Colossians 1:29)
- not earned through personal merit (Matthew 19:16)
- going to require much sacrifice (Matthew 19:29)
- also spoken of in the future, where the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25:46)
- evidenced by believers who are currently engaged in stewardship (Matthew 25:21-23)
- abiding in the believer already (1 John 3:15)

Eternal life is an already (John 17:3) but not yet (Romans 6:22-23). It is something that believers possess and will never lose, yet a state that we must simultaneously lay hold of and fight for (1 Timothy 6:12). It is an inheritance that has been given to those who Christ has died for, God's children.

Paul commands Titus to insist on teaching the truths from verses 3-7.

## **2. The Child of God Will Be Engaged in Good Works (Results of Salvation)**

- The Christian is not saved by good works but saved to good works and saved for good works (Ephesians 2:10).
- Saving faith is marked by a firm persuasion and solid conviction of truth, a surrendering to that truth, and conduct emanating from that surrendering.
- The result of salvation (adoption, justification, sanctification) is observed in God's children engaging in good works. There is the indicative (v.4-7) and then the imperative (v.8); what God has done for the sinner (v.4-7) and now how the adopted child of God is to respond (v.8).
- Godly, Christ-honoring conduct wins unbelievers to Christ (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12).
- Godly, Christ-honoring brothers and sisters encourage one another (Philippians 1:3; Hebrews 3:13, 10:24).