

The Pastoral Epistles

Titus 3:1-7 – “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Titus’s work with the church continues in that he is responsible to “remind them.” This clearly demonstrates their existing understanding and required encouragement. Like the Cretan believers, we too require reminders about these Christian living matters.

1. Be submissive to rulers and authorities
2. Be obedient
3. Be ready for every good work
4. Speak evil of no one
5. Avoid quarreling
6. Be gentle
7. Show perfect courtesy toward all people

In order to give plain rationale for why we would show common courtesy Paul reminds Titus about the doctrine of the saved person. We can relate to the people of our world because we too were once:

1. Foolish
2. Disobedient
3. Led astray
4. Slaves to various passions and pleasures
5. Passing our days in malice and envy,
6. Hated by others and hating one another

Paul then goes on to point out the change that has come as a result of God's kindness; He saved us.

1. Not by works done by us in righteousness
2. According to his own mercy
3. By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

This working of the Holy Spirit is so significant that Paul expounds: it is this Holy Spirit that was "poured out on us" by our own Savior, Jesus. The purpose of this salvation, which includes justification by God's grace, is so that we might become "heirs according to the hope of eternal life."