

FFBC Sermon Study Guide



But for the Grace of God - Titus 3:3–8

A guide to help you dig deeper into God's Word this week (the questions correspond to the sermon that was preached today). We encourage you to write your answers in a separate notebook. Unless noted, all Scripture quotations are from the *English Standard Version*.

Day 1 | Read Titus 2:15–3:8

1. Why is it oftentimes difficult for Christians to submit to earthly rulers and to love and serve unbelievers?
2. Why is the exercise of reminding ourselves of who we once were before Christ helpful in loving those whom we view as enemies?
3. How did the Apostle Paul set himself forth as an example of this very thing (see 1 Timothy 1:12–16)?

Day 2 | Read Titus 2:15–3:8

1. Compare 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 with our passage. How do vv. 9–10 help to explain the sorts of behaviors that accompany the heart issues Paul describes in Titus 3:3?
2. Paul says “we ourselves once were...” This includes all Christians, regardless of background. Perhaps you can't find yourself in the list of 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, but how about the one in Romans 1:29–30? Why is it so easy for us to point the finger at others and forget that we ourselves were once just like them? Why might this be particularly difficult for someone who grew up in a consistently Christian home and perhaps came to know the Lord at an early age?
3. One of the descriptions of what we once were is “slaves to various passions and pleasures.” Cross reference this idea of slavery to one's desires with John 8:34 and Romans 6:16, 20. How does this help us to understand the condition of the natural man according to Ephesians 1:1–3; cf. Jeremiah 17:9?

Day 3 | Read Titus 2:15–3:8

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 and Ephesians 2:1–8 in conjunction with Titus 3:3–8. What is the significance of the word “but” in each of these passages?
2. According to Titus 3:4 and Ephesians 2:4, what was it that motivated God to send His Son to die for sinners like us? What do these verses tell us about the character of God (cf. Ex. 34:6–7; Ps. 103:6–12; Rom. 5:8)?
3. In each of the passages above, how does Paul emphasize who accomplished our salvation in its entirety? How can this truth help us to be compassionate to unbelievers?

Day 4 | Read Titus 2:15–3:8

1. “Righteousness” in v. 5 is the noun form of the verb translated “justified” in v. 7. What is the contrast Paul makes about our standing before God and how it was accomplished?
2. God did not merely do a remodel on our hearts; He had to bulldoze them and do a complete makeover! Which Person of the triune God applied that work to us, and how does it relate to God’s promise in the New Covenant (see Ez. 36:25–27)?
3. What does it mean that we are “heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (v. 7), and what is the basis for this confident expectation (cf. Rom. 8:15–17)?

Day 5 | Read Titus 2:15–3:8

1. Why is “the saying” (i.e. vv. 3–7) “trustworthy” (cf. Tit. 1:2)?
2. How can meditation on *who we used to be*, and *who we are now* because of God’s grace, help us to apply ourselves to *what God calls us to be*, especially in relation to the hostile world?