

Growth Group Lesson

March 4-5

Titus 3:1-8

Spend some time praying with your group. Ask God for help and guidance in your discussion today. Ask him to reveal truth and wisdom to you as you study the scripture.

Last week: Paul instructs the believers to live in a manner worthy of their calling as redeemed and transformed people, denying ungodliness and worldly passions, and living self-controlled, upright, and godly lives through God's grace. The grace of God, Jesus, teaches and empowers believers to live godly lives.

Get to know one another:

- What is a goal or a desire that you have for this Spring?

Paul paints another picture of what a life characterized and empowered by God's grace looks like. This follows his exposition on God's grace from chapter 2. **Read Titus 2:11-15**

Read Titus 3:1-3

1. What are the characteristics that Paul lists?
 - a. Do you believe these characteristics are attainable for you?
 - b. Are there any that are particularly challenging for you?
 - c. Has God been growing you in any of these areas?
2. Why does Paul remind Titus and the believers in Crete what their former ways of life were like? **Verse 3**
 - a. Why is it important to see and recognize human sinfulness?
 - b. Do we need to look at our old lives, or should we only look forward to the future? What benefits are there to examining your old patterns of life? **Matthew 7:1-6, Romans 6:4-11**
3. What is different about your life in Christ compared to your life before him? If you can't remember that time, what would you imagine your life without Jesus would be like?

Read Titus 3:4-8

4. What is the basis of our salvation according to these verses? **Ephesians 2:8-9**
5. What is the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit? **Verse 5, Ezekiel 36:24-27, John 3:1-15, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**
 - a. Why do we need new hearts and the Holy Spirit? **Titus 3:3, Luke 6:43-45**
6. In verse 8, what leads to good works?
 - a. What is our motivation for good works? **John 14:15-24, 1 Peter 1:13-25, James 1:22-25, Ephesians 2:10**
7. Looking at your own life, what are you most often motivated by (in general)?
 - a. What most often motivates you to do good works? Are there any other motivations that you have that are unhealthy?

- b. What are the beliefs (heart level) that you have that lead you to use unhealthy motivations?
 - c. How has or can God change your motivations?
 8. What good work is God calling you to complete this week?
 - a. What will your motivation be?
 - b. How can this group help you with that?

Spend some time praying:

- **Pray for a heart of kindness:** Ask God to help us cultivate a heart of kindness and love towards everyone, including people who seem to be enemies.
- **Pray for wisdom:** Ask God for wisdom to implement goodness to all people, submissiveness to authorities, and love toward all people.
- **Pray for renewal:** Ask God to renew our hearts and minds through the Holy Spirit and to help us live a life that is characterized by good works.