

Trustworthy Sayings

Titus 3:4-8

Small Group Study, week commencing 10th November 2021.

For Starters

What do you understand by the word 'grace'? Describe, if you can, a recent experience of giving grace to or receiving grace from another person.

Introduction

As in 1 Timothy 4:1-10, which was the subject of our first study in the *Trustworthy Sayings*, this next trustworthy saying comes in the context of warnings about foolishness and deceit (Titus 3:3) and unprofitable controversies and arguments (Titus 3:9). Once again, Paul wants to underline something we can depend on.

Read

Titus 3:1-8.

Study

1. *Verses 1-2.* Donald Guthrie states, "Christian behaviour in contemporary society was of utmost importance for the furtherance of the gospel." How does obedience to the principles outlined in these verses help believers stand out in their communities?
2. *Verse 3.* Paul paints a grim picture of how they lived before experiencing the grace of God. What do you think about the portrait he paints? How would you describe your life before finding faith?
3. *Verses 4-7.* These verses are the 'trustworthy saying' to which Paul will refer back in verse 8. The phrases are dense and complex, but repay careful examination!
 - a) With what terms does Paul describe the nature of God? What is he like?
 - b) Paul describes the means of our salvation in verse 5: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." What do you think these phrases mean (See John 3:5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17)?
 - c) What does it mean to be 'justified by grace' (see Romans 3:21-24)? What follows from this (verse 7b)?
4. A Christian counsellor once wrote, "Many years ago I was driven to the conclusion that the two major causes of the most emotional problems among evangelical Christians are these: the failure to understand, receive, and live out God's unconditional grace and forgiveness; and the failure to give out that unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace to other people" (Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*). How can we better "understand, receive, live out ... give out" grace?
5. *Verse 8.* What, according to Paul, is the obvious outworking of grace in our lives?

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A challenge!

One way of training ourselves for godliness is to get God's Word rooted in our minds and hearts. Why not commit to learning the trustworthy sayings over the next few weeks?

Prayer

Spend some time as a group in quiet meditation on verses 4-7. After 5 minutes, turn your thoughts into prayers of gratitude.

Resources

All small group studies can be located in chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources.