

He Saved Us**Titus 3:5**

The great thing about the bible is it makes salvation remarkably simple, wonderfully plain & perfectly clear. No **2nd** guessing what Gods purposes & true intent for our lives is all about.

Maybe because w/in our nature we like to complicate things--make difficult what in reality is very simple. So God goes to great lengths, even repeating Himself over & over in order to make the doc of salvation simple & plain.

Even **product labeling**—more than simple, make it **stupid-proof**. These are actual packaging instructions for the use of their product.

On a Sears hair dryer: 'Warning do no use while sleeping.'

On a bar of Dial soap: 'Directions: Use like regular soap.'

On Swanson frozen dinner: 'Serving suggestions: Defrost.'

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: 'Product will be hot after heating.'

On packaging for a Rowenta iron: 'Do not iron clothes on body'.

On Children's cough medicine: 'Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.'

On Nytol sleep aid: 'Warning: May cause drowsiness'.

On package of Christmas lights: 'For indoor or outdoor use only.'

On Japanese food processor: 'Not to be used for the other use.'

On Planter's peanuts: 'Warning: contains peanuts.'

On AAirline packet of nuts: 'Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts.'

On child's superman costume: 'Wearing of garment does not enable you to fly.'

Certainly God does not treat you as stupid, although he refers to us as sheep. But we may think His offer of salvation is too good to be true, so He assures us over & over of His love & desire for all to be saved.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

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If we could **save** ourselves on the basis of '**righteous deeds we do**' there would be no need for the cross. Jesus life & ministry would be unnecessary. But instead salvation is given as a gift '**according to His mercy**'. Alexander Grt '**he deserves death...didn't ask for justice but mercy (not get what deserve)**

God's plan of salvation is taking our sins in Gods heavenly hard drive, **select all** & hitting **delete** when we repent & believe in Jesus. First part of salvation is He & not we. '**He saved us...**' **We can't save ourselves..heart is deceitful**

Spurgeon-There is no beast in wolf or lion or serpent that is so brutish as the beast in man. According to the Levitical Law, he that touched a dead animal was unclean until evening, but he who touched a dead man was unclean 7 days. For man is 7 times more polluting a creature than any of the beasts of the field when his animal nature rules him.

There are no prerequisites for salvation (**our goodness**) & no probation period after (**standard to attain**) but it's God's mercy. No good w/in us before salvation or goodness keeping us saved...*Simply faith in finished work*
'He...saved us & called us w/ a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose & grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity'. 2 Tim 1:9

John Stott "The law requires works of human achievement; the gospel requires faith in Christ's achievement. The law makes demands & bids us obey; the gospel brings promises & bids us believe. So the law & the gospel are contrary to one another. They are not two aspects of the same thing, or interpretations of the same Christianity. At least in the sphere of justification, Luther says, '**the establishing of the law is the abolishing of the Gospel**'.

Jesus parable **pearl of great price**. **Matt 13**. We are that pearl. **Grain of sand** has no value or power in itself to be a **pearl**--instead it's an irritant in the Clam or Mollusk--tiny grain covered w/ calcium carbonate, nacre forms around sand to produce beautiful pearl. 12 gates in New Jerusalem—Pearl.

Washing of regeneration—**loutron**—idea of bathing, spiritual immersion of whole life. '**that He might sanctify her (the church) having cleansed her by the washing of water w/ the word..**' Eph 5:26

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Gives a visual picture of the work of HS on the inside *Regeneration*, spiritual renovation, restoration, radical moral change HS does. Washing is the whole person. Speaks of spiritual rebirth, changed life, *regeneration for neither is circumcision (ritual altering body) anything nor uncircumcision (leaving alone), but a new creation. Gal 6:15 Jn 3*

Picture of priest washing in laver before service—outward symbol of inward heart condition otherwise ritual w/o reality. JC 'wash outside...but inward..'

Regeneration used by Jesus to describe His coming Kingdom *make all things new*

After His encounter w/ RYR....Peter said we have left all to follow..*Matt 19:28 And Jesus said to them, 'Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'*

So 'regeneration & renewing by HS' carries the idea of renovation or complete overhaul-- change for the better.

In this process, old things begin to fall away & new things appear. Not hair for bald not grow 3" taller.

But renewal on the inside—character, morals, disposition, attitude, habits & desires. *Want to's change. 'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2*

During Welsh Revival of 1904 "The horses were so confused they refused to move. 'The drivers before they were saved were so profane that they drove their horses by obscenity & kicks. Now these same men w/ lives changed could hardly get their horses moving because there were no obscenity & no kicks.'

He saved you, what are you waiting for...respond to His call of forgiveness of sins & eternal home in heaven w/ one who created you and loves you.

He's standing at your hearts door knocking only you can open it...

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Spurgeon—I am afraid for you who go ankle-deep into religion & never venture further. I am afraid that you might return to shore. But as for you who plunge into the center of the stream & find waters to swim in, I have no fears. You shall be carried onward by a current ever increasing in strength, till in the ocean of eternal love you shall lose yourselves in heaven above.

Rom 10:6 *But the righteousness based on faith speaks thus, “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”* **Job 11:7** *Zophar can’t find God by searching*

The great newspaper publisher of early 20th C Wm Randolph Hearst was a patron of the arts & spent much time & money amassing art treasures for his collection. One day he read of a piece of artwork he felt he must own. He sent agents abroad to find it. After months of searching an agent reported back that he had found the treasured object & that it was close to home. Where was it, Hearst inquired? In your own warehouse the agent said along w/ many other treasures you own that are still in packing crates. He was searching for a treasure already in his possession

8 *But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*