

**Series: Order in the Church (11/30/16)**

**Title: Ambushed By Goodness/Grace**

**Text: Titus 3:4-7**

**Debtors, One and All:**

**One Word Changes Everything:** (Titus 3:4-7)

**A Remarkable Redeemer:** (Titus 3:4-5a) **But** after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but** according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly **through Jesus Christ our Saviour**; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**A Remarkable Redemption:**

(Titus 3:4-5b) **But** after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared ... he saved us.

**Kindness** - The goodness of God ~ Generosity of God to us.

**Love** - compound word - Philia - Love Anthropos - To Man  
It where we get our word Philanthropy.

*Illus: Explain Philanthropy: to give away something we could keep, and to give it so as to better the condition of others.*

Salvation is like God's act of Philanthropy.

God gives us freely His Goodness and Love to us and for our good.

***Appeared*** - a direct reference to the incarnation of Christ. He came to die to settle the account for our atonement for sins, Past, Present, and Future.

He came from His thrown Glory to our slave quarters.

We were not looking for Him.

He came looking for us.

He ambushed us with His Grace (His Goodness and Love).

(Eph 2:8-9) lest any man should boast.

Humility is inherent to salvation.

If any part of it was ours other than the choice, we would brag

*Illus: The boys picking up their toys.*

*When they are little, they would do what they could, and then later I would finish.*

**That's not how Salvation works.**

*We don't do all we can, and then God finishes.*

**How It Really Works**

*We say yes, and God does all the saving.*

**but** according to his mercy he saved us,

God, not giving me what I rightfully deserve.

(Eph 2:3-5) "**But GOD**" there it is again.

Christianity gives us no room to gloat, just stand in awe

(Rev 19:1,3,4,6) No One will be running around heaven for eternity bragging about their works, but on God's Mercy and Grace.

***A Remarkable Redeemer, Redemption...***

**A Remarkable Reconstruction:** (Titus 3:5d) *by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

Baptism is not what is being spoken of here.

Allot of ink and effort has been used to make that connection, but its not the pastor, or the church doing the washing.

***“of the Holy Ghost”***

Paul is referring to the internal. spiritual cleansing of the heart at the moment of regeneration.

**Regeneration:** (Titus 3:5d) ***“by the washing of regeneration”***  
***Regeneration*** is the work of God's Holy Spirit in the soul of humans, enabling us to see our sinfulness and peril, and to behold the beauty of the Savior so that we can truly praise and worship him again.

Regeneration literally means *“Another Birth”*.

(John 3:3,5,) (1 Jn 5:1)

Not the turning over of a new leaf, its a total rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

In Regeneration, God changes the nature of the person

The same soul exists, but differently.

The same will is there, but with a new, spiritual component.

It is an altogether new taste for the loveliness of spiritual things, especially as they are taught in God's Word and personified by God's Son.

**Renewal:** (Titus 3:5e) ***“renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

There is a difference between *Regeneration* and *Renewal*  
***Regeneration:*** *takes place at the moment of Salvation*

***Renewal:*** *is a lifelong process.*

***Regeneration:*** *is a once-in-a-life-time spiritual bath.*

***Renewal:*** *is a daily shower.*

(2 Cor 4:16) *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man **is renewed day by day.***

This is an ongoing activity of surrender to the Holy Spirit, who uses the Word to daily cleanse our minds, hearts, & lives.

**Justification:** (Titus 3:4-7a) *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

In these verses we see the pretense of the Trinity.

***God our Savior, Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ***

Justified is part of the Transaction of the New Birth.

Here, God the judge declares us Righteous.

The Righteousness of Christ is imputed, or Credited to our account. (Rom 3:22)

It is more than Acquitted.

Every sin, sinful thought, or deed has been completely purged from your biography.

**Illus:** *Geting a speeding ticket.*

*Not let off on Probation. The record still shows my offense.  
The judge erases my name, puts his name there and serves the  
punishment for me.*

*His perfect driving record has his name erased, and mine put  
in its place.*

***God switched my name for His on the Rap sheet.***

Paul described Justification (Col 2:13-14)

He took our Vileness and gave us His Virtue.

He took our Perversion and gave us His purity.

He took our record of sin and gave us His record of  
sinlessness.

**A Remarkable Reward:** (Titus 3:7)

***“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs  
according to the hope of eternal life.”***

Our inheritance Eternal life is already in our possession.

Bestowed at the moment of Regeneration.

To be experienced literally and fully in the future.

We are not JUST citizens of the coming Kingdom of God, we  
are CO-OWNERS

How's that for Grace!

We have been Ambushed by God's Grace.

**That is how remarkable the word “But” is.**

Regardless of what we were, and what we have done.

***BUT*** God chose differently.

*God chose to Love and to give.*

Thats Remarkable.

We have been Ambushed by God's Grace.