

Titus 3:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Father sends the Son. The Father and the Son send the Spirit. This is truly our order of salvation. From the first announcement of the gospel, the “Protoevangelium” in Genesis 3 the Father has made His plan of salvation known to all people.

At a time chosen by the Father, when He determined the proper time had come, the Christ, the Anointed One would be sent into the world to reclaim and purify all of creation. There was no other way. A perfect sacrifice had to be made to atone for the sins of mankind. It was also required that the offering to be made had to be a blood sacrifice.

No man or woman who has ever walked on this earth, or ever will, could meet this high standard of being a perfect sacrifice. The Apostle Paul quoting the Old Testament says it best in **Romans 3:23 (ESV)**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Therefore, Jesus the “God-man” was mankind’s only way to salvation, the only way back to the Creator, and life eternal. That was what the Father had intended for His creation and had promised to reclaim.

Although we speak of the Father sending the Son, and Jesus says that He does the will of the Father, it

is wrong to think that in some way the Son was coerced or forced into being the sacrifice. Jesus clearly states that He has freely chosen to lay down His life.

John 10:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

In Titus as we see elsewhere in Scripture, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fulfill different roles. After Jesus died on the cross, had risen and ascended into heaven, the Father and the Son send the Spirit as Jesus had promised. The sending of the Spirit will benefit the disciples. Jesus tells them in fact, that His leaving will be to their advantage.

What possible advantage could there be in having their Savior leave? Especially after he had just risen, showing that death had no grip on Him. Why would Jesus even think of leaving those whom He had trained again?

Jesus had given them the answers to these questions. But like so much of what He had told them, they could not comprehend these teachings until the Spirit came and fulfilled His role.

John 16:8–11 (ESV)

⁸ And when he (the Spirit) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because

***I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;
11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this
world is judged.***

Jesus knew that much of what he had done and taught when He was with the disciples had been beyond their comprehension. But when the Spirit came upon them, they would recall these things, and receive understanding. Now as true heirs, the apostles would have direction and divine purpose.

As Paul wrote in our opening passage, they had been washed of their sins and renewed. This of course was not because of anything that the apostles had done on their own.

Titus 3:5 (ESV)

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

God saves us because of His goodness, mercy, and loving kindness, not because of any good work done by us in righteousness. God accomplishes this by pouring out His Spirit on us through the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf.

Having been cleansed of our sins we are now justified and because of what has been done for us, we become heirs to the kingdom of God. As Paul said here in Titus, this is “***according to the hope of eternal life.***” Jesus.

The question we must ask ourselves then is, “What are we to do with so great a gift?” Do we as new heirs rest in the knowledge of our salvation, praising God but taking no further action? Or does the Father expect us to use this gift in the same fashion that is required of us to make use of the other talents and gifts given to us?

Paul provides the answer for us in the very next verse in Titus 3.

Titus 3:8 (ESV)

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in

God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

So here in Titus as he did so eloquently in Ephesians 2, the Apostle Paul tells us that we are not saved by our good works. But through the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, our gift of faith by the grace of God, will compel us to perform good works to bring glory to God. These works He has prepared for us beforehand.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Let us strive to know and to be known by the one true God of the universe, Who has revealed Himself to us as the Triune God. The Trinity has acted before time began in love and unity to make certain the Creation would be reclaimed for Their glory.

Romans 8:38–39 (ESV)

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God bless you and empower you through His Holy Spirit, so that you may fulfill your destiny as a worthy Kingdom participant.

Amen.