

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- It's called: **Hamartiology**. *It's the study of the theological doctrine of sin.*
  - Sin is a restless, sleepless, relentless, vicious, blood-thirsty and soul-killing MONSTER.
  - **Sin** is *not just* what a person does; it is what *we are* by human nature in our natural state. People sin because their nature is *sinful & depraved*.
  - Sin permeates every aspect of our existence. It impacts us individually and societally. It is deeply rooted within us and is manifested continually.
  - We all know the devastation, the destructive impact and the disappointment of sin. “Sin always disappoints and never satisfies” (Mayhue)
  
- The Bible teaches that ‘revolters have gone deep in depravity’ (Hosea 5.2); the whole head is sick (Isa 1.5); all have sinned (Rom 3.23); sinners are filled with unrighteousness (Rom 1.29); no fear of God before sinners’ eyes (Rom 3.18); thru one sin came condemnation to all men (Rom 5.18). >>> We are totally, radically, pervasively & hopelessly depraved. TOTAL (pervasive) DEPRAVITY -- joining 3 tragic realities:
  1. the pollution and corruption of ALL aspects of a person (thought, word, deed)
  2. the complete inability of a person to please God (un-able)
  3. the universality, in that all are conceived and born as sinners>> these show the horrendously hopeless state of all unredeemed humanity
- **Note:** Rom 1.29-31; 1 Cor 6.9-11; Gal 5.19-21. *This is the tragic ‘bad news’ that makes the good news all the sweeter!*

*Background to Titus 3*

- **REMEMBER the big picture of TITUS:**
  - Church leaders (ch1); church conduct (ch2-3).
  - Protect sound doctrine (1); practical sound doctrine (2-3)
- ch.2 - Conduct amidst **saints** (vv.1-10) >> Gospel (vv.11-15)
- ch.3 - Conduct amidst **society** (vv.1-3)
- **Imagine** >> Godless leaders; Corrupt governors and politicians; Deceptiveness Prevails ; Immorality & Depravity is Flaunted ; Injustice Abounds; Christians are mocked & reviled & scorned & assaulted.
  - what do you do? >> how do you behave? >> what are you supposed to do?
  - v.1 - Your relation to civil leaders (1); // obey!
  - v.2- Your relation to all people (2)
    - NOTE>>> “The Christian life in the world is to present a vivid contrast to the criticized Cretan image. In the civic arena Christians are to be as responsible as the

best citizens. Where believers, more generally, come into contact with other people, they are to embody the highest ideals of human virtue as they imitate the pattern of behavior embodied by Christ himself.”

- but you are to *remember* - you USED to be this way (v.3)
- what you're to do! (v.8 - obey!)
  - **\*\*but sandwiched in between: think on your abominable corruption!** (v3) & meditate on your **unfathomable Salvation!** (v4-7)
- what kind of salvation? vv.4-7 shows the great grace of God.
- the purpose of all this?
- v.1 - REMIND them to obey/live this way - ready for **good deeds** (1b)
- v.8 - speak confidently so that those who believed God will be careful to engage in **good deeds...**
- ***So get this!!!***
  - the practical exhortations (vv.1-2) are now **followed** by the THEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION (vv.3-7)
  - vv.3-8 is the **theological** basis for the right living amidst non-christians (vv.1-2)
  - Paul did this in Titus 2.1-10 — what you are to do (toward others in the church) >> flows out of what God did for you (Titus 2.11-14).
  - **So also here: What you are to DO (vv.1-2) must flow out of what GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU (vv.3-7)\*!!**
- ***\*\*NOW\*\**** -- The point is not to scathe the nonbelievers and point the finger at them >> the point, rather, is to remind believers of who they were in their very identity & depravity before GOD rescued & saved them -- to lead us to MARVEL AT GOD'S MERCY!
  - Remember who you were >> how vile you were >> how disobedient and deceived & depraved & doomed you WERE!
  - ❖ **WHY ALL THIS? — not to change your view of the lost BUT to increase your wonder in God's grace shown toward you!**

THESIS — *From Titus 3.3, Reflect on Your Godless & Depraved Past.* We'll do so in 4 headings.

## **I. YOUR DEPRAVED CONDITION**

- A. This is *who you were*
- B. We were foolish ourselves [ἀνόητος] -- not understanding God, unwise, foolish, not *able* to know, understand, enjoy & follow God.
  1. 1 Tim 6.9 speaks of foolish desires which plunge men to ruin & destruction
  2. This is who we were -- we were *depraved*, wholly lost, completely without hope.
- C. We were conceived in sin (Ps 51.5), unable to please God (Rom 8.7), raging against God (Prov 19.3), loving the darkness & our sin (John 3.19), and unable to come to God (John 6.44)
  1. We were wholly depraved, thoroughly unclean, pervasively polluted and radically repulsive to God -- dead in sin, squirming in our blood. Thoroughly, pervasively, completely, radically unclean! We were lepers in our souls!

## II. YOUR DISOBEDIENT CONDUCT

- A. This is *what you've done*
- B. **Disobedient**, deceived [ἀπειθής] - meaning: disobedient, uncompliant, absolutely unsubmitive. 2 Tim 3.2 - disobedient to parents (cf. Rom 1.30).
- C. To be **deceived** is [πλανᾶω] to be wandering, to go astray, to be deceived, to lead into error. 2 Tim 3.13 - evil men deceive and are being deceived.
  - 1. Our disobedience and deceived life *was polluted trash* that flows out of a *filthy & corrupted SPRING*. The rotten conduct is the FRUIT that comes out of the corrupt ROOT of the heart. *No one does good, not even one (Rom 3.12)*

## III. YOUR DESTRUCTIVE / DOMINATING CRAVINGS

- A. What you *desired*.
- B. We were enslaved to various lusts and pleasures [δουλεύοντες ἐπιθυμίαις καὶ ἡδοναῖς ποικίλαις] - chained to our cravings; tied to our ambitions; caught by our wishes. We didn't have control over our desires; our *desires control us*. Whoever commits sin is a 'slave of sin' (John 8.34). What the world now calls an *addiction*, God calls *slavery/bondage*.
- C. We were ENSLAVED to various lusts and hedonistic pleasures — many self-focused, self-loving, self-gratifying, self-pleasured passions.
  - 1. To indulge in sin is to sin with delight. 2 Thess 2.12 - they have pleasure in unrighteousness.
  - 2. Unsaved people are loves of "self-pleasure" rather than lovers of God (2 Tim 3.4)
- D. interesting that our world says it's free to do what it wants; but in actuality, it is enslaved. it is enslaved to what it has. >> **Paul has much to say on this in Rom 6!**

## IV. YOUR DEPLORABLE CONFLICTS

- A. This is *how you related to others*.
- B. Spending our life in malice and envy
  - 1. **Malice** [κακία] - evil, trouble, ill-will, desire to injure/hurt others. wickedness, depravity — Col 3.8; Eph 4.31; Rom 1.29
  - 2. **Envy** [φθόνος] - envy, selfish desires/covetousness. (deeds of the Flesh; Gal 5.19); the grudging spirit that cannot bear to contemplate someone else's prosperity or success. // It sees someone else honored and resents them.
- C. **Hateful** and **hating** one another [στυγητοί, μισοῦντες ἀλλήλους]-- **hateful** speaks of one who is detestable; probably one who actively *\*hates God\** (Rom 1.30); loathsome; despicable.
  - 1. And **hating** one another - it's the inevitable outcome of a self-loving, God-rejecting, self-pleasing, others-depreciating way of life. We see it--hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions. ***This is who you \*were\****.
  - 2. Next week we'll see the next contrast, "BUT..." (v.4!).

**The point =** "GOD HAS SAVED THE READERS WHO WERE ONCE ENSLAVED BY SIN; AND GOD HAS TRANSFORMED THEM BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SO THAT THEY ARE NOW DELIVERED FROM SLAVERY TO SIN & EMPOWERED TO LIVE A NEW LIFE!" (I Howard Marshall)

**\*\*But here is the thing >>>**

- so long as someone says: “Yea, look at how bad our society is, you’re right; this is EVIL, WICKED, CORRUPT stuff! >> that person does not know grace, but they are full of self righteousness & pride.

BUT

- Then there’s the person who says: “Yea, This describes me. This is who **I was**. God has shown grace and mercy upon me because I was **ENSLAVED** to such vices. I was **hopeless, helpless, lost, deceived, hell-bound, and FULL OF PRIDE** >> BUT GOD RESCUED ME!

❖ **WHY ALL THIS? — not to change your view of the lost BUT to increase your wonder in God’s grace shown toward you!**

CONCL-

*Concluding Illustration*

- **At the end of his life, John Newton** once said: “Though my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly -- (1) **I am a great sinner and (2) Christ is a GREAT SAVIOR.**