

## INTRO-

### *Introductory Illustration*

- There used to be a ride at 6Flags called: “**The Tidal Wave**” —
- you get on this boat and you go down this big hill and when you get to the bottom a tidal wave of water shoots up & just absolutely drenches everyone standing nearby.
  - well, you & I are standing in the very CORE/centerpoint, one of the most gospel-laden paragraphs in the Bible.
  - let’s get DRENCHED & IMMERSED & FILLED with the beauty of the GOSPEL.
- **It’s good news:** The Gospel is GOOD NEWS:
  - ❖ Good news about GOD
  - ❖ Good news for SINNERS
  - ❖ Good news concerning CHRIST
  - ❖ Good news extolling the SPIRIT
  - ❖ Good news igniting HOPE
  - ❖ Good news demanding PROCLAMATION
- The biblical gospel is aptly summed up in v.5-*He.Saved.Us.*

### *Background to Titus 3*

- Titus - 1.5 - ‘set things in order’//church ministry/life
- Ch.1 - church leadership; Chs 2-3 - Christian living.
- Ch3 - how to live in society? (1) vv.1-2 - live godly lives; (2) v.3 - your depraved past; (3) v.4-7 - God’s grace in salvation/motivation/enablement for holy living!
  - **Godly conduct flows OUT OF God’s calling/salvation!**

**THESIS — This text provides us with the good news of the Christian gospel. 3 toweringly triumphant Truths.**

➔ **Big point: God saved you *apart from your own good works.***

1. Your salvation is *exclusively from God.*
2. Your salvation is *emphatically without works.*
3. Your salvation is *entirely by mercy.*

## **I. YOUR SALVATION IS EXCLUSIVELY FROM GOD! (5a)**

- A. the very word “save” means you’re in danger.
- B. **I’ll never forget as a young man** being on a church-youth retreat to Panama City Beach when a young girl in our group was swept away with the powerful undertow; She would scream: Help! Help! Help! And, by God’s grace, someone did swim out and save her, rescue her, deliver her, save her life. >> that’s a picture of the predicament WE were in.
- C. Redeemer - HE

1. this God — in Titus 3.4 - the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared... (kind & loving God savior!)

#### D. Rescue - SAVED

1. The context here speaks of God's saving rescue in two-sides: (1) salvation is *accomplished* at Calvary when His kindness & love completed the work of paying for our sin; and (2) salvation is *applied* at regeneration when the Spirit applies Christ's saving work to us *at the moment of conversion*. What a rescue! What a salvation!

2. Rescue

3. Perfect

4. Accomplished

5. Sufficient

6. Exclusive

#### E. Recipients - US

1. Whom does God save? Whom did Christ die for? Whom does the Spirit regenerate?

All those whom the Father elected, the Son bore their wrath & the Spirit gives life. All who are justified by faith, regenerated.

❖ **Are YOU in this "US"?** **Have you** crawled your way into this Shelter? **Have you** RUN to this mighty fortress from the coming storm? **Is this \*you\*?**

◦ Now, at this point: there are two prepositional phrases//clauses that further define *\*how\** God saved us: (1) a strong negation of any contribution on our part; and (2) an emphatic affirmation that salvation is solely based on God's mercy.

## II. YOUR SALVATION IS EMPHATICALLY WITHOUT WORKS (5b)

A. Human impossibilities: jump to the top of the arch in your own strength; climb to the moon on a rope of sand; hold the world & all that's in it in the palm of your hand; count all the stars in the innumerable galaxies (and remember each name!). ***These are sheer impossibilities for me & you. SO it is impossible for you to save yourself by your own effort, works, accomplishments, achievements, and merits. You cannot do it.***

B. NOT on the basis of deeds - Howard Marshall writes: "the intention is to rule out DECISIVELY the thought that people can be saved on the basis of (out of) any kind of human works. (Rom 3.20, 28; 4.6; 9.12; Gal 2.16; Eph 2.8-9)

C. which **WE** have done - *\*emphatic\** - ἃ ἐποιήσαμεν ἡμεῖς -- which **we ourselves, we** have done! (not *\*our\** works). Emphatic. Unmistakable. Prominent.

1. you can't **contribute**

2. you can't **cooperate**

3. you can't **convert**

4. you can't **confide** in your own efforts

5. you can't **comfort** your conscience

D. in righteousness — οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων τῶν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ

1. note the genitive of source/producer: ἐξ ἔργων - OUT OF WORKS which *\*in righteousness\**. Just like Israel could not say: "because of my righteousness the Lord has given us this land (Deut 7.7), **SO ALSO b/c of our own righteousness we could not attain the heavenly Canaan**"

2. none righteous; not even one (Rom 3.10) -- Phil 3.9!!

E. Note how clear this is in **2 Tim 1.9** --

1. the perfect salvation (God saved us)
2. the perfect exclusion (not by our works)
3. the perfect grace (by his purpose and grace)

F. **Here's the problem!** To become a Christian, you must not only renounce & repent of your *bad works & your sins*, but listen, ***you must also renounce & repent of your \*good\* works & your religious merits***. Many are willing to repent of their evil deeds; but many are kept out of heaven b/c they don't repent of their *good works done in righteousness*. **Have you come to this? Have you repented of your rebellious deeds AND your righteous deeds??!**

✓God's Standard – **Perfection** (can't do it!)

✓God's Commandments – **Revelatory** (it reveals our sin)

✓God's Justice – **Exact, Inflexible** (we are sinful & guilty & doomed)

✓God's Provision – **Righteousness** (God sent Christ: obeyed the Law & suffered for us)

### III. **YOUR SALVATION IS ENTIRELY BY MERCY!** (5c)

A. So you cannot save yourself--*in the slightest*. In contrast to all your *own human contribution*, please note Paul's *stark contrast*.

B. **BUT** -ἄλλᾶ- strong contrast; what people say is important but you gotta pay attention to every word after the *But* -- because that may change everything (I really like you & I think you're a real nice guy, *BUT*...). Well, in this case, the word *\*does\** change everything!

C. according to his **mercy**; ἔλεος- ready to help those in trouble; ready to deliver those in desperate condition/predicament.

1. **Mercy is**-- kindness toward the afflicted; it is HELP for the miserable; it is good will toward those in pitiable conditions.

2. *I'm reminded* of **HOSEA**. At the end of the book, after recounting 13 chaps of sin, iniquity & depravity & godlessness (in wayward Gomer & wayward Israel), God says they are full of iniquity and in a deplorable, helpless state -- ***like an orphan*** (helpless and in desperate need). Hosea 14.4 - but in GOD the orphan finds ***mercy***. - God will heal them, love them, and turn away his anger. ***This is God's pity toward those in misery.***

D. MEASURE — according to

1. **MERCY - divine pity toward those in deplorable state. *mercy is God's pity toward those in misery.***

2. Ezek 39.25 - In the future, God will have **mercy** on the House of Israel & be jealous for His holy name(Glory)

3. Matt 9.27 - the 2 blind men cry out: "LORD have **mercy**"

4. Luke 16.24 - the rich man in hell wants **MERCY** - b/c he's in agony in the flame

5. Rom 9.16 - it is GOD who has **mercy** (not dependent on the man who works/runs)

6. 1 Pet 1.3 - by God's great **mercy** he caused us to be born again

7. Eph 2.4-5 - God being rich in **mercy** b/c of his great love, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together w/ Christ

8. Rom 15.9 - we must glorify GOD for his **mercy - our response!**

## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- Long ago there was a man -- he was a godly man who was in *deep trouble*. Pain was great. Sin was enormous. Afflictions were pressing. Hardships were acute. Situations were desperate.
  - He stands before God -- knowing this: if God kept a record, *if he marked*, if he tallied up all the sins: **who could stand in righteousness before this Righteous God?**
  - Answer -- **NO ONE! NOT EVEN ONE.**
- But > (this is mercy!) - that afflicted sufferer knows: there is forgiveness with this Judge! He forgives! He delivers! He has mercy! He rescues! We hope in Him. For with this Judge there is *lovingkindness & abundant redemption!* (*Psalm 130*)