

## Week 4 - Titus 3:5

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.  
Titus 3:5a*

So far this season, we have learned that we all have a purpose to glorify and reflect the image of our Creator. We have also learned that we cannot fulfill our purpose because of the sin that we let infect our lives. It is natural for us to sin because our hearts are naturally sinful. Everyone has the same problem, and it keeps us from even being able to have a relationship with God. The problem of a sinful heart is not something that we can fix, so we need God to fix it for us and save us from the punishment that we deserve. And that need brings us to our topic today.

God knows that we are unable to follow and obey Him like we should. He knows that we have a deceitful and wicked heart., and He knows that He is the only one who can create in us a new heart. God offers to take care of our problem for us. He offers to wash us clean and remove all sin from us. And He tells us that He can make us new.

It is important for us to realize that it *must* be God that does all this work. There is nothing that we can do to make ourselves clean and presentable before Him. We know that we have all sinned and that sin causes us to be separated from God. No amount of good things we do can remove or outweigh our sin. And no matter how many good things we do, they don't motivate God to help us. That is what Titus 3:5 talks about: "He (that is God) saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." God is the one that saves. And it isn't because we are good or better than anyone else. It doesn't have anything to do with us. God can save, and does save, just because of who *He* is. And like this verse tells us, God saves because He is merciful.

Mercy means that we are not given the punishment that we deserve. In this case, talking about our sin, we all deserve death and separation from God forever. That is the fair punishment for sin and all of us have sinned to deserve this death and separation. But God, being full of mercy, offers us a way out. He offers to save us from that doom because of His merciful character. We deserve it, but He offers to save us from that punishment all because of His own compassion for us.

This week we learned that God has given us a chance to be saved because of His mercy, but how did that happen? How is it that He can save us? Well, the second half of Titus 3:5 gives us a hint into the process that we will talk about the rest of the season. It says, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Again, there is nothing that we can do. We need God to be our Savior. And God does save, like it says in Titus 3:5, by washing our sins away like only He can, and by making us new through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are filthy and broken and God is the only one that make us clean and make us new. He is offering the solution now, and we'll talk more about how we can ask Him to save us next week.

### Discussion Questions:

- From what do we need to be saved?
- Why can't we save ourselves?
- Why does Titus 3:5 say that God saves people?
- Will doing good things ever cause us to be saved? (NO)