

LIVING IN A CRETAN WORLD

(Titus 3)

Introduction

- 1) **Titus 2:12, 15; 3:1-3** – Paul continues to instruct Titus as to how he and the brethren were to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world – they were living in a Cretan world, but not becoming a part of it
- 2) Cretans were well-known for their worldly and ungodly behavior (1:12), yet the Christians there had been saved from this ungodliness to live for good works of obedience to God
- 3) Christians today are saved from the present evil world to a life of righteous service to God

I) **WHY SHOULD WE WANT TO BE SAVED FROM THIS WORLD?**

- A) In the world we are set against God and His love (1 Jn. 2:15; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Jas. 4:4)
- B) In the world we do not think or act in a way pleasing to God (1 Jn. 2:16; Col. 2:8)
- C) In the world we have no hope of eternal life with God (1 Jn. 2:17; Matt. 16:26)

II) **BEING SAVED FROM AN UNGODLY WORLD**

A) ***Our salvation has been provided by the grace/kindness/love/mercy of God***

- 1) 2:11 – “*the **grace** of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men*”
3:4 – “*the **kindness** and the **love** of God toward man appeared*”
3:5 – “*according to His **mercy** He saved us*”
3:7 – “*having been justified by His **grace***”
- 2) “*Not by **works of righteousness which we have done***” – salvation is not earned by our own perfect works of righteousness
- 3) “*Through the **washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit***” – a new birth and renewal through baptism and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3, 5; 1 Cor. 12:13)
 - a) Holy Spirit has been “***poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, that having been justified by His grace, we should become **heirs according to the hope of eternal life*****” – effective working of the Spirit in God’s revelation and purpose for our eternal salvation (Rom. 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14)

B) ***Our Savior is God the Father and Jesus Christ*** (3:4, 6)

- 1) Jesus saves through His body, the church (Eph. 5:23)
- 2) Becoming partakers of the divine nature will save us from the world (2 Pet. 1:4)

C) ***Must be careful to maintain good works*** (3:8; God’s works - Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- 1) The unfaithful are “disqualified for every good work” (1:16)
- 2) There is a “pattern of good works” that is to be shown (2:7)
- 3) God’s people are to be “zealous for good works” (2:14)
- 4) We are to be reminded “to be ready for good works” (3:1)
- 5) We are to be “careful to maintain good works” and reject divisive actions (3:8-11)
- 6) We are to “learn to maintain good works” (3:14)
 - a) The world will see and learn (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12)

III) **WHEN LIVING FOR GOD...**

- A) We will be constantly reminded to live differently than the world (3:1-3)
- B) We will constantly remember who saved us and how (3:4-7)
- C) We will be careful to carry out the good works of God in our lives (3:8-14)

Conclusion

Titus and the brethren in Crete needed to be solid in the faith – knowing their salvation, their Savior, and the proper way of living. Living in a Cretan world is no different than living in any other “world” – we must be people purified by Jesus for Himself.