

Life Group Notes

Sunday 26th February 2023

Speaker: Liz Green

Title: Titus: God's grace Part III

Passage: Titus 3:3-7

Some say that these verses are probably the most concise summary of the gospel in all of scripture. In it we see the problem of sin, the love, kindness and mercy of God, as well as the dual work of God in salvation; that of justification and sanctification.

Justification are works of God that are inseparable and simultaneous.

Justification	Sanctification
God DECLARES us righteous through the sin bearing death of his Son	God MAKES us righteous through the indwelling power of the Spirit renewing and regenerating us.
New Status	New Life
Like Lawyer – Works for a legal status ie. to declare NOT GUILTY	Like Surgeon – Works on the internal status of a patient.
Judgment of God in respect to us	Act of God in us

V7 – ‘so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life’

Justification: Through faith in the completed work of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension we are credited with the righteousness of Christ and are declared justified. Our sin is accounted to Christ and his righteousness is accounted to us. We are cloaked in Christ's righteousness and have 'right standing' before God **long before** anything in our character or conduct changes. Think how the status of two people changes upon being declared husband and wife! This is outrageous and to many offensive truth.

Heirs: Heirs receive! Those justified receive all that belong to Christ because they are clothed with the righteousness of Christ – they are hidden in him. Remember the postcard in the bible illustration? All that is true of Christ is true of those hidden in him.

Eternal Life: Those in Christ have the hope of eternal life. Eternal life speaks of a 'quality' of life more than it does a quantity/longevity of life. It is experiencing the communion of God as was the original order at creation – it's relationship with God. Eternal life is for now and continues through death into the age to come.

Suggested Questions:

1. Do you agree with the statement that what we believe affects how we behave? How does this apply or not to your walk with Christ?
2. What is new in your understanding of the simultaneous and inseparable work of justification and sanctification?
3. How do you want the truth of justification to change you? What needs discarding in your life light of this truth?
4. What aspect of being an heir in Christ delights/encourages you the most?
5. How would you like your communion with God to grow in light of being reminded that eternal life is about a quality of life and starts from the moment we are born again?
6. Pray for each other! Pray that the Holy Spirit would seal the truth of justification in your heart.